



**HIST 2654(W) - Winter 2014  
History of the People's Republic of China  
1949 to the Present**

**T/Th 11:30am-12:45pm, 214 Tier Building**

Professor T. M. Chen  
400 Fletcher Argue  
Phone: 474-6386  
Email: [tina.chen@umanitoba.ca](mailto:tina.chen@umanitoba.ca)  
Office Hours: Mondays, 1-3pm(or by appointment)

Course Overview

This course surveys the history of the People's Republic of China from its founding in 1949 through the present day. The course will focus on a number of key themes related to the political, economic, social, cultural, and intellectual history of socialist China. The themes include: one, the relationship between state and people; two, the ideological and political structures of socialism and their changing configurations; three, gender and class relations in socialist and post-socialist China; and, four, China's understanding of and engagement with the rest of the world. In our consideration of these themes we will be paying particular attention to historical changes and continuities across different periods of PRC history. We will also be assessing who benefits from and who bears the costs for various state projects and uses of socialism since the founding of the PRC in 1949.

Class Format

This class includes lectures, class discussion, and group presentations. Regular class attendance is mandatory. Students are encouraged to participate actively in the class by asking questions, discussing readings and viewing assignments, as well as working with classmates on group projects.

Recording devices (audio, video, digital, etc) and photography are NOT allowed in the classroom. Electronic devices (laptops, tablets, etc) are permitted for note-taking and assigned classroom activities only. Students who are texting, viewing websites, emailing,

(and so on) are distracting to others; as well as behaving in a manner disrespectful to all others in the classroom. Students violating these guidelines may be asked to leave the classroom.

### Required Books

Note: These books are available for purchase at the University of Manitoba bookstore. Other assigned readings can be found using the library resources and electronic databases.

- Rebecca Karl, *Mao Zedong and China in the Twentieth-Century World: A Concise History* (Duke University Press, 2010)
- Rana Mitter, *Modern China, A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2008)
- Timothy Cheek, *Living With Reform, China since 1989* (Fernwood Publishing/Zed Books, 2006)

### Assignments

Map and Major Names Quiz (date: Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2014)– 3%

Note-taking Assignments (in-class, no specified dates) – 4%

Class Participation/Group Work (date varies, see syllabus below): 8%

Written Assignment #1 (1500-1800 words, due date: Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2014) – 25%

Written Assignment #2 (2000-2250 words, due date: Tuesday, March 11, 2014) – 30%

Final Exam (date tba, Final Examination Period): 30%

Information for the quizzes as well as instructions for the written assignments and final exam will be handed out during lectures and posted on JUMP. It is your responsibility to acquire the instructions from the instructor if you are absent when they are first made available. The quiz MUST be written in class on the specified day.

*Note-taking Assignments:* Strategies for efficient and useful note-taking will be discussed throughout the course. On 2 dates (unspecified) time will be set aside in class for students to share their notes for the selected lecture. They will work together in small groups to discuss the notes, their strategies, and to supplement existing notes as a result of discussion. At the conclusion of this exercise, each student will hand in her/his lecture notes to be graded individually. Note-taking assignments can only be completed on the selected dates. No substitution of notes or dates is allowed.

*Group work Guidelines:* Each group will have approximately 4 or 5 students. The group will be responsible for researching and preparing a 5-minute presentation on individual(s) whose life stories help us understand the issues discussed in class, and the positive or negative impact of state policies on individual lives. Guidelines will be handed out in class and the group will consult with the instructor prior to preparing the presentation.

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 will be penalized by 2% per day after the due date, including weekends. Assignments received more than 1 week after the due date will be graded (with late

penalty assessed) but will not receive written feedback. All term work must be submitted by the last day of class for the semester (April 8, 2014).

*Since this is a course that meets the University Senate's W requirement, students must complete all essay assignments with a passing grade to pass the course.*

Evaluative feedback will be provided prior to the voluntary withdrawal deadline of March 19, 2014.

Term work will be returned in class and made available to students during office hours. Students who wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the term work has been made available to them. Uncollected term work will be retained for 4 months following the end of the course. After this time it will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and subject to confidential destruction.

#### Marking Scale

A+ 88-100%	C+ 65-69%
A 80-87%	C 60-64%
B+ 75-79%	D 50-59%
B 70-74%	F 0-49%

#### Contacting the Instructor

If you have questions about course material or assignments – or just want to learn more—please ask me! You are welcome to raise questions and points of discussion in class. You may also meet with me during office hours (see page 1) or make an appointment. Email is another convenient option. I normally will reply to student emails within 24 hours. Please note that student emails generally are answered during regular University of Manitoba hours (ie. 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Friday). This means that if you send an email at 4:29pm on Friday, you will not receive a response until Monday.

#### Academic Dishonesty

All University policies on academic integrity will be strictly applied. Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, personation, and other forms of academic dishonesty. The University's regulations can be found in the General Academic Regulations in the online Academic Calendar and Catalog and the Faculty of Arts regulation (online at [http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/student\\_responsibilities.html](http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student/student_responsibilities.html)), which reads:

*The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is a grade of F on the paper and a final grade of F (DISC) (for Disciplinary Action) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from 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 or to other experts for authentication.*

*The common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is F for the paper, F (DISC) for the course, and a one-year suspension from courses acceptable for credit in the Faculty. For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department or program in Arts or from all courses taught in or accepted for credit by this Faculty.*

### Class Outline and Required Readings

#### Background: From Imperial Dynasty to Republic: China in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

**Tues. Jan. 7** Introduction: Does it matter how we tell the History of the PRC?

Reading: Cheek Ch. 1

**Thurs. Jan.9** The Republic of China, 1911-1949: Major Themes and Problems

Reading: Karl pp. 1-19

#### “The Chinese People Have Stood Up” - Mao Zedong and the Establishment the PRC

**Tues. Jan14** The Chinese Communist Party: Foundations and Ideas

Reading: Karl, pp. 20-49

**Thurs. Jan16** Civil War and the Beginning of the PRC

Reading: Karl, pp. 51-72

**Tues. Jan. 21** National Programs and Local Realities: Land Reform in the 1950s

Reading: Karl, pp. 73-82

\* Quiz: Map and Major Leaders

#### Building a New China in the 1950s

**Thurs. Jan. 23** Alternative Social Orders: Visions and their Limits

Reading: Karl, pp. 83-9

\* Group 1 Presentations: Topic – Women in the New China

**Tues. Jan. 28** International Relations and Global Order: Bandung, Sino-Soviet Relations, and ‘the West’

Reading: Karl, pp. 89-97

#### The Great Leap Forward

**Thurs. Jan. 30** Mao and the use of mass politics for economic growth

Reading: Karl, pp. 99-116

**Tues. Feb. 4** Failure, famine, and factional struggle

\* Group Presentation #2 - Hundred Flowers Movement and the Great Leap Forward

#### From Debating Stability and Equilibrium to Making Cultural Revolution

**Thurs. Feb. 6** Lei Feng, the PLA, and the return of class struggle

Reading: Karl, pp. 117-138

**Tues. Feb. 11** Launching the Cultural Revolution, 1966

\* Written Assignment #1 Due

**Thurs. Feb. 13** Major themes and struggles of the Cultural Revolution  
Online Viewing Assignment: <http://www.morningsun.org/>; Reading: Karl, pp. 139-158  
\* Group Presentations #3: Topic – Sent-down Youth

READING WEEK – February 18-21

Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution

**Tues. Feb. 25** Return of the Party, ‘Normalizing’ International Relations, and the Legacy of Mao  
Reading: Karl, pp. 159-184 ; Cheek Ch. 2

“Pushing Reform and Opening Up” – Deng Xiaoping’s New Economic Direction

**Thurs. Feb. 27** Making Sense of the New China.

Reading: Cheek, Ch. 3

**Tues. Mar. 4** “To get rich is glorious”: Changing Approaches in the 1980s

Week 9: The Fifth Modernization: Democracy Movements in the 1980s

**Thurs. Mar. 6** Democracy Wall and voices for change

Reading: Mitter pp. 87-92

**Tues. Mar. 11** 1989 Tiananmen Square

Reading: Mitter pp. 125-132

Online Viewing Assignment: Gate of Heavenly Peace Website

<http://tsquare.tv/film/gateExcerpts.php>

\* Written Assignment #2 Due

Capitalist Style Economic Growth and State Control: Socialism with Chinese Characteristics

**Thurs. Mar. 13**– Aftermath of a Massacre: Political Stability and Economic Growth

Reading: Cheek Ch. 4

\* Group Presentations #4. Topic: Tiananmen Square Protests, 1989

**Tues. Mar. 18**– Remaking China: Deng’s Southern Tour and the New Order within China and Globally

Reading: Mitter, Ch. 5

[Note: Voluntary Withdrawal date is: March 19, 2014]

“Adhering to the Important Thoughts of the Three Represents” – Jiang Zemin and the Effects of Broadening socialism’s “Allies”

**Thurs. Mar. 20** Urban environments and Migrant workers in the New China

Reading: Anita Chan, “Labor Standards and Human Rights: The Case of Chinese Workers under Market Socialism”, Human Rights Quarterly, Vol. 20, No. 4 (1998), pp. 886-904; Li Li, “China’s Constitutional Amendments and Their Implications,” China Report 41:1 (2005), pp. 75-81

**Tues. Mar. 25**– Prosperity, Inequality, and Land-based struggles

Reading: Mitter pp. 132-138

\* Group Presentations #5: Topic – Labour in the New China

Week 12: “Implementing Scientific Outlook on Development” – Hu Jintao

21<sup>st</sup> Century Chinese-style Socialism, and the dynamics of a ‘Harmonious Society’

**Thurs. Mar. 27** Environmental costs, challenges, and proposals for the future  
Online Viewing Assignment: Yung Chang, Director of Up the Yangtze, SIFF podcast  
(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uJWC2cGI0L8>)

**Tues. Apr. 1** Rebuilding the Capital – New Beijing /Old Beijing

Optional Reading: Michael Meyer, *The Last Days of Old Beijing* (2008)

Required Online viewing assignment: The Last Days of Old Beijing (Michael Meyers)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tZNjyogkAEw>

Week 13: Making Sense of the History of the PRC at the Present Moment

**Thurs. Apr. 3**

**A.** Class Debate: Does Urban Development promote Social Equality in the PRC?

**B.** Group review

Reading: Cheek Ch. 6

**Tues, Apr. 8:** The CCP and its relationship to the Chinese people and state in 2014

April 11-25: Final Examination Period