

## HIEA 131: China in War and Revolution, 1911-1949

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COURSE: HIEA 131  
Sect. ID: 628604  
Time: TuTh 9:30 – 10:50  
Center Hall 212

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES:

This course examines the interrelated themes of war and revolution during the turbulent years from 1911 to 1949. This period saw the fall of the last emperor and the old dynastic system, a social and cultural revolution led by young intellectuals against traditional values, the rise of the Nationalist Party under Sun Yat-sen and then Chiang Kai-shek, the challenge from the Chinese Communists under Mao Zedong, the Japanese invasion of China, the triumph of the revolution and the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. We will focus on revolution as an ongoing *process*, not an event that begins or ends overnight. But revolution was not the only story of this period. It was also an era of almost unbroken warfare, and the effects of that must be considered. Relations with Japan were critical, and involved not only resistance, but also collaboration. While revolution was building in the countryside, there were important changes going on in the cities, in the cultural sphere, and in gender relations. How these were or were not related to the revolution must also be considered.

BOOKS: All books are available in the UCSD Bookstore, and on reserve at the library.

### REQUIRED TEXTS:

Jonathan Spence, *The Search for Modern China, Second Edition*  
Edgar Snow, *Red Star Over China*

COURSE READER: There will be a required class reader available from University Reader Printing Service. Readings from the packet will be marked on syllabus with an asterisk (\*). Order the packet by going to [www.universityreaders.com/students](http://www.universityreaders.com/students). If you have not ordered from them before, click on "Create a New Account", click on state (California) and University (UCSD) and enter relevant information and follow instructions. Once you have ordered the packet, you will have immediate access to a PDF version of the first part of the packet and the entire packet will be mailed to you. URPS may also be contacted at 800-200-3908, or 858-552-1120.

LIBRARY WEB SOURCES: Several selections from University of California Press books are available on-line in "eScholarship" versions for UC users. These may be accessed from any campus computer (those in the Geisel Library make it very fast) or by setting up proxy server access from off-campus, which you can do if you have a UCSD account. (For instructions, visit "Library Services" on the UCSD Library home page, then select "Accessing Library Resources from Off-Campus.") You may read the selections on line or print out a copy for your personal use. Look up the book in Roger, when you get the title, click the link under the line "Link to on line

version below.” There is also one article available on JSTOR: see directions in final week’s reading. Web selections are preceded below by “WEB”.

#### OPTIONAL PURCHASES:

You will be required to read **ONE** of the following books and write an essay dealing with its major theme/argument(s) (See Course Requirements below). The books will be on reserve in the library (Geisel) however I strongly recommend that you purchase the book you intend to write on so as to give it a careful read.

Henrietta Harrison, *China (Inventing the Nation)*

Leo Ou-fan Lee. *Shanghai Modern: The Flowering of a New Urban Culture in China, 1930-1945.*

David Goodman. *Social and Political Change in Revolutionary China: The Taihang Base Area In the War of Resistance to Japan, 1937-1945.*

#### PREREQUISITES:

There are no prerequisites for the course. This is an upper division history class, and students should be prepared to do a fair amount of reading.

#### REQUIREMENTS:

1. Mid-term examination. Thursday, October 23. Essay and brief identifications (25% of grade)
2. Final examination: Thursday, December 11: 8:00-11:00 a.m. (37.5% of grade)
3. Paper: An 8-10 page analytical essay related to the topic of the book you have chosen for the optional reading. Due in class. (37.5%)

For your guidance in structuring your papers, there are issues that you should keep in mind as you address each topic. Here are some suggestions:

***China (Inventing the Nation)*** explores the transition from a Chinese empire ruled by Manchus to a Chinese nation for which Han Chinese ethnic identity was a powerful mobilizing force. The central question here is the nature of modern Chinese nationalism. How is it related to prior forms of Chinese cultural identity? What caused the growth of modern Chinese nationalism? Who promoted nationalist sentiment? To what extent was nationalism used to promote agendas of the state? In what circumstances do critics use nationalist sentiment to attack the state?

**NOTE:** There is another book by Harrison, *The Making of the Republican Citizen: Political Ceremonies and Symbols in China, 1911-1929* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000). It is, in my opinion, superior to *China (Inventing the Nation)* but is only available at a price of some \$200! There are, however, library copies available – and maybe you could find a cheap copy somewhere on line. Anyone who wishes to read this book instead is welcome to do so. The issues and questions would be the same as above.

***Shanghai Modern*** is concerned with culture and society in Shanghai in the 1930s. The book raises a number of questions: How are gender relations changing in modern Shanghai? How “colonial” is this foreign-dominated city? How do such new media as movies and



photojournalism change the way people view the world? Are the changes in Shanghai society an indication of social progress or moral decay? But perhaps the central question one could ask of this book is: How does this portrait of a cosmopolitan, urban world in Shanghai relate to the Chinese revolution then brewing in the country?

*Social and Political Change in Revolutionary China* is about revolution in the northern province of Shanxi. The focus is rural and the time is the War of Resistance to Japan. This book presents an excellent picture of the complexity of the revolutionary process, and the remarkable variation from place to place. There are many actors here: the Communists, the Nationalists, the Japanese, local landlord elites, and religious sectarians. Your paper should seek to explain the factors that led to communist success in the various contexts. How important was the appeal of Communist nationalism in their resistance to the Japanese? How important were class appeals? How did the Communists win over or eliminate their rivals? In cases where the Communists failed, what were the reasons?

**A WARNING ON PLAGIARISM:** Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person's words, ideas or research results without acknowledgement, and passing them off as one's own. The Department of History policy and guidelines with respect to plagiarism are available at <http://historyweb.ucsd.edu/pages/undergraduate/Current/plagiarism.htm>. I call your attention to this description of one of the most common forms of plagiarism: "verbatim copying of words, sentences, paragraphs or entire sections or chapter without quotation and proper attribution. This is the most obvious form of plagiarism. You must use quotation marks even if you only borrow several words in sequence from a source." In recent years, plagiarism has become an increasingly serious problem in colleges across the country, as the Internet makes basic information on many historical issues readily available and easy to copy. Plagiarism is, however, a serious academic offense and is covered by university policy on academic dishonesty. UCSD policy requires that the instructor report any suspected plagiarism to the Office of Academic Integrity Coordinator. (See <http://www-senate.ucsd.edu/manual/appendices/app2.htm> ). The AIC will adjudicate the consequences of the offense, which could range up to suspension from UCSD. If I or the T.A. or reader for this course suspect that you have used another person's (including another book, article, or Web site's) words without proper footnoting, we will notify you and require that you submit an electronic copy of your paper to turnitin.com, so that we can use available electronic means to check for plagiarism. Fortunately, just as the Web makes plagiarism easier, it also makes detection of plagiarism easy. Students found guilty of plagiarism will receive no credit for the assignment and will be reported to the AIC for disciplinary action. Consider this fair warning. DO NOT PLAGIARIZE. It's just not worth it. The consequences can be extremely serious.

**To those who are taking the class Pass/Not Pass:**

In order to receive a passing grade you must complete all assignments, and your final grade must compute to C- or better.

**LECTURES AND READING SCHEDULE:**

September 25: Introduction to Course, Geography of China, Background to the Republic

September 30: 1911 Revolution and descent into Warlordism

October 2: Video: Chinese Revolution, Part 1

Readings: Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, 243-289

- \* Henrietta Harrison, "Ethnicity and modernity in the 1911 Revolution" and "Nation, Modernity and Class," from *Inventing the Nation China*, pp. 132-166.
  - \* Lu Hsun (Lu Xun), "The True Story of Ah Q"
  - \* James E. Sheridan, "The Emergence of the Warlords"
  - \* "Manifesto of the Punitive Campaign Against Yuan Shih-k'ai"
  - \* "Feng Yuxiang" Praising the Lord" and "Zhang Zongchang: With Pleasure Rife"
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October 7: May 4th: Student protest and nationalist politics

October 9: May 4th: The New Culture Movement

Readings: Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, 290-313

- \* Chen Tu-hsiu (Chen Duxiu), "A Call to Youth"
  - \* Li Ta-chao (Li Dazhao), "The Victory of Bolshevism"
  - \* Chen Duxiu, "The Way of Confucius and Modern Life" (de Bary, 2: 352-356)
  - \* Hu Shi, "Our Attitude Toward Modern Western Civilization," Sa Mengwu et al. "Declaration for Cultural Construction on a Chinese Basis," and Hu Shi, "Criticism of the 'Declaration...'" (de Bary, 2: 386-389)
  - \* Lu Hsun, "Diary of a Madman"
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October 14: The 1920s: Sun Yatsen and the Nationalist Revival

October 16: The Guomindang and the Nationalist Government, 1927-1937

Readings: Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, 314-374

- \* Vera Schwarcz, "The Crucible of Political Violence: 1925-1927," from *The Chinese Enlightenment*, pp. 145-194.
  - \* Lloyd Eastman, "The Blue Shirts and Fascism"
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October 21: Urban China

October 23: MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Readings: WEB: Leo Ou-fan Lee, "The Cultural Construction of Modernity in Urban Shanghai," from Wen-hsin Yeh, ed. *Becoming Chinese: Passages to Modernity and Beyond*, pp. 21-61.

WEB: William Kirby, "Engineering China: Birth of the Developmental State, 1928-1937," from Wen-hsin Yeh, ed. *Becoming Chinese: Passages to Modernity and Beyond*, pp. 137-160.

- \* Elizabeth J. Perry, "Strikes among Shanghai Silk Weavers, 1927-1937: The Awakening of a Labor Aristocracy"
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October 28: Peasant Life in China

October 30: The Rise of the Chinese Communist Party

