MODERN CHINA
History 106/EAST 122: Modern China
Oberlin College Spring 2016
MWF 11:00-11:50
King 337

David E. Kelley
Office: 312 Rice x58646
Hours: MW 12-1:00 Rice 312
and by appointment
E-mail: David.E.Kelley@oberlin.edu
Blackboard: https://blackboard.oberlin.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp

Format and Requirements: A lecture course with questions welcome at any time
and regularly scheduled discussion sessions. Students are responsible for
material presented in lectures and in reading assignments. Participation in
discussions and attendance in class are integral parts of the course work and
figure into your evaluation.

The Honor Code: All Oberlin students are on their honor to do their own
academic work in this course and other courses. [From “The Revised Honor
Code and Honor System] “The default assumption covering all academic
exercises is that students are required to do their own work without help from
others not explicitly authorized by the instructor. Students may, however, use
sources of assistance routinely offered to all students, such as reference librarians
and writing tutors.” The Honor Code document can be found at
<http://www.oberlin.edu/studentpolicies/honorcode/>. Signing the
attendance sheet is governed by the Honor Code: only sign for yourself on the
date of the class attended. Do not sign for others or on a day you did not attend.

If you are eligible for and need academic adjustments or accommodations because
of a disability, please speak to me early in the semester, or contact the Office of

Please keep laptops closed during class. Divided attention while using a laptop
interferes with learning and Internet browsing may distract those who can see the
screen.

Reading: The following books are available for purchase at the Bookstore. All
readings may be found on reserve in Mudd.

Jonathan Spence, The Search for Modern China, 3rd ed.

Pei-kai Cheng & Michael Lestz, The Search for Modern China: A Documentary
Collection, 3rd ed.

Jonathan Spence, The Death of Woman Wang


Paul A. Cohen, History in Three Keys: The Boxers as Event, Experience, and Myth

Jung Chang, Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China
A Note on the Readings and Objectives:

Readings for the course are meant to introduce you to a variety of sources for learning about China’s history during the past 350 years. The works include a text book and a collection of primary documents translated into English. We will also read a book—*The Death of Woman Wang*—that draws on a variety of primary and secondary historical sources, literary works, and the author’s empathetic creativity to evoke the lives men and women lived in a desperate place at a desperate time. Next we read the first volume of one of the towering works of Chinese prose fiction—*Story of the Stone*. A monograph on the Boxer Uprising (*History in Three Keys*) looks at this great social movement from the perspective of history, personal experience, and myth. Finally, we will read a personalized account of China’s modern revolution and in particular, the Cultural Revolution. Each of these works will allow us to approach a variety of issues and questions concerning China’s history in different ways. In reading these works, you should aim not merely to understand and assimilate material, but also, and very importantly, to ask of each work what the author’s purposes are. How do those purposes shape the questions the work addresses? What assumptions underlie the choices the author makes in selecting evidence and supporting data? Study questions will be posted on the Blackboard web site under ”Reading Ques.” and should be considered during reading and in advance of the discussions.

Please note that the textbook, *The Search for Modern China*, is a resource that consists of more than the narrative that unspools across the 700 pages of text. There is useful front- and back-matter, including a Pin Yin to Wade-Giles transcription table; an annotated glossary of significant names and terms—a mini-historical dictionary, in fact—as well as two maps at the very end of the book. The book also includes an excellent section of further readings organized to match the chapter headings in the main text, as well as sections of photographs.

The narrative of the textbook is also a resource. That is, read the textbook for orientation and to gain a grasp of the chronology of the history we will be learning about in lecture, discussion, readings and through writing assignments. I have listed page assignments for the textbook throughout the syllabus, however, it is not necessary to read every word or section. Read in detail sections that interest you or those that cover subjects about which you are confused. If there are topics you come across in lecture or reading with which you are unfamiliar, use the index in the textbook to find Spence’s discussion.
Writing Assignments and Exams: Please submit electronically through course web site.

1. There will be a short essay (4-5 pp.) based on any reading study question. The reading study questions, used for our discussions, are posted under "Reading Ques." on the course web site. Due April 29, or earlier. Submit through "Assignments" on the web site.

2. Documents assignment: For many assignments in Pei-kai Cheng & Michael Lestz, *The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, I have posted on the Modern China Blackboard web site questions for your response. They are in the Assignments section of the web site. The questions will be designed to engage you with the primary sources and relate them to the history we are studying as well as to raise questions about the use of documentary sources in studying history. Each student is responsible for submitting 4 document responses. Due dates are found under Assignments on the course web site, and in the syllabus. Responses should be around 500 words (2 pp.), and are to be submitted electronically through Assignments on the course web site.

3. A map assignment will be due in class Feb. 15. Hard copy is fine.

4. A Midterm Examination will consist of short answer identifications of significant names and terms as well as a short essay drawn from a number of topics related to the first half of the course.

5. The final exam is cumulative in coverage and its date is shown at the end of the syllabus.

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All assigned work must be completed to receive credit for the course.
Lecture Schedule And Readings:

Feb.  1  (M)  Introduction to the Course
      3  (W)  The Contours and Setting of China's Modern History
      5  (F)  The Manchu Conquest and the Rise of the Qing Dynasty

Reading: (147 pp.)
Spence, The Search for Modern China, 3-71
Cheng & Lestz, Documentary Collection, Docs. 2.1-2.4, 3.3, 3.4, 4.1-4.2
Begin Spence, Death of Woman Wang

Feb.  8  (M)  The Early Qing: the Manchu Imprint
      10 (W)  The High Qing: Emperorship and the Seat of Empire
      12  (F) Discussion: The Death of Woman Wang

Reading: (130 pp.)
Spence, The Death of Woman Wang, complete
Spence, The Search for Modern China, 72-114
Cheng & Lestz, Documentary Collection, Doc. 5.1-5.6

Feb.  15 (M)  Local Government and Society—Map Assignment due
      17  (W)  Education and Ideological Control
      19  (F) Refinement and Respectability: Women’s Burden

Reading (c. 250 pp)
Begin Cao Xueqin, Story of the Stone, vol. 1, The Golden Days

Feb.  22  (M)  The Eighteenth-century Watershed
      24  (W)  The Jiaqing Era: Crisis and Reform
      26  (F) Discussion: Story of the Stone

First Document Assignment Due

Reading: (c. 250 pp.)
Cao Xueqin, Story of the Stone, vol. 1, complete
Feb. 29 (M) The Chinese World Order: Macartney Mission
Mar. 2 (W) The Canton Trade
4 (F) The Opium War and Qing Politics

Reading: (38 pp.)
Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, 115-135

Mar. 7 (M) The First Treaty Settlement and the Unequal Treaty System
9 (W) The Origins of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom and Its Rebellion
11 (F) The Suppression and Its Costs

Reading: (98 pp.)
Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, 139-207

Mar. 14 (M) Review Discussion
16 (W) Midterm Examination
18 (F) Video/Discussion: The Genius that was China, part 3: "The Threat from Japan"

Second Document Assignment Due

Reading: (c. 250 pp.)
Begin, Cohen, *History in Three Keys*
Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, 208-233
Cheng & Lestz, *Documentary Collection*, Docs. 9.1-9.6

Mar.  18  (M)  The Hundred Days of Reform
      30  (W)  The Boxer Uprising and Its Aftermath
Apr.  1   (F)  Discussion: Cohen, *History in Three Keys*

**Reading: (c. 200 pp.)**

Cohen, *History in Three Keys*, complete
Cheng & Lestz, *Documentary Collection*, Docs. 10.5-10.6

Apr.  4  (M)  Conservative Reform and the 1911 Revolution
      6   (W)  The New Culture Movement
      8   (F)  May 4, 1919: The Political Transformation of the New Culture Movement

**Reading: (125 pp.)**

Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, 234-326

Apr.  11  (M)  Video: China in Revolution, part 1
      13  (W)  Video: China in Revolution, part 2
      15  (F)  Discussion

**Third Document Assignment Due**

**Reading: (260 pp.)**

Chand, *Wild Swans*, first half
Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, 327-459

Apr.  18  (M)  The Establishment of Communist Power: Land Reform
      20  (W)  Politics in Command: The Great Leap Forward
      22  (F)  Politics in Command: The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution and the Gang of Four

**Reading: (255 pp.)**

Chang, *Wild Swans*, complete
Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, 460-555
Apr.  25  (M)  The Cultural Revolution: Legacies
      27  (W)  Mao's Successors
      29  (F)  Discussion *Wild Swans*

Reading Question Essay Due

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<th>Reading: (232 pp.)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Spence, <em>The Search for Modern China</em>, 559-629</td>
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May  2  (M)  Reform and Reaction
      4  (W)  Discontent and Democracy
      6  (F)  Concluding Remarks, Discussion

Fourth Document Assignment Due

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<tr>
<td>Spence, <em>The Search for Modern China</em>, 629-707</td>
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Reading Period May 7-10, 2016
Final Exam: Thursday, May 12, 2016, 7:00-9:00 pm