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HSTR 395.01: Revolution and Reform in China

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History/ POLS/MANS 395: Revolution and Reform in China
Fall 2006

2:00-5:00 pm Mondays; Room: Liberal Art 138

Professor: Terry M. Weidner

Office: Mansfield Center, 4th Floor, Mansfield Library

phone: x2281; e-mail: terry.weidner@umontana.edu

Office hours: 3-5 Tuesday. You should also feel free to email or call to make an appointment for other times @ either x2281 (my direct line) or x2988

Course Description:

After a quick overview of key trends affecting China before Mao Zedong came to power, this course will use a lecture and discussion format to examine the Maoist revolution and the Dengist reform that virtually destroyed it. The material on Mao's rule will largely involve study of China's departure from a Soviet style model of economic development in favor of a Maoist revolutionary model that produced the disastrous Great Leap and Cultural Revolution. The subsequent examination of post-Mao China will focus in large part on Deng Xiaoping's epochal economic reform, and its social and political impact (good and bad). The course will also explore key aspects of China's new assertiveness in foreign relations, including its political and trade relations with the U.S., diverse aspects of the Taiwan sovereignty issue, and a new global strategic initiative that is reflected in China playing a much stronger role in Asia and has it reaching to Africa, Latin America, and Central Asia. Finally, we will include a section on U.S.-China political and economic relations and (if there is an interest) some forces affecting business in China. A previous course on China is helpful, but by no means mandatory.

What this course will help you understand:

- Key historical trends that impacted China in the 20th Century
- Some of the reasons for the rise of Maoism
- The nature of Maoist rule, and the reasons for its collapse
- The complex nature of Dengist and post-Dengist economic reform and its impact on China's domestic political scene and foreign policy
- How Tiananmen occurred, why it failed, and its residual impact
- Key aspects of contemporary Chinese culture and society
- Basic forces influencing U.S.-China political and economic relations
- China's emergence as an economic and political power
- The complex challenges China faces in the 21st century

Required Readings:

Liang Heng and Judith Shapiro, *Son of the Revolution*. Random House, 1984 (paperback)

Tony Saich, *Goverance and Politics in China*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2004 (paperback)

Weidner: China Since Mao – 2

Rachel DeWoskin, *Foreign Babes in Beijing: Behind the Scenes of a New China*. W.W. Norton (paperback; reprint edition 2006)

Ian Johnson, *Wild Grass: Three Stories of Change in Modern China*, Random House, 2004 (paperback)

Plus a number of current media articles on contemporary issues

GRADING:

class preparation, class participation, and attendance at East Asia-related UM events: one-third
mid-term examination: one-third
final take-home project: one-third

Students must successfully complete *both* written assignments to receive a grade in the course.

You will note that a relatively high percentage of the grade in this course depends in-class activity and attendance at relevant UM events on E. Asia. There are an extraordinary number of interesting issues that pop up in the history of contemporary China and its relations with the US, and this class explores them to the extent possible *through discussion*, including a series of informal in-class debates. That means one needs not only show up for every class (particularly as we meet only once a week) but to come having done the reading and prepared to discuss it. **SPECIAL NOTE: Please note that everyone in class must attend (and write a simple one-paragraph synopsis of) three events on East Asia that occur on campus during the semester as part of their course requirement, with extra credit given for any additional events attended and reported upon.** If special circumstances make it difficult for you to meet that requirement, I am happy to propose an alternative assignment.

Schedule of Class Topics:

August 28: 1) Deep Background: a quick review of key themes from the Qing dynasty & Early 20th Century China (Self-Strengthening Movement, Revolution of 1911, the New Culture Movement)
Assignment: assignment to prep for next class to be emailed

September 4: Labor Day – No Class

September 11: The Struggle between the Guomindang and Communist Parties and America's policy dilemma; The Maoist victory and the Soviet economic model
Assignment: Saich, p. 25-43, begin reading *Son of the Revolution*

September 18: The Early Years and the Great Leap Forward
Assignment: continue reading *Son of the Revolution*.

Weidner: China Since Mao -3

September 25: Recovery and the Cultural Revolution

Assignment: Read Saich, p. 43-56; finish *Son of the Revolution* and come ready to discuss.

October 2: Deng's rise to power and the nature and pace of early reform

Assignment: Saich, p. 57-64, 233-267;

October 9: Party division and swings in reform:

Assignment: Begin reading *Foreign Babes in Beijing*

October 16: Politics & Power: party structure; economic and political contradictions on the eve of Tiananmen

Assignment: Finish **Foreign Babes** and come ready to discuss; Saich, p. 64-75

October 23: The Tiananmen Movement: Origins and the Reason of its Suppression

Assignment: Weidner article, "Protest and Suppression in China" (sent via email or put on Blackboard)

October 30: Backlash and Deng's last gasp; Party rule in China. Part of Video "Gate of Heavenly Peace."

Assignment: Saich, p. 75-80, skim 121-179; 192-212

November 6: **MID-TERM EXAMINATION**

Assignment: prepare for exam

November 13: "The Final Solution" for Reform: The Asian Financial Crisis and WTO; Trade, and other issues in U.S.- China Relations

Assignment: Saich, p. 155-212; handouts, TBA

November 20: Videos on economic reform: TBA

November 20: Issues in U.S.-China Relations (cont): Human Rights; Neo-Nationalism and China's assertive new foreign policy: Taiwan, Central Asia, and beyond

Assignment: Saich, p. 305-328; Start *Leaves of Grass*; handouts, TBA

November 27: Current conditions in China

Assignment: Saich, p. 80-90, 268-304, and 329-347; come ready to discuss *Leaves of Grass*. handouts, TBA; start work on your take home final project

December 4: Future Chinese Challenges and the Future of Sino-U.S. Relations

Assignment: begin working on Final Take Home Project

Take Home Project: **Due Wednesday, May 12 at 4:00 pm**