

MODERN CHINA
History 106/EAST 122: Modern China
Oberlin College Spring 2008
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: <http://oncampus.oberlin.edu/>

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 figures into your evaluation.

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:

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 Course Documents, and will be handed out in advance of the discussions. Students are encouraged to post responses on the Discussion Board section of Blackboard for exchange of views before the in-class discussion.

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.) on any reading study question due no later than the last discussion session, but you may submit at any earlier time. The reading study questions, used for our discussions, are posted under Course Documents on the course web site. Due May 2, or earlier.
2. Documents assignment: For each assignment in Pei-kai Cheng & Michael Lestz, *The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection*, I will post 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. Responses should be around 500 words (2 pp.), and submitted electronically through *Assignments* on the course web site.
3. A map assignment will be due in class Feb. 15
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.

A **fourth hour of credit** is available to those who choose to write a paper of around 10 pages or who complete an additional project with approval from the instructor. For those seeking Writing Requirement credit, the fourth-hour paper must be elected. **If you elect the fourth hour and do not hand in the paper, you will receive a NE/F for the course. So make sure to change your registration to three hours if you change your mind at some point during the semester. The fourth-hour project is due the last day of class.**

General Proportions of Evaluations

Study question essay.....	15%
Documents assignment.....	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
 21 (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
 29 (F) Discussion: *Story of the Stone*

Reading: (c. 250 pp.)

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

- Mar. 3 (M) The Chinese World Order: Macartney Mission
 5 (W) The Canton Trade
 7 (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. 10 (M) The First Treaty Settlement and the Unequal Treaty System
 12 (W) The Origins of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom and Its Rebellion
 14 (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. 17 (M) Review Discussion
 19 (W) **Midterm Examination**
 21 (F) Video/Discussion: The Genius that was China, part 3: "The Threat from Japan"

Two document assignments due by this date.

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. 24-30: Spring Recess: Read Cohen, *History in Three Keys*

- Mar. 31 (M) The Hundred Days of Reform
 Apr. 2 (W) The Boxer Uprising and Its Aftermath
 4 (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. 7 (M) Conservative Reform and the 1911 Revolution
 9 (W) The New Culture Movement
 11 (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. 14 (M) Video: China in Revolution, part 1
 16 (W) Video: China in Revolution, part 2
 18 (F) Discussion

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. 21 (M) The Establishment of Communist Power: Land Reform
 23 (W) Politics in Command: The Great Leap Forward
 25 (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

- 28 (M) The Cultural Revolution: Legacies
 30 (W) Mao's Successors
 May 2 (F) Discussion Spider Eaters

Reading: (232 pp.)

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

May 5 (M) Reform and Reaction
6 (W) Discontent and Democracy
9 (F) Concluding Remarks, Discussion

Fourth-hour papers due at beginning of class.

Reading: (283 pp.)

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

Monday, April 7, 2008:
Last chance to change variable course credit-hours, declare P/NP or Withdraw

Final Exam: Thursday, May 15, 2008, 7:00-9:00 pm