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 before spring vacation will cover the material in the first half, and will constitute about forty percent of the grade for the course. Another ten percent will rest on class participation. The research paper, approximately 25-30 pages, will be the basis for the other fifty percent of the grade. There will be no final examination.

There is a packet of xeroxed readings for the course that you can purchase from the History Department Office (Trotter 209). In addition, 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 is


Copies are available at the bookstore or on reserve.
Course Schedule and Assignments
Items marked * are in the Course Reader. All other readings, required and suggested are on reserve in McCabe Library.

Week I. January 19.

Introduction: Cities, modern Chinese history, Chinese cities, Beijing and Shanghai

READINGS

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED
Other essays or chapters in the two volumes above. Also Rowe's first volume Hankow: Commerce and Society in a Chinese City, 1796-1889. And the second cities volume, Mark Elvin and G. William Skinner, eds., The Chinese City Between Two Worlds (Stanford, 1974).

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 religion
City life and welfare
Beijing and Shanghai: Issues and Approaches

Week II. Jan. 26

Beijing: the Imperial City and “old Beijing”

READINGS
*Juliet Bredon, Peking: A Historical and Intimate Description of Its Chief Places of Interest 2nd ed. (1922), Chs. 2 and 4
*Susan Naquin, Peking: Temples and City Life, 1400-1900 (U of California, forthcoming," Epilogue “In Search of Old Peking”

RECOMMENDED
Evelyn S. Rawski, The Last Emperors: A Social History of Qing Imperial Institutions (U of California, 1998)
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
Foreign threat
"In search of old Peking"
Antiquities and culture
City life

Week III. Feb. 2

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), 9 (Internationalization of Shanghai), 12 (Dual City)
*Betty Peh-t’i Wei, Shanghai: Crucible of Modern China (1987), Ch. 5, pp. 64-82
*Han-chao Lu, Beyond the Neon Lights (1999), Introd. And Ch. 1, pp. 1-66.

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:
Week IV. Feb. 9

Commerce, Business, and Politics in Shanghai and Beijing

READINGS

Marie-Claire Bergère, "The Shanghai Bankers' Association", pp. 15-34, and
David Strand, Rickshaw Beijing, Ch. 1-6, pp. 1-141.

TOPICS

ALSO RECOMMENDED
Sherman Cochran, ed. Inventing Nanking Road, forthcoming.

Week V. Feb. 16

Labor and Social Protest in Shanghai and Beijing

READINGS

In Shanghai Sojourners:
Emily Honig, "Migrant Culture in Shanghai: In Search of a Subei Identity, pp. 239-265.
Elizabeth J. Perry, "Strikes Among Shanghai Silk Weavers, 1927-1937...", pp. 305-341
David Strand, Rickshaw Beijing, Chs. 7-12, pp. 142-293.

TOPICS

ALSO RECOMMENDED
Bryna Goodman, Native Place, City, and Nation (see Week III)
Gail Hershatter, The Workers of Tianjin, 1900-1949 (1986)
Hanchao Lu, Beyond the Neon Lights (see Week III)

Week VI. Feb. 23
The New Culture and Popular Entertainment.

READINGS
Wen-hsin Yeh, "Progressive Journalism", in Shanghzi Sojourners, pp. 186-238.
Leo Ou-fan Lee, Shanghai Modern, Chs. 1-4, 8-9.
Frederic Wakeman, Policing Shanghai, Ch. 7.

RECOMMENDED

Week VII. March 1
Criminal Politics, and Political Crime

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

RECOMMENDED
Wen-hsin Yeh, ed., Wartime Shanghai (Routledge, 1998).

MIDTERM EXAMINATION to be scheduled before spring vacation.

SPRING VACATION

Week VIII. March 15
Week IX. March 22

Tentative Topics and Bibliography

Weeks X-XI. March 29, April 6

Individual consultations

Weeks XII-XIV. April 12, 19, 26

Class Presentations

FINAL PAPERS due just before Exam Period begins.

Possible topics

Beijing as seen by 18th-20th-century Westerners
Beijing as tourist destination (guide books)
Invasion and occupation of Beijing: 1858, 1900
Peking Opera
City life: charities, residences, temples, folk customs, antique market, Manchus.
Peking under the Japanese
a Sino-Western institution in either city (e.g. Peking Union Medical College)
a strike or demonstration
a 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