This course examines the concepts of modernity and nationhood as integral to the formation of Chinese states and societies, and people’s experiences of them. Since at least the mid-nineteenth century, the question of how to be modern and what constitutes a nation have been closely intertwined in Chinese history and the ways in which people within China have thought about themselves and China. There was little consensus, however, on what it would mean to be modern or what a nation should be; whether the impetus for transformation would come from within or without, the past or the present, radical or conservative political theories. Historiography on modernity and nationhood are equally diverse and this course seeks to introduce students to a range of theoretical and methodological approaches to modernity and nation, and to encourage students to consider the diverse political, social, economic, and cultural dimensions of modernity and nation.

Course Format
This course follows a seminar format in which all students are expected to participate in class discussion. Students are required to attend class, read the material before class, and prepare presentations on the readings for selected weeks. A substantial component of the course grade is reserved for class participation and students should prepare for weekly meetings accordingly.

Required Texts
• Andrew Jones, Yellow Music, Media Culture and Colonial Modernity in the Chinese Jazz Age (Duke UP, 2001), ISBN 0-8223-2694-9

Optional Texts
• Gail Hershshater, Dangerous Pleasures: Prostitution and Modernity in Twentieth-Century Shanghai (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999). ISBN 0520204395 (This book is available as an e-book through the University of Manitoba library. I will not provide copies of the reading. Only one student at a time can have access to the e-book so
if you are reading in the day or two before seminar getting access to the book may prove difficult).

- Other readings and articles are available in electronic or photocopied form.

**Summary of Course Topics**

NB: Assigned readings are included at the end of the syllabus.

Tuesday, Sept. 9  Introduction
Tuesday, Sept. 16  Defining the Modern Chinese Nation and Theorizing the Modern
Tuesday, Sept. 23  Everyday Modernity and Nation-Building in China
Tuesday, Sept. 30  Modernity and Nation on the Global Stage
Tuesday, Oct. 7   Colonial Modernity and the Chinese Nation
Tuesday, Oct. 14  Labouring Bodies, Textiles, and the Business of Modernity
Tuesday, Oct. 21  Urban Modernity and its Dangerous Pleasures
Tuesday, Oct. 28  Modernity and Nation Outside the Cities
Tuesday, Nov. 4   Nation, Modernity and Medical Knowledge
Tuesday, Nov. 11  Remembrance Day. University Closed. No Classes
Tuesday, Nov. 18  Political Parties for/of Modernity and Nation: The CCP
Tuesday, Nov. 25  Maoism and Socialist Modernity: Gender and Urban Organization
Tuesday, Dec. 2   Modernity and Nation on Display: Showcasing Beijing

**Evaluation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students registered in HIST 4070</th>
<th>Students registered in HIST 7820 (L01)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class Participation and Preparation – 25%</td>
<td>Class participation and preparation – 25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Book Review – 15%</td>
<td>Review Essay – 15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term Paper Proposal – 10%</td>
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<td>Term Paper – 35%</td>
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**Marking Scale**

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<tr>
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<td>A</td>
<td>85-89%</td>
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<td>B+</td>
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**Assignments**

All work is due on the date indicated unless an extension has been obtained from the instructor prior to the due date. Documentation (i.e. a medical note) may be requested. Late work may be penalized by 2% per day after the due date.

**Book Review**

This assignment is for students registered in HIST 4070. The review should succinctly summarize the main arguments of the book, locate the arguments within a broader historiographical context, and assess its contributions to the topic covered. The review should identify the positive and negative aspects of the book. Book reviews should be
approximately 800-1000 words, Books must be selected in consultation with the instructor. **Due Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2008.**

**Review Essay**
This assignment is required for those students registered in HIST 7820 (T01). Students will select four articles or 1 book and 2 articles on a specific topic related to one of the seminar weeks. Some of the readings (but not all) can be selected from the required and/or suggested readings on the syllabus but must be approved by the instructor. The assignment requires that you write a grouped review of the selected pieces, examining the central arguments presented in each piece, the relationship between the pieces, and the different forms of analysis and conclusions offered. The review is intended as an introduction to writing literature reviews and it should be approximately 1500 words. **Due Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2008.**

**Term Paper Proposal and Paper**
Students have a choice of two different formats for the term paper:
1. Research paper that examines a specific topic related to questions of modernity and nationhood in China. Students are expected to utilize primary sources as available (in translation) as well as discuss the relevant historiography. The proposal will outline the main issues to be examined, provide a tentative thesis, and include an annotated bibliography of primary and secondary sources.

2. Literature Review that analyses the intersection of nation and modernity in Chinese history and historiography. Students are expected to identify major theoretical and methodological themes, discuss key debates and approaches in relation to each other, and provide a meaningful structure that brings together the course readings and discussions. The paper does not require any additional reading beyond class readings. The paper must discuss the readings from at least 8 different weeks. The proposal will identify the readings to be included, major themes to be explored, and outline a preliminary framework that connects the readings.

The term paper should be a minimum of 2750 words for students in HIST 4070 and a minimum of 3500 words for students in HIST 7820.

**Proposal Due: Monday, Nov. 10, 2008**  
**Term Paper due: Tuesday, December 2, 2008.**

Students should acquaint themselves with the University’s policy on plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty (see page 28 of the University of Manitoba 2008-2009 Undergraduate Calendar). The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism in a written assignment, text, or examination is F on the paper and F on the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as purchase of an essay or cheating on a test or examination, the penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to 5 years from registration in courses taught in a particular department in Arts or all courses taught in this Faculty. The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism.
Evaluative feedback will be provided prior to the voluntary withdrawal deadline of November 12, 2008.

Required Readings

Tuesday, Sept. 9  Introduction

Tuesday, Sept. 16  Defining the Modern Chinese Nation and Theorizing the Modern
• Introductory chapters and overview of modern Chinese history from a Chinese history textbook of your choice.

Seminar Preparation: Based on the reading of a textbook and web-based surveys of Modern Chinese history, prepare a chronology of Modern Chinese history that includes the major events and people. Be prepared to explain in class why these events or people are included in chronologies of Modern China. This will be the basis for our discussion of the assigned readings and their analyses of modernity in China

Tuesday, Sept. 23  Everyday Modernity and Nation-Building in China
• Joshua Goldstein, “Introduction,” in Dong and Goldstein, Everyday Modernity in China
• Wang Hui, “Discursive Community and the Genealogy of Science,” in Dong and Goldstein, Everyday Modernity in China
• Madeline Yue Dong, “Shanghai’s China Traveler,” in Dong and Goldstein, Everyday Modernity in China
• James A. Cook, “Reimagining China: Xiamen, Overseas Chinese, and a Transnational Modernity,” in Dong and Goldstein, Everyday Modernity in China

Tuesday, Sept. 30  Modernity and Nation on the Global Stage
• Rebecca Karl, Staging the World: Chinese Nationalism at the Turn of the Century, chapters 2, 3, 5, and 6

Tuesday, Oct. 7  Colonial Modernity and the Chinese Nation
• Tani Barlow, Formations of Colonial Modernity in East Asia, Introduction
• Andrew Jones, Yellow Music, Media Culture and Colonial Modernity in the Chinese Jazz Age (Duke UP, 2001).

Due Date: Book Review (HIST 4070); Review Essay (HIST 7820)

Tuesday, Oct. 14  Labouring Bodies and the Business of Modernity: Textiles and Chinese Nation

**Tuesday, Oct. 21**  
Urban Modernity and its Dangerous Pleasures  
• Gail Hershatter, *Dangerous Pleasures: Prostitution and Modernity in Twentieth-Century Shanghai* (1999), Parts I, II, and III (available as an e-book through the University of Manitoba library)

**Tuesday, Oct. 28**  
Modernity and Nation Outside the Cities  
• Prasenjit Duara, *Rescuing History from the Nation, Questioning Narratives of Modern China* (University of Chicago Press, 1995), Part One (pp. 3-84) and chapter 6 (pages 177-204)

**Tuesday, Nov. 4**  
Nation, Modernity, and Medical Knowledge  
• Ruth Rogaski: *Hygienic Modernity: Meanings of Health and Disease in Treaty-Port China* (University of California Press, 2004), selected chapters  
• Frank Dikkoter, *Imperfet Conceptions: Medical Knowledge, Birth Defects, and Eugenics in China* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1998), chapters 1,3, and 4

**Tuesday, Nov. 11**  
Remembrance Day. University Closed. No Classes  
Due date for the term paper proposal is Monday Nov. 10. The proposal should be handed in to my office (346 University College) no later than 4pm.

**Tuesday, Nov. 18**  
Political Parties for/of Modernity and Nation: The Chinese Communist Party  

**Tuesday, Nov. 25**  
Maoism and Socialist Modernity: Gender, urban organization and representation  
• Wang Zheng, “Gender and Maoist Urban Reorganization,” in *Gender in Motion*, pp. 189-210  

**Tuesday, Dec. 2**  
Modernity and Nation on Display: Showcasing Beijing  
• Wu Hung, *Remaking Beijing: Tiananmen Square and the Creation of a Political Space* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2005), chapter 3

**Due Date: Term Paper, December 2, 2008**