

HIST 2654(W) – Fall 2019
History of the People’s Republic of China
1949 to the Present
Tuesday/Thursday, 8:30-9:45am

Professor T. M. Chen
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Office Hours: Thursdays, 10am-11:30am or by appointment



1949 Founding of the PRC

circa 1969 Cultural Revolution

1989 Tiananmen Square

2019 Hong Kong

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 the themes of democracy and revolution as ideals, institutionalized practices, and socio-political and cultural movements in both the socialist period (1949 thru late 1970s) and the post-socialist period (circa 1978 to present day). We will be considering:

- the ideological and political structures of socialism and their changing configurations;
- gender and class relations in socialist and post-socialist China, particularly as they relate to questions of participation in society;
- who benefits from and who bears the costs associated with specific understandings of democracy and revolution, and their institutionalization;
- China’s understanding of, and engagement with, other parts of the world

The first 9 weeks of the term are organized chronologically to provide an overview of the history of the PRC from 1949 to the present. The final month follows a thematic approach to provide historical perspectives on some of the most pressing issues in contemporary China: relations with ethnic minorities; Hong Kong’s place in the PRC; environmental issues in socialist and post-socialist China.

In addition to introducing students to the history of the People’s Republic of China – and how this history shapes understandings of democracy and revolution in Asia and globally—this course also serves as an introduction to historical study. The course emphasizes:

- understanding *why* events have taken place (rather than understanding history as a series of facts for memorization);
- analyzing primary sources through which we learn about the past;
- understanding and critically assessing a variety of interpretations of Chinese history
- developing written and verbal expression

Class Format

This class includes lectures, class discussion, and group work. 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. Students will receive clear instructions in class when group work is permitted, and when work should be completed individually. Students not comfortable with group work should meet with the instructor early in the term to discuss strategies and alternate assignments, if appropriate.

Regular class attendance is required. Students should familiarize themselves with the University of Manitoba Registrar’s Office policy on “Attendance at Class and Debarment”.
http://umanitoba.ca/student/records/leave_return/695.html#RW.

Students experiencing difficulties that affect class attendance are encouraged to be in touch with me as soon as possible.

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; they are also behaving in a manner disrespectful to others in the classroom. Students violating these guidelines may be asked to leave the classroom.

Required Books

Note: This book is available for purchase at the University of Manitoba bookstore. Students are expected to bring the book to class when readings are assigned from the book. Other readings will be posted to UMLearn or are available on-line through the url links provided.

- Rebecca Karl, *Mao Zedong and China in the Twentieth Century: A Concise History* (Duke University Press, 2010)

Assignments

- In-class assignments and quizzes (total 3) – 10%
- Participation (on-going) – 5%
- Thematic unit presentations (2 per group, various dates) – 5%
- Writing Assignment #1 (1500 words, due date: October 24, 2019) – 25%
- Writing Assignment #2 (1750 words, due date: November 26, 2019) – 25%
- Final Exam (scheduled during the Final Exam period, Dec. 9-20, 2019)- 30%

All written assignments must be printed and handed in on the specified date in class AND submitted via UM Learn as a word document.

Information for the written assignments, as well as instructions for the final exam, will be handed out during lectures and posted on UMLearn. It is your responsibility to acquire the instructions from the instructor if you are absent when they are first made available.

In-Class Assignments and Quizzes

Assignments and in-class work are designed to:

- increase understanding of the course material;
- further develop your writing, reading, comprehension, and analytic skills;
- foster a culture of academic integrity

1. Map Exercise

A map assignment will be made available through UMLearn by September 17. It is due in class on Tuesday, September 24, 2019.

2. Paraphrasing and Identification Quiz – October 15, 2019

3. Viewing Exercise - November 28, 2019

Thematic Unit Presentations (5%, various dates):

Students will select one of the thematic topics to be discussed in the final month of the term: (a) ethnic minorities in the PRC; (b) 'One China, Two Systems': PRC relations with Hong Kong; (c) environmental issues in socialist and post-socialist development.

Students will work in groups. Group members should identify and read at least one article/news story/video on the topic each week. Each group is responsible for providing a 3-minute "Current issues on my topic" to the class two times during the semester. The purpose of these updates is to keep the class informed on contemporary issues and developments in the PRC related to the theme you are following. Over the semester, these presentations should also begin to include how news reporting uses certain terms, references to historical events, or relies upon particular understandings of PRC and global history to explain the current moment. Specific instructions will be provided in class. Your notes for the presentation will be handed in at the end of the class in which you make the presentation.

Assistance with writing and research is available from the professor, through the Academic Learning Centre and writing tutors, University of Manitoba libraries and other UM student support. Assistance from essay writing companies or similar arrangements with friends are not permitted. Anyone providing assistance to you should fully understand inappropriate collaboration.

LEARNING HAPPENS WHEN YOU DO YOUR OWN WORK

Writing Assignments

Essay 1 is worth 25% due October 24, 2019

Essay 2 is worth 25%, due November 26, 2019

Information about each writing assignment will be handed out in class. Students **MUST** complete these assignments on their own.

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.

Final Exam (30%, during final exam period)

Information about the final exam will be provided in class. **Students are required to write all exam answers in their own words.** Verbatim reproduction of memorized text from on-line sources, the textbook, or other sources is not permitted.

Unacknowledged use of the words of others in an essay or on an exam is plagiarism.

Your understanding of the material is much more evident when you express what you have learned in your own words. This means you will do much better on the exam when you write in your own words!

All work is due on the date specified. Exceptions will only be made when there are very compelling reasons and extenuating circumstances. Documentation may be requested. Late work will be penalized by 2% per day after the due date, including weekends. Assignments received more than 7 days after the due date will not receive written feedback. All term work must be submitted by the last day of class for the semester (December 6, 2019).

Evaluative feedback will be provided prior to the voluntary withdrawal deadline of November 18, 2019.

Term work will be returned in class. 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

Contacting Prof. Chen
Email: tina.chen@umanitoba.ca
Phone: 204-474-6386
Office: 400 Fletcher Argue / 361
University College
** When making an appointment, please confirm office location **

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 for short questions. I normally will reply to student emails within 24 hours. Please note that student emails are

answered during regular University of Manitoba hours only (i.e. 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. If you have not received a response after 24 hours (regular work days), please feel free to send a follow up email.

Academic Dishonesty

All University policies on academic integrity will be strictly applied. Academic integrity is essential to the learning process, as well as for the value of your degree at the University of Manitoba. During this course, students will be educated on academic conventions necessary to avoid plagiarism and other acts of academic dishonesty. Students are also encouraged to further their own understanding of academic integrity by visiting (http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student_resources/student_responsibilities_integrity.html), and speaking to a student advocate if they find themselves needing advice.

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.

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Class Outline and Required Readings

Thurs, Sept. 5: Course Introduction

Learning about the history of the People’s Republic of China today – issues, themes, and considerations

Part One: Overview of the History of the PRC

Democracy, Revolution and the Chinese Communist Party: Historical Contexts

Tuesday, Sept 10: Calls for Revolution and Democracy in China in the first half of the 20th century

Reading: Karl, chapters 1 &2 (pp. 1-19)

Thursday, Sept. 12: What did democracy mean in early 20th century China?

Class Discussion: Edward X. Gu, “Who Was Mr. Democracy? The May Fourth Discourse of Populist Democracy and the Radicalization of Chinese Intellectuals (1915-1922),” *Modern Asian Studies* 35.3 (July 2001): 589-621.

“The Chinese People Have Stood Up” - Mao Zedong and the establishment of the PRC

Tues Sept 17: Championing New Democracy and Peasant Revolution: The Chinese Communist Party and the establishment of the PRC

Reading: Karl, chapters 3&4 plus pp. 74-75 (‘People’s Democratic Dictatorship’)

Primary Document: Mao Zedong, “The Chinese People Have Stood Up” (September 21, 1949). https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/selected-works/volume-5/mswv5_01.htm

Building a New China in the 1950s

Thurs, Sept. 19: National Programs and Local Realities in the 1950s: Land Reform, Marriage Law, and Expanded Participation in Political Life

Reading: Karl, p. 75-77 (‘An Economy in Ruins’), pp. 91-97

Primary documents (read the text and take time to look at the posters related to the 1950 Marriage Law and Land Reform)

“New Marriage Law” <https://chinese posters.net/themes/marriage-law.php>

“Land Reform and Collectivization” <https://chinese posters.net/themes/land-reform.php>

Tues Sept 24: Sino-Soviet Relations: Distinguishing the Chinese Revolution and People’s Democracy from the Soviet Experience

Reading: Karl, pp. 77-91, 105-106, 110-111

Hand-in completed map exercise

Thurs, Sept. 26: Exporting China’s Revolution: Anti-Imperialism, Bandung, and New Global Orders in the 1950s

Primary document – Zhou Enlai, Speech at the Plenary Session of the Asian-African Conference, April 19, 1955

<https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/121623>

Thematic Presentation 1a: Ethnic Minorities in the PRC

Tues, Oct. 1: Mass Mobilization, Great Leap Forward, Famine

Reading: Karl, chapter 7 (except sections read in previous weeks)

Thematic Presentation 1b: PRC relations with Hong Kong

The 1960s: From Debating Stability and Equilibrium to Making Cultural Revolution

Thurs Oct 3: “Big Democracy” in the Hundred Flowers and Cultural Revolution

Class Discussion: Reading: Joel Andreas and Yige Dong, “The Brief, Tumultuous History of “Big Democracy” in China’s Factories,” *Modern China* 44.5 (2018): 455-496

Tues Oct 8: The Return of Class Struggle: The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, 1966-1976

Reading: Karl, chapters 8 &9

On-line viewing (primary sources): browse and look at sections of most interest to you at <http://www.morningsun.org/>

[Instructions for Essay #1 made available]

Thurs Oct 10: The End of the Cultural Revolution: The Legacies of Maoist understandings of Democracy and Revolution

Reading: Karl, pp. 159-162, pp. 164-168

Thematic Presentation 1c: Environmental Issues

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

Tues Oct 15: “To get rich is glorious”: Changing Approaches in the 1980s

Reading: Karl, pp. 168-174

Identification and Paraphrasing Quiz (30 minutes)

Thurs Oct 17: Democracy Wall and Voices for Change in the 1980s

Reading: Karl, pp. 163-4

Primary Documents: Wei Jingsheng, “Fifth Modernization”

<http://www.weijsingsheng.org/doc/en/THE%20FIFTH%20MODERNIZATION.html>

Deng Xiaoping, “The Present Situation and the Tasks Before Us” (Speech January 16, 1980)

http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/ps/china/deng_xiaoping_present_situation.pdf

Thematic Presentation 2a: Ethnic Minorities

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

Tues Oct 22: 1989 Tiananmen Square and Aftermath of a Massacre

Reading: Karl, 176-184; additional readings or viewing assignments tbc

Thurs Oct 24: Remaking China: Deng's Southern Tour and the New Order within China and Globally

Due Date: Essay # 1

China under Jiang Zemin, Hu Jintao, and Xi Jinping

Tues Oct 29: Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao: The growth of a middle-class and building a culture of accepting authoritarianism

Reading: "China's Experiment with Deliberative Democracy: A Q&A with He Baogang," May 27, 2014, <http://www.chinafile.com/China-Experiment-Deliberative-Democracy>

Thematic Presentation 2b: PRC relations with Hong Kong

Thurs Oct 31: China under Xi Jinping – Promoting the Chinese Dream

Reading: Andrew Nathan, "China: Back to the Future," NYRB China Archive (May 10, 2018), <http://www.chinafile.com/library/nyrb-china-archive/china-back-future>

Thematic Presentation 2c: Environmental Issues

Part Two: Historical Perspectives on Contemporary Issues

Theme 1: Ethnic Minorities in the PRC

[Instructions for Essay #2 made available this week]

Tues Nov 5: Overview of history of PRC policies and practices towards ethnic minorities

Reading: Colin Mackerras, "Ethnic Minorities," in Xiaowei Zang (ed), *Understanding Chinese Society*, second edition (Routledge, 2016), pp. 116-132

Thurs Nov 7: Case Study: Xinjiang and ethnic Uighurs

Reading: Judd Kinzley, "Beijing's Long Struggle to Control Xinjiang's Mineral Wealth," Chinafile (Nov. 28, 2018), <http://www.chinafile.com/reporting-opinion/features/beijings-long-struggle-control-xinjiangs-mineral-wealth>
Selected recent news reports

November 11 Remembrance Day (University closed)

November 12-15 Fall Term Break

VW date: November 18, 2019

Theme 2: One China, Two Systems: Hong Kong and the PRC after 1996

Tues Nov 19: Overview of history of Hong Kong and its relations with the PRC

Reading: Hong Kong Timeline <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-16526765>

Thurs Nov 21: Democracy movements in Hong Kong

Readings: Selected readings from <http://www.chinafile.com/conversation/hong-kong-protest>; other readings tbc

Theme 3: Transforming the Landscape: Environmental Issues in Socialist and Post-Socialist Development

Tues Nov. 26: History of the Three Gorges Dam: political, social, environmental issues

Due Date Essay # 2

Thurs Nov. 28 Voices for Environmental Change and State Responses

Viewing Exercise: Under the Dome (2014, by Chai Jing).

NOTE: We will only watch the first half of the documentary in class. Students are required to complete the viewing of the film at home and to complete viewing exercise notes for Dec. 3

Tues Dec 3: Class Discussion

Readings: Judith Shapiro, "Environmental Degradation in China under Mao and Today: A Comparative Reflection," *Global Environment* 9.2 (October 2016), pp. 440-457

"Is China Doing Enough for the Environment?", A Chinafile Conversation (March 11, 2016), <http://www.chinafile.com/conversation/china-doing-enough-environment>

Democracy, Revolution, and China's Future

Thur Dec 5: Wrap Up Discussion and Final exam review

Readings: Elizabeth Perry, "Studying Chinese Politics: Farewell to Revolution?," *The China Journal* 57 (January 2007): 1-22.

FINAL EXAM PERIOD – December 9-20, 2019

Student Resources

Academic Resources

You have access to several important resources to help you navigate your classes and university life more generally. There are writing tutors available to help you with your essays through the Academic Learning Centre (ALC): <http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/>. The History department will also make a writing tutor available exclusively to History students in the department on one day a week. More information about scheduling, etc., TBA.

The ALC page also has resources to help you with study skills, organization, as well as assistance for students using English as an Additional Language (EAL). Other issues, including accessibility services, workshops, and tips about academic integrity are addressed at the Student Advocacy Services webpage (http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/).

All of the above services can also be accessed under the heading of Student Resources on the Student Affairs website: <http://umanitoba.ca/student/studentlife/index.html>.

History students can also take advantage of the huge range of academic materials (including primary and secondary sources, as well as pages to help with writing and referencing) made available by the History subject librarian, tailored just for you! They are available on the Libraries page at this link: <http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/history>. Students who need research assistance can also schedule an appointment with a librarian through the website.

Student Counselling Centre

Contact SCC if you are concerned about any aspect of your mental health, including anxiety, stress, or depression, or for help with relationships or other life concerns. SCC offers crisis services as well as counselling.

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/index.html>

Sexual Violence Support and Education

Sexual violence affects people of all ages, sexual orientations, genders, gender identities, abilities, relationship statuses. UM is committed to ensuring a respectful work and learning environment for all, and to building a safe and inclusive campus community where survivors of sexual violence know they can receive the supports they need to succeed, both academically and personally. For resources and information:

<http://umanitoba.ca/student-supports/sexual-violence-support-and-education>

https://umanitoba.ca/human_rights/

Student Support Case Management

Contact the Student Support Case Management team if you are concerned about yourself or another student and don't know where to turn. SSCM helps connect students with on and off campus resources, provides safety planning, and offers other supports, including consultation, educational workshops, and referral to the STATIS threat assessment team.

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/case-manager/index.html>

University Health Service

Contact UHS for any medical concerns, including mental health problems. UHS offers a full range of medical services to students, including mental health support.

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/health/>

Student Advocacy

Contact Student Advocacy if you want to know more about your rights and responsibilities as a student, have questions about policies and procedures, and/or want support in dealing with academic or discipline concerns.

<http://umanitoba.ca/student/advocacy>

UM History Student Association (UMHiSA)

UMHiSA is a history undergraduate student run organization that seeks to establish a sense of community for students studying all facets of history, and provide support for them in their academic career. Students interested in fun times, spirited debate, new opportunities, a community of like-minded students, or all of the above, check out UMHiSA on our instagram account www.instagram.com/umhisa_undergrad/ or by emailing umhisau@gmail.com.