HIST 2571
China Encounters the World
Spring 2016
11:40-12:55 Tuesday & Thursday
122 Rockefeller Hall

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Office Hours:
16:45-18:15 Tue., 10:30-11:20 Thur., and by appointment

Required Readings

- Jonathan SPENCE. The Search for Modern China
- Henry KISSINGER, On China
- CHEN Jian. Mao’s China and the Cold War.
- Joseph NYE. Is The American Century Over

Purpose and Scope

This is a lecture course focusing on how “China” (中国), the country with the world’s largest population and one of the longest and most continuous histories, has encountered the world since around the 17th century, with an emphasis on the late 19th and 20th centuries. (When “China” is used to describe the people, land and civilization that form the historical and civilizational foundation of China today as a modern state of multinationalities, we fully realize the complications involved in such a description. This will be a major topic of discussion in this course.) In particular, we will analyze the age-old Chinese “Central Kingdom” self-image and how the image was overturned during modern times in face of Western and Japanese challenges and China’s inability to cope with their consequences. We will also explore the Chinese “victim mentality”—a collective “belief complex” in that it was the political incursion, economic exploitation and military aggression of foreign imperialist countries that had undermined the “Central Kingdom’s” historical glory and had reduced it to a victimized member of modern international community—and the mentality’s impact on the Chinese experience in dealing with other parts of the world. The course will concentrate on China’s external relations, but foreign policy issues will be examined in the context of China’s political, economic, social and cultural developments in broader terms. The course will also pay special attention to the role of “human agencies” in the shaping of historical processes. The course provides a chronological account of main historical events, but its purpose is not just to impart information; it also aims to cultivate a basic understanding of the
significance of the Chinese experience in the age of globalization and worldwide modernization, so as to allow the students to occupy a better position to comprehend the phenomenon now widely known as “China’s rise.”

Course Requirements

- Reading Quizzes: 50% (see below for dates of the quizzes)
- Proposal for final project 10% (Due by April 30)
- Final Project, 40% (due on May 17)

About Reading Quizzes

The reading quizzes are designed to help you follow the reading assignments and lectures, and to establish a better understanding of the subjects/questions discussed in the class. Therefore, their contents will be closely related to the reading materials AND lectures. Altogether six quizzes will be given throughout the semester, and you may drop one of the six at your choice. The six quizzes will be given on the following days:
  - First, February 9
  - Second, February 23
  - Third, March 10
  - Fourth, March 24
  - Fifth, April 14
  - Sixth, April 28

About the Final Project:

The final project, which is arranged in lieu of the final exam, requires you to write an essay on a course-related topic of your choice. It will be composed of two parts.

This first part is an essay proposal, which should be very short, and may include the following: (1) The specific topic to be investigated and the argument you are likely to make in the paper; and (2) The types of sources you may use in writing the essay. It is due on April 30.

And the second part of the essay itself. It should include a title page, text, and “works cited” list. It should be approximately 8-12 pages of text, and should be typed and doubled spaced. It is due on May 17.

Tentative Lecture and Reading Schedule

Week One (1/28)
Introduction to the course; explanation of the syllabus, scope and goals of the course, and the textbooks

Week Two (2/2, 2/4)
Subject One: Laying out the Background: Traditional Chinese Views of the “World”: The Age-old “Central Kingdom/Middle Kingdom” and the “Barbarians”
Readings: Kissinger, chapter 1

Subject Two: From Ming to Qing: The Manchu Transformation of “China”; Impacts of Encounters between “China” and the “West”
Readings: Spence, chapters 1-6, especially pp.7-12, 37-43, 51-56, 62-66, 83-88, 115-135; Kissinger, chapter 2

Week Three (2/9, 2/11)
The Qing in Crises
Readings: Spence, Chapters 7-10; Kissinger, Chapter 3
Reading Quiz 1, 2/9

Week Four (2/16, 2/18):
The Emergence of Modern Chinese Nationalism
Readings: Spence, Chapters 11-12; Kissinger, Chapter 3

Week Five (2/23, 2/25):
The May-Fourth Era and Its Aftermath: China’s Turn toward Radical Revolutions
Readings: Spence, Chapters 13-14
Reading Quiz 2, 2/23

Week Six (3/1, 3/3):
The 1920s-mid 1930s: China in War and Crisis
Readings: Spence, Chapters 16-17

Week Seven (3/8, 3/10):
The Chinese-Japanese War
Readings: Spence, Chapter 17
Reading Quiz 3, 3/10

Week Eight (3/15, 3/17):
The Chinese Civil War and the Emergence of the Global Cold War
Readings: Spence, Chapter 18; Chen, Chapters 1-2

Week Nine (3/22, 3/24):
The Rise of the “New China”
Readings: Spence, Chapters 19; Chen, Chapters 2-3; Kissinger, Chapter 4
Reading Quiz 4, 3/24

Week Eleven
Spring Break (No class)

Week Eleven (4/5, 4/7):
China and the Korean War
Readings: Chen, Chapters 3-4; Kissinger, Chapter 5; Spence, Chapter 19 (esp. pp.469-478)

**Week Twelve (4/12, 4/14):**
The Chinese Experience during the Cold War
Readings: Chen, Chapters 3, 5-8; Kissinger, Chapters 6-7; Spence, Chapters 20-22
**Reading Quiz 5 (4/14)**

**Week Thirteen (4/19, 4/21):**
Departing the Cold War: China’s “Opening to the Outside World”
Readings: Chen, Chapter 9, Epilogue; Kissinger, Chapters 8-12; Spence, Chapters 23

**Week Fourteen (4/26, 4/28)**
China in the Post-Cold War Era
Reading, Kissinger, Chapters 15-17; Spence, Chapters 25-27
**Reading Quiz 6, 4/28**

**Week Fifteen (5/3, 5/5)**
The China Challenge in the 21st Century
Readings: Kissinger, Chapter 19; Chen, “The China Challenge in the 21st Century”
Kissinger, Epilogue; Spence, Chapter 28
**Final Project Proposal due**

**Week Sixteen (5/10)**
In Lieu of Conclusion: The Long “American Century” and China’s “Prolonged Rise”
Nye, *Is the American Century Over?*
Chen Jian, “The Global Cold War and China’s ‘Prolonged Rise’” (paper in both English and Chinese to be distributed in class)

**Final Project**
**Due on 5:00 p.m. 5/17**