The main purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the history of China from
the early nineteenth century to the present—a tumultuous two centuries during which Chinese
society has been radically transformed in some ways, but has in other ways retained certain
enduring characteristics. A second goal of the course is to provide an introduction to the study
of history: how to think about key issues, how to evaluate primary and secondary sources, how
to ask the right questions and strive for meaningful answers (there are no “right” answers).

The basic requirements of the course are: attendance and active participation in class, one
mid-term examination, three short to medium-length papers (a discussion of a document, a book
report, and an essay on a topic of your choice), and a final examination. Instructions about the
papers, as well as a supplementary reading list, will be distributed later.

The readings for the course will also be on general reserve at McCabe Library, and some readings are
available on Blackboard (indicated by * below).

John K. Fairbank and Merle Goldman, *China: A New History, Enlarged edition*
(1998)
*Sources of Chinese Tradition*, Vol. Two, 2nd edition, Comp. by W. T. De Bary and
Richard Lufrano (2000)
Jonathan D. Spence, *God’s Chinese Son: The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom of Hong
Xiuquan* (1996)
(1998)
Chan, Anita, et al., *Chen Village under Mao and Deng: The Recent History of a
Peasant Community in Mao’s China* rev. ed. (1992)
Outline maps of China are available for purchase for the Map assignment.

In addition to the books for the course, four videos are also on general reserve and are required
for the course. A time for a class viewing of the video will be arranged, but if you would like to
look at these on your own, they are available for use in McCabe.

“China: A Revolution Revisited” originally by T. H. White (1967, 1971)
SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND READINGS

Week 1

Tu Aug 31  Problems and Issues in Chinese History
Th. Sept 2  The Confucian State and its Manchu Incarnation

Readings
Fairbank and Goldman, Introduction, Chaps. 7-9.
Sources, pp. 156-68 (Chen Hongmou and mid-Qing statecraft), 188-95 (Wei Yuan on governance, the pursuit of profit, and institutional reform)
MAP EXERCISE to be distributed.

Week 2

Tu Sept 7  Qing Foreign Relations and the Canton System
Th Sept 9  The Opium War (Was it about Opium?) DISCUSSION

Readings
Sources, pp. 198-212 (Western intrusion, Lin Zexu and Wei Yuan)
or Peter Fay, The Opium War, 1840-42, pp.1-80, 142-179, & 356-371.

Week 3

Tu Sept 14  The Taiping and other Rebellions
• Map Exercise due today
Th Sept 16  DISCUSSION: Spence, God’s Chinese Son and documents in Sources (Do individuals matter? Do ideas matter? Were the Taipings “rebels” or “revolutionaries”?)
Suppression of the Rebellion

Readings
Fairbank and Goldman, Chap. 10
Sources, pp. 213-30 (Taipings)
Spence, God’s Chinese Son, Foreward & Ch. 3-13, 15-16, 19, & 22.

Week 4

Tu Sept 21  The Treaty System and and the Tongzhi Restoration
Th Sept 23  "Self-Strengthening," Conservatism, and 1898 Reforms
• FIRST PAPER due today (document analysis)
Readings
Fairbank and Goldman, Chap. 11
*Sources*, pp. 233-76 (Feng Guifen, Woren, Zeng Guofan, Li Hongzhang, Xue Fucheng, Zhang Zhidong, Wang Tao, Yan Fu, Kang Youwei, Chu Chengbo)
*Mary C. Wright, The Last Stand of Chinese Conservatism: The T'ung-chih Restoration, Chaps. 2-4, & 10 (pp. 11-68, 222-50).

Week 5
Tu Sept 28  High Imperialism and the Imperialists
Th Sept 30  Anti-foreignism and the Boxer Uprising
   DISCUSSION of Cohen, *History in Three Keys*

Readings.
Cohen, *History in Three Keys*, Part I (all), Part II (pp. 59-95), and Part III (all)
(Alternative or extra: Chaps 3-6 highly recommended)

Week 6
Tu Oct 5  Late Qing Reforms and the Revolutionary Movement
Th Oct 7  MID-TERM EXAMINATION

Readings
Fairbank and Goldman, Chap. 12
*Sources*, pp. 284-301, 308-29 (Reform Edict, Liang Qichao, Zhang Binglin, Sun Yat-sen, Hu Hanmin)

OCTOBER BREAK, Week of Oct 13

Week 7
Tu Oct 19  1911 Revolution/ Legacy of Sun Yat-sen?
   •  PRESENTATIONS of bibliographic exploration.
Th Oct 21  Warlordism and Regionalism
   DISCUSSION: “What is a warlord?”

Readings
*Mary C. Wright, China in Revolution: the First Phase, 1900-1913, Ch. 1 (Gasster), Ch. 11 (Schiffrin), and Ch. 12 (Young).

Bibliographic Exercise on Sun Yat-sen:
Using Tripod and McCabe, find a book about Sun Yat-sen, or by him, examine it, and write one paragraph describing its scope, content, and approach. Try to do all of this in one hour, two at most. Be prepared to talk about your book in class. Turn in your written paragraph.


**Week 8**

**Tu Oct 26** May Fourth and the New Culture Movement  
DISCUSSION: Lu Xun’s “Ah Q” and other stories

**Th Oct 28** Shanghai: Western Imperialism/Chinese Modernity (urban emphasis)

Readings  
Fairbank and Goldman, Chap. 13  


Lu Hsun (Xun), Stories: Preface to Call to Arms, “A Madman’s Diary,” “K’ung I-chi,” “Medicine,” “My Old Home,” “Ah Q,” and “New Year’s Sacrifice.”  
*Sources*, pp. 351-369 (Chen Duxiu, Hu Shi, Gu Jiegang)

**Week 9**

**Tu Nov 2** Origins of Chinese Communism: Marx and China  

**Th Nov 4** Nanking Decade and the Guomindang (Kuomintang)

• **SECOND PAPER (book report) due today**

VIDEO: “China, A Revolution Revisited”

Readings  
Fairbank and Goldman, Chap. 14  
*Sources*, pp. 396-405 (Liu Shipei, Li Dazhao)  

**Week 10**

**Tu Nov 9** The Long March from Shanghai to Yenan, and Mao’s leadership  

**Th Nov 11** Social Change and Revolution (rural emphasis)

Readings  
Fairbank and Goldman, Chaps. 15-16.  
*Sources*, pp. 406-432 (Mao Zedong, Liu Shaoqi)  
Edgar Snow, *Red Star over China*, Parts 4, 5, & 8 (Genesis, Long March, Red Army)  
*Elizabeth J. Perry, Rebels and Revolutionaries in North China, 1845-1945*, pp. 208-262.

Week 11

Tu Nov 16   The founding of the People’s Republic of China
Th Nov 18   The Great Leap Forward
DISCUSSION of *Chen Village*.

VIDEO: “The Mao Years”

Readings
- Fairbank and Goldman, Chaps. 18-19.
- *Sources*, pp. 432-453, 459-63, 469-79 (Mao, Peng Dehuai, Wu Han, Red Guards)
- Chan, *Chen Village*, Chaps. 1-3
- Prepare Cultural Revolution Readings for next week.

Week 12

Tu Nov 23  Cultural Revolution
DISCUSSION of Cultural Revolution Readings
Th. Nov 25  THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Readings
- Fairbank and Goldman, Chap. 20
- *Chen Village*, Ch. 4-9
- *New Perspectives on the Cultural Revolution*, ed. by W. Joseph et al., Chaps. 2 (Walder) and 4 (White).
- *Enemies of the People*, by Anne Thurston, Chaps. 4-5. (For this reading, you may substitute another reading on or by Cultural Revolution survivors. Some possibilities are Gao Yuan’s *Born Red*, Nien Cheng’s *Life and Death in Shanghai*, Yu Luojin’s *A Winter’s Tale*, Anchee Min’s *Red Azalea*, Ma Bo’s *Blood Red Sunset*.)

Week 13

Tu Nov 30  Post-Mao reforms in the countryside
DISCUSSION of *Chen Village* and “Small Happiness”
Th Dec 2   Post-Mao reforms in the cities

VIDEO: “Small Happiness”

Readings
- Fairbank and Goldman, Chap. 21 and Epilogue.
- *Sources*, pp. 488-90 (Communique of 11th Party Congress), 507-09 (Deng Xiaoping)
- *Chen Village*, Ch. 10-12
Week 14

Tu Dec 7 Tiananmen and Beyond
DISCUSSION: Tiananmen as Event, Experience, and Myth

VIDEO: “The Gate of Heavenly Peace”

Readings
Sources, pp. 497-500 (Wei Jingsheng), 512-517 (Fang Lizhi), 565-68 (Bo Yang), and 574-81 (Li Zehou)

• THIRD PAPER due Wednesday, Dec. 8 by 4 PM at my office.

FINAL EXAM PERIOD, Dec 10-18.