

MODERN CHINA  
History 106/EAST 122: Modern China  
Oberlin College Spring 2013  
MWF 11:00-11:50  
King 337

David E. Kelley  
Office: 312 Rice x58646  
Hours: WF 12-1:00 Rice 312  
and by appointment

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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://new.oberlin.edu/students/policies/2011-2012/11-Policies-Honor.pdf>

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 Disability Services at <http://new.oberlin.edu/office/disability-services/>.

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*

Pei-kai Cheng & Michael Lestz, *The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*

Jonathan Spence, *The Death of Woman Wang*

Cao Xueqin, D. Hawkes, trans. *The Story of the Stone, vol 1: Golden Days*

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

Rae Yang, *Spider Eaters: A Memoir*

**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 work—*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, as well as 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.

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. 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 May 3, or earlier. **Submit through "Assignments" on the web site.**
2. Documents assignment: For each assignment 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. 18. 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.

<u>General Proportions of Evaluations</u>	
Study question essay .....	15%
Documents assignments .....	20%
Map Assignment .....	10%
Discussion participation/ attendance.....	15%
Midterm Examination .....	20%
Final examination.....	20%

All assigned work must be completed to receive credit for the course.

**Lecture Schedule And Readings:**

- Feb. 4 (M) Introduction to the Course  
 6 (W) The Contours and Setting of China's Modern History  
 8 (F) The Manchu Conquest and the Rise of the Qing Dynasty

Reading: (147 pp.)

Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, 3-73  
 Cheng & Lestz, *Documentary Collection*, Docs. 1.1-1.3, 1.4-1.9; 2.1-2.3, 2.7-2.8  
 Begin Spence, *Death of Woman Wang*

- Feb. 11 (M) The Early Qing: the Manchu Imprint  
 13 (W) The High Qing: Emperorship and the Seat of Empire  
 15 (F) Discussion: *The Death of Woman Wang*

Reading: (130 pp.)

Spence, *The Death of Woman Wang*, complete  
 Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, 74-116  
 Cheng & Lestz, *Documentary Collection*, Doc. 3.5

- Feb. 18 (M) Local Government and Society  
 20 (W) Education and Ideological Control  
 22 (F) Refinement and Respectability: Women's Burden

Reading (c. 250 pp.)

Begin Cao Xueqin, *Story of the Stone, vol. 1, The Golden Days*  
 Cheng & Lestz, *Documentary Collection*, Docs. 3.4, 4.1-4.2, 5.1

- Feb. 25 (M) The Eighteenth-century Watershed  
 27 (W) The Jiaqing Era: Crisis and Reform  
 Mar. 1 (F) Discussion: *Story of the Stone*

**First Document Assignment Due**Reading: (c. 250 pp.)

Cao Xueqin, *Story of the Stone, vol. 1*, complete  
 Cheng & Lestz, *Documentary Collection*, Docs. 5.4-5.5

- Mar. 4 (M) The Chinese World Order: Macartney Mission  
 6 (W) The Canton Trade  
 8 (F) The Opium War and Qing Politics

Reading: (38 pp.)

Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, 117-137  
Cheng & Lestz, *Documentary Collection*, Docs. 7.1-7.5

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

Reading: (98 pp.)

Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, 141-214  
Cheng & Lestz, *Documentary Collection*, Docs. 8.1-9.2

- Mar. 18 (M) Review Discussion  
 20 (W) **Midterm Examination**  
 22 (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*, 215-242  
Cheng & Lestz, *Documentary Collection*, Docs. 9.3-9.4, 9.6-9.8, 10.1-10.2

**Mar. 23-31: Spring Recess:** Read Cohen, *History in Three Keys*

- Apr. 1 (M) The Hundred Days of Reform  
 3 (W) The Boxer Uprising and Its Aftermath  
 5 (F) Discussion: Cohen, History in Three Keys

Reading: (c. 200 pp.)

Cohen, *History in Three Keys*, complete  
Cheng & Lestz, *Documentary Collection*, Docs. 10.4-10.5

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

Reading: (125 pp.)

Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, 243-341  
Cheng & Lestz, *Documentary Collection*, Docs. 11.2-11.3, 11.6, 12.3, 13.1-13.3

- Apr. 15 (M) Video: China in Revolution, part 1  
 17 (W) Video: China in Revolution, part 2  
 19 (F) Discussion

### Third Document Assignment Due

Reading: (260 pp.)

Yang, *Spider Eaters*, first half  
Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, 342-488  
Cheng & Lestz, *Documentary Collection*, Docs. 14.3-14.9;16.2-16.4; 17.4-17.7

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

Reading: (255 pp.)

Yang, *Spider Eaters*, complete  
Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, 489-585  
Cheng & Lestz, *Documentary Collection*, Docs. 19.3; 20.3-20.5; 21.1; 22.1; 22.3-22.5

Apr. 29 (M) The Cultural Revolution: Legacies  
May 1 (W) Mao's Successors  
3 (F) Discussion Spider Eaters

**Reading Question Essay Due**

Reading: (232 pp.)

Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, 589-646  
Cheng & Lestz, *Documentary Collection*, Docs 25.5

May 6 (M) Reform and Reaction  
8 (W) Discontent and Democracy  
10 (F) Concluding Remarks, Discussion

**Fourth Document Assignment Due**

Reading: (283 pp.)

Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, 647-728

**Final Exam: Thursday, May 16, 2013, 7:00-9:00 pm**