History 78
Beijing and Shanghai: Tale of Two Cities

This course will consider the history of China's two major cities - Beijing and Shanghai -- from the early nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. The course is divided into two parts. In the first half of the semester various aspects of the history of Beijing and Shanghai will be studied through books and articles. In the second half of the course, students will develop research projects using English-language sources. Class presentations and reports, as well as consultations with the instructor, will constitute the weekly format as students are pursuing their research and writing.

A mid-term examination just after October break will cover the material in the first half, and will constitute about 35 percent of the grade for the course. Another 15 percent will rest on class participation (including written exercises). The research paper, approximately 20-25 pages, will be the basis for the other 50 percent of the grade (taking into account both the preliminary exercises and the final product). There will be no final examination.

The following texts are available for purchase at the bookstore.


If you have not previously studied modern Chinese history, you should, as soon as possible, become familiar with the chronology
and basic historical events. For this purpose, a decent and short textbook, available at the bookstore or on reserve, is


**Course Schedule and Assignments**

Readings marked * are on Blackboard. All books for the course are on General Reserve at McCabe Library.

**Week I. August 31 (60 mins) and another session (90 mins) to be scheduled**

**Introduction: Approaches to Chinese Urban History**

**READINGS**


**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED**


**TOPICS**

The functions and definition of Chinese cities.
Urban vs. rural. Was there a distinct urban culture?
Transformation of cities in the nineteenth century?
The Skinner model of regional urbanization.
Cities and the state: political controls
Cities and the economy: merchants and guilds
Cities and modernity, modern culture
Beijing and Shanghai: Exceptional?
Week II. September 7

Beijing: the Imperial City and "old Beijing"

READINGS
The Forbidden City: Center of Imperial China, by Gilles Béguin and Dominique Morel. Read all and study the illustrations.
*Lillian M. Li and Alison Dray-Novey, "Guarding Beijing's Food Security in the Qing Dynasty: State, Market, and Police," Journal of Asian Studies 58.4 (November 1999), 992-1032. JSTOR.

Look over the contents and illustrations of these two Beijing memoirs. What do they observe and value? Discuss a couple of chapters in each. Compare with the "Documents" section of the Forbidden City (above), or with Elder or Meyer, below.
Either Juliet Bredon, Peking: A Historical and Intimate Description of Its Chief Places of Interest 2nd ed. (1922)

RECOMMENDED
Madeleine Yue Dong, Republican Beijing: The City and Its Histories (2003)
Christopher Elder, ed, Old Peking: City of the Ruler of the World (1997)
Jeffrey F. Meyer, The Dragons of Tiananmen: Beijing as a Sacred City (1991)

TOPICS
The imperial capital
The Manchu impact
The walls and gates
"In search of old Peking"
Antiquities and culture
City life, temples, etc.
Week III. September 14

Shanghai: Treaty Port and International Settlement

READINGS
*Linda Cooke Johnson, *Shanghai: From Market Town to Treaty Port, 1074-1858* (Stanford, 1995), Introduction, Chs. 8 (The China Trade), and 9 (Internationalization of Shanghai).
*Betty Peh-t‘i Wei, *Shanghai: Crucible of Modern China* (1987), Ch. 5, pp. 64-82 (Cosmopolitan City)

TOPICS
Was Shanghai part of China, part of its region, or a foreign enclave?
Treaty port governance and impact
Growth and settlement of the city
Compradores and early trade
Early nationalism

ALSO RECOMMENDED
All of the above titles can serve as the basis for further reading and research. In addition to the book by Betty Wei, listed above, the following books can serve as a reference for basic historical chronology and facts:
Rhoads Murphey, *Shanghai: Key to Modern China* (1953)

Week IV. September 21

Commerce, Business, and Politics in Shanghai and Beijing

READINGS
*David Strand, Rickshaw Beijing, Ch. 1-6, pp. 1-141.

LIBRARY SESSION WITH the Humanities Librarian in McCabe during the second half of class. This session will emphasize bibliographic
resources, on-line searches, and use of archival materials and microfilms.

ALSO RECOMMENDED
Sherman Cochran, ed. Inventing Nanking Road, other essays.
Parks M. Coble, Jr., The Shanghai capitalists and the Nationalist government, 1927-1937 (1980)

Week V. September 28

Labor and Social Protest in Shanghai and Beijing

READINGS
Emily Honig, "Migrant Culture in Shanghai: In Search of a Subei Identity," in Shanghai Sojourners, pp. 239-265.
David Strand, Rickshaw Beijing, Chs. 7, 8, & 11, pp. 142-197, 241-283.

EXERCISE 1:
Despatches from United States consuls in Shanghai, 1847-1906.
Select one event or topic from the readings you have already done, and see if you can find a consular document relevant to the subject. A good choice would be a political event or an economic or trade issue. Print the document and explain briefly whether the document confirms, contradicts, or expands the previous understanding of the subject, or how it compares to the handling of the subject in the secondary source you have already read.

ALSO RECOMMENDED
Bryna Goodman, Native Place, City, and Nation (see Week III)
Hanchao Lu, *Beyond the Neon Lights* (see Week III)

**Week VI. October 5**
The New Culture, Popular Entertainment, Vice, Tourism

**READINGS**
- Wen-hsin Yeh, "Progressive Journalism", in *Shanghai Sojourners*, pp. 186-238.
- Frederic Wakeman, *Policing Shanghai*, Ch. 7.

**EXERCISE 2:**
The *North China Herald*. Select one event or topic from the readings you have already done, and see how the *North China Herald* covered it. A good choice would be a political event of local or national importance, such as a strike at Shanghai or the Boxer siege of Beijing. Print the article and explain briefly how it confirms, contradicts, or expands the previous understanding of the subject, or how it compares to the handling of the subject in the secondary source you have already read.

**RECOMMENDED**

**OCTOBER BREAK; October 11-15.**

**Week VII. October 19 and Mid-term Exam**
Crime, Politics, and War in Shanghai

**READINGS**
- Brian G. Martin, "'The Pact with the Devil'...", *Shanghai Sojourners*, pp. 266-304.
- Frederic Wakeman, *Policing Shanghai, 1927-37*, all except Ch. 7.

**EXERCISE 3:** Shanghai Municipal Police files. Pick one file from the Police records and describe its content and how it might be used in a research paper.

**RECOMMENDED**
*In the shadow of the rising sun: Shanghai under Japanese occupation*, Ed. by Christian Henriot, Wen-hsin Yeh (Cambridge, 2004)

**MIDTERM EXAMINATION** to be scheduled for this week.

**Week VIII. October 26**  
Discussion of Paper topics and sources

**Week IX. November 2**  
Final Topics and Bibliography

**Week X. November 9**  
Individual consultations: Outline and introduction

**Week XI. November 16**  
Individual consultations: Draft of first half of paper

**Week XII. November 23**  
Individual consultations: Draft of second half of paper and conclusion

**THANKSGIVING BREAK November 25-26**

**Week XIII. November 30**  
Paper Presentations

**FINAL PAPERS** due December 10-17.
Possible research topics (using English-language sources)

Beijing as seen by 18th-20th-century Westerners
Beijing as tourist destination (guide books)
Western invasion and occupation of Beijing: 1860, 1900
Shanghai under Taiping threat; under Japanese occupation
Peking Opera
The last emperors and the Forbidden City
Beijing city life: charities, residences, guilds, temples, folk customs, antique market, Manchu and other bannermen
decline and impoverishment of bannermen
poverty and social welfare
Beijing under the Japanese
a Sino-Western institution in either city (e.g. Peking Union Medical College, Yenching University)
a strike or demonstration, or other local protest
views of national or international events
charities: a growing national perspective?
evidence of civil society? Rankin and Esherick
newspapers and publications in either city
a business or commercial enterprise, department stores
prostitution and other crimes/entertainment
transportation: rickshaws, bicycles, trolleys, railroads, automobile.
treaty-port issues and institutions: legal disputes, the Shanghai Municipal Council, the Mixed Court
local governance in Shanghai: water, land, disease, etc.
police (traditional and modern, Beijing and Shanghai, Sikhs, bannermen, etc.)
trade and commerce: Western and Chinese companies, compradores, disputes, laws
Chambers of Commerce
traditional guilds and modern labor unions
sub-communities of foreigners: British, French, Jews, Japanese, missionaries, soldiers of fortune, diplomats, teachers, doctors, etc.