

# China in Transformation (tentative)

Instructor: Dr. Youli Sun

## I. Course Description:

This course deals with the transformation of China from a traditional type of society to a modern nation. Two major themes, nationalism and communism, will serve as organizing threads throughout the course. Major events in the past, such as the Taiping Rebellion, the May Four Movement, Communist victory, will be selectively and emphatically explored. It aims at an understanding of China's modern history and sheds lights on the contemporary era. Required are two book reviews and a research paper of approximately 15 pages on any topic related to modern China.

Class sessions will consist of lectures, discussions and student presentations. Students have to finish all readings **before** coming any particular class.

## II. Required Textbooks:

- R. Keith Schoppa, *Revolution and Its Past*.
- W. Travis Hanes and Frank Sanello, *The Opium Wars*
- Gu Hongming, *The Spirit of the Chinese People (on reserve)*
- Ba Jin, *The Family*
- Iris Chang, *The Rape of Nanking*
- William Stueck, *Rethinking the Korean War*
- Jasper Becker, *Hungry Ghosts*
- Alan Lawrance, ed., *China Since 1919: A Sourcebook (on reserve)*

## III. Grading:

Mid-term -----30%  
Final exam ----- 30%  
Term paper -----30%  
Attendance and Discussion -----10%

## Class Schedules and Readings:

### Lecture 1: Introduction: Traditional China

Readings: Schoppa, Chap. 1-2; start reading The Opium Wars

### Lecture 2: Trade, Wars and Treaties

Readings: Schoppa, Chap. 3: The Opium Wars

### Lecture 3: Rebellions

Readings: Schoppa, Chap. 4-5; Finish The Opium Wars

**Discussion:** nature of the Opium Wars

**Lecture 4: From Reform to Revolution**

Readings: Schoppa, Chap. 6-7; The Spirit of the Chinese People

**Lecture 5: The May 4<sup>th</sup> Movement**

Readings: Schoppa, Chap. 8-9; Lawrence, Chap. 1; finish reading The Family

**Discussion:** clash of civilizations?

**Lecture 6: The Nationalists**

Readings: Schoppa, Chap. 10-11; Lawrence, chap. 2, 4

**Lecture 7: The Communists (Mid-term Exam)**

Readings: Schoppa, Chap. 12; Lawrence, chap. 3

**Lecture 8: War against Japan**

Readings: Schoppa, 13-14; Lawrence, chap. 4; The Rape of Nanking

**Lecture 9: Communists Revolution**

Readings: Schoppa, Chap. 15; Lawrence, chap. 5-6; Rethinking the Korean War

**Discussion:** what was responsible for the Communist success?

**Lecture 10: China and the Cold War**

Readings: Schoppa, Chap. 16; Lawrence, chap. 7; start reading Hungry Ghosts

**Research Paper Presentations****Lecture 11: The Great Leap Forward**

Readings: Schoppa, Chap. 17; Lawrence, chap. 8-9; finish Hungry Ghosts

**Discussion:** causes for the Marxist failure

**Lecture 12: The Cultural Revolution**

Readings: Schoppa, Chap. 17-18; Lawrence, chap. 10

**Final**