

History 340

Modern China

Course Information

Fall 2019

Tuesday-Thursday, 10:30-11:45

UNIV 301

Course number: 14254

Instructor

Dr. Tillman

Preferred Pronouns: she/her

Office: University Hall 128

Phone: Phone Number

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Office Hours: Thursdays, 2-2:30 at LaVanza or by appointment

Course description

History 340 is a survey of modern China from the Qing dynasty to the present (1644-to the present, with greater weight given to the 20th century). Because China enjoys oldest continuous and ongoing civilization, Chinese philosophers have often stressed political continuity in the formation of a Chinese identity, but it was in moments of instability that China transformed to meet new challenges. During the height of the Qing, China was culturally and militarily dominant in East Asia, but, following the Opium Wars and the First Sino-Japanese War, had to adjust to new realities that gave naval powers an advantage over continental empires. Chinese had to confront new questions about how to modernize the army, the economy, and the polity—especially how to transition from an empire to a nation-state. This class helps students how to think historically about those questions.

Prerequisites (if needed)

None.

Course website

Blackboard Learn is our course management system. You can access the course website at

<http://mycourses.purdue.edu>. It is strongly suggested that you explore and become familiar not only with the site navigation, but with content and resources available for this course. For example, you will find in the left-hand course menu the items *Student Help* and *Student Success*. *Student Help* contains information about Blackboard Learn, including tutorials to help you learn about Blackboard Learn functionality, as well as a link to the Purdue Libraries. *Student Success* contains many resources offered through programs at Purdue to help you become successful in your courses, such as tutoring, downloadable resources and more.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course, you will be able to:

1. Identify major concepts and issues in Chinese history
2. Discern bias in primary sources, and to contextualize them
3. Outline the thesis and supporting evidence in scholarly monographs

Learning resources & texts

- Jonathan Spence, *Search for Modern China*. On course reserve. An audio version is available on Audible. Please check Blackboard for the Chinese version of this textbook.
- Jonathan Schlessinger, *A World Trimmed with Fur: Wild Things, Pristine Places, and the Natural Fringes of Qing Rule*. Stanford University Press, 2017. https://purdue-primo-prod.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/vjfldl/PURDUE_ALMA51786884220001081
- Daniel Asen, *Death in Beijing : Murder and Forensic Science in Republican China. Science in History* (Cambridge University Press). Cambridge University Press, 2016. https://purdue-primo-prod.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/vjfldl/PURDUE_ALMA51783267140001081
- Yang, Rae. *Spider Eaters: A Memoir*. 15th Anniversary ed. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2013. https://purdue-primo-prod.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/f/vjfldl/PURDUE_ALMA51692337250001081
- Additional materials on Blackboard.

How to succeed in this course

Provide information on how students can best succeed in your course. For instance, you might include suggestions about completing assignments or studying for exams. You can also include resource links here. For example:

If you want to be a successful student:

- Be self-motivated and self-disciplined.
- Be willing to “speak up” if problems arise.
- Be willing and able to commit to 4 to 15 hours per week per course.
- Be able to communicate through writing.
- Be able to meet the minimum requirements for the course.
- Accept critical thinking and decision making as part of the learning process.

In contrast, here are some common behaviors that lead to failing the course.

- Don't read until the night before the discussion.
- Wait until the last day complete assignments.
- Forget about deadlines.
- Ignore emails from the instructor and/or your peers regarding course activities.
- Don't get familiar with the grade book and syllabus.

Instructor's face-to-face office hours

Thursdays, 2-2:30 at LaVanza, and by appointment.

Instructor's online hours

I follow the university's guidelines, which are as follows:

I will be available via email and will respond as soon as I am available (generally within 24-48) hours. For the online discussions, I will check in at least 3 times per week. Keep in mind that it is not possible for me to respond to every single posting every week (nor is it pedagogically appropriate), but I will be sure to respond to a variety of postings and students each week and attempt to assure equality in terms of responses to students. Furthermore, there is a specific discussion forum that you can use to ensure that you have my attention – to ask questions or to call my attention to a particular discussion you are engaged in that you would like me to take a look at. If you feel you are being neglected in any way, please contact me. When emailing me, please place in the subject line the course number/section and the topic of the email (i.e. History 340 – Test/discussion 2 Question). This will help me tremendously in locating your emails quicker when I scan the hundreds of emails that seem to make it into my box each day.*

Assignments (Course requirements):

You will have a number of individual projects throughout the semester. Further details on these assignments will be posted on the course website.

Assignments	Due	Points
Participation, including iClicker quizzes	Ongoing	20
In-class essay 1 (<i>A world trimmed with fur</i>)	9/17	15
Midterm (due on Blackboard)	10/3	10
In-class essay 2 (<i>Death in Beijing</i>)	10/17	15
In-class essay 3 (<i>Spider Eaters</i>)	12/3	15
Final examination	TBA	25
Total		100

- Participation (20 points; ongoing): includes attendance, class participation, and iClicker quizzes.
- Midterm (10 points; due 10/3). A multiple-choice examination due on Blackboard. The midterm tests basic factual knowledge and may include information across
- In-class test/discussion 1 (15 points; due 9/17; TBA; 12/3). This “test” is meant to facilitate a discussion of each of the books that are being assigned this semester. At 3:00 PM the day before the test, students will submit two questions that they have regarding the reading. Students’ grades will be based on the following component parts: submission of two questions; three multiple-choice questions testing students’ understanding of important facts from the book (as a kind of check to see if students read the book); one short-answer question; and participation in discussion. The multiple choice and short-answer will constitute the first 30 minutes of class. Class discussion will be the remainder of class, and in the first two cases, the scholars who wrote those books will Skype in to be part of the discussion.
- Final examination (25 points, TBA). The final examination includes a (non-comprehensive) multiple-choice examination much like the midterm. In addition, there will be one (comprehensive) essay and short-answer questions, such as which text surprised you the most and why.

Policies

Incompletes

A grade of Incomplete (I) will be given only in unusual circumstances. To receive an “I” grade, a written request must be submitted prior to the final two weeks of class and approved by the instructor. Requests are accepted for consideration but in no way ensure that an incomplete grade will be granted. The request must describe the circumstances, along with a proposed timeline for completing the course work. You will be required to fill out and sign an “Incomplete Contract” form that will be turned in with the course grades. Any requests made after the course is completed will not be considered for an incomplete grade.

Academic Dishonesty

In imperial China, scholars were not allowed to bring extraneous paper to the testing yard. Students who bring writing or electronic devices of *any kind* to the test/discussion will receive a zero on that assignment. Students who talk to other students, about *anything*, during the test/discussion, will likewise receive a zero. If you finish early, turn your paper over and meditate.

Please see the University policy for academic dishonesty (below):

Purdue prohibits "dishonesty in connection with any University activity. Cheating, plagiarism, or knowingly furnishing false information to the University are examples of dishonesty." [Part 5, Section III-B-2-a, University Regulations] Furthermore, the University Senate has stipulated that "the commitment of acts of cheating, lying, and deceit in any of their diverse forms (such as the use of substitutes for taking examinations, the use of illegal cribs, plagiarism, and copying during examinations) is dishonest and must not be tolerated. Moreover, knowingly to aid and abet, directly or indirectly, other parties in committing dishonest acts is in itself dishonest." [University Senate Document 72-18, December 15, 1972]

Please review the following resource page on plagiarism:

http://www.education.purdue.edu/discovery/research_integrity.html.

You may also want to refer students to Purdue's student guide for academic integrity:

<https://www.purdue.edu/odos/academic-integrity>

The Purdue Honor Pledge:

"As a boilermaker pursuing academic excellence, I pledge to be honest and true in all that I do. Accountable together - we are Purdue"

Copyright materials

Students are expected, within the context of the Regulations Governing Student Conduct and other applicable University policies, to act responsibly and ethically by applying the appropriate exception under the Copyright Act to the use of copyrighted works in their activities and studies. The University does not assume legal responsibility for violations of copyright law by students who are not employees of the University.

A Copyrightable Work created by any person subject to this policy primarily to express and preserve scholarship as evidence of academic advancement or academic accomplishment. Such works may include, but are not limited to, scholarly publications, journal articles, research bulletins, monographs, books, plays, poems, musical compositions and other works of artistic imagination, and works of students created in the course of their education, such as exams, projects, theses or dissertations, papers and articles.

Please refer students to the University Regulations on policies:

<http://www.purdue.edu/policies/academic-research-affairs/ia3.html>

Attendance

In order to build in a certain amount of leniency in the class, the instructor drops the lowest three iClicker quizzes without penalty or explanation. This effectively means that students may miss a week and a half of class. In the absence of a bereavement or a major medical emergency, each subsequent missed class will result in the loss of 5% of the student's *overall* grade.

Attending class is necessary for covering material and absorbing information required that will be tested. Students are responsible for completing the reading, including reading the powerpoint, to master the information covered. Doing so on one's own is much more difficult than coming to class.

Make sure that you mark on your calendar the days of the tests/discussion and be sure to attend on those dates. Please note that any make-up tests, which must be completed within one week of the original due date, will not include a discussion component and will therefore result in a reduction of 5% of the student's overall grade.

The following is the Purdue policy for attendance: Students are expected to be present for every meeting of the classes in which they are enrolled. Only the instructor can excuse a student from a course requirement or responsibility. When conflicts or absences can be anticipated, such as for many University sponsored activities and religious observations, the student should inform the instructor of the situation as far in advance as possible...For unanticipated or emergency absences when advance notification to an instructor is not possible, the student should contact the instructor as soon as possible by email, or by contacting the main office that offers the course. When the student is unable to make direct contact with the instructor and is unable to leave word with the instructor's department because of circumstances beyond the student's control, and in cases of bereavement, the student or the student's representative should contact the Office of the Dean of Students.

The link to the complete policy and implications can be found at:

http://www.purdue.edu/studentregulations/regulations_procedures/classes.html

Grief absence policy for students

Below is the University's Grief Absence Policy for Students:

Purdue University recognizes that a time of bereavement is very difficult for a student. The University therefore provides the following rights to students facing the loss of a family member through the Grief Absence Policy for Students (GAPS). GAPS Policy: Students will be excused for funeral leave and given the opportunity to earn equivalent credit and to demonstrate evidence of meeting the learning outcomes for missed assignments or assessments in the event of the death of a member of the student's family.

See the University's website for additional information:

http://www.purdue.edu/studentregulations/regulations_procedures/classes.html

Violent behavior policy

Below is Purdue's policy prohibiting violent behavior. You may want to include some info from Purdue's violent behavior policy:

Purdue University is committed to providing a safe and secure campus environment for members of the university community. Purdue strives to create an educational environment for students and a work environment for employees that promote educational and career goals. Violent Behavior impedes such goals. Therefore, Violent Behavior is prohibited in or on any University Facility or while participating in any university activity.

See the University's website for additional information:

<http://www.purdue.edu/policies/facilities-safety/iva3.html>

Emergency Statement

Address what the student should do in emergency situations. Define procedures for communicating with the students and submitting assignments. For example:

In the event of a major campus emergency, course requirements, deadlines and grading percentages are subject to changes that may be necessitated by a revised semester calendar or other circumstances beyond the instructor's control. Relevant changes to this course will be posted onto the course website or can be obtained by contacting the instructor via email or phone. You are expected to read your @purdue.edu email on a frequent basis.

Accessibility and Accommodations

Address Purdue policy and your personal policy for supporting students with disabilities. For example:

Purdue University strives to make learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, you are welcome to let me know so that we can discuss options. You are also encouraged to contact the Disability Resource Center at: drc@purdue.edu or by phone: 765-494-1247.

Diversity and Inclusion Statement

You may want to include your personal policy on nondiscrimination. Below is Purdue's policy statement for nondiscrimination.

Purdue University is committed to maintaining a community which recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters tolerance, sensitivity, understanding, and mutual respect among its members; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. In pursuit of its goal of academic excellence, the University seeks to develop and nurture diversity. The University believes that diversity among its many members strengthens the institution, stimulates creativity, promotes the exchange of ideas, and enriches campus life.

Purdue University views, evaluates, and treats all persons in any University related activity or circumstance in which they may be involved, solely as individuals on the basis of their own personal abilities, qualifications, and other relevant characteristics.

Purdue University prohibits discrimination against any member of the University community on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, genetic information, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, or status as a veteran. The University will conduct its programs, services and activities consistent with applicable federal, state and local laws, regulations and orders and in conformance with the procedures and limitations as set forth in Purdue's Equal Opportunity, Equal Access and Affirmative Action policy which provides specific contractual rights and remedies. Additionally, the University promotes the full realization of equal employment opportunity for women, minorities, persons with disabilities and veterans through its affirmative action program.

Any question of interpretation regarding this Nondiscrimination Policy Statement shall be referred to the Vice President for Ethics and Compliance for final determination.

You may want to refer students to Purdue's nondiscrimination statement:

http://www.purdue.edu/purdue/ea_eou_statement.html

Mental Health Statement

On the recommendation of the University Senate, CAPS and the Dean of Students, we ask you to share the following resources on your syllabus.

- **If you find yourself beginning to feel some stress, anxiety and/or feeling slightly overwhelmed, try WellTrack, <https://purdue.welltrack.com/>.** Sign in and find information and tools at your fingertips, available to you at any time.
- **If you need support and information about options and resources,** please see the Office of the Dean of Students, <http://www.purdue.edu/odos>, for drop-in hours (M-F, 8 am- 5 pm).

- **If you're struggling and need mental health services:** Purdue University is committed to advancing the mental health and well-being of its students. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, depressed, and/or in need of mental health support, services are available. For help, such individuals should contact Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at (765)494-6995 and <http://www.purdue.edu/caps/> during and after hours, on weekends and holidays, or by going to the CAPS office of the second floor of the Purdue University Student Health Center (PUSH) during business hours.

Course Schedule

Date	Topic & Readings	Assignments
Week 1 Tuesday, August 20	Introduction to the course; ground rules for discussion History and Geography	
Thursday, August 22	Confucianism, Feudalism, and Meritocracy	
Week 2 Tuesday, August 27	Rise of the Qing: How did the Qing conquer China? * Note: Tuesday, August 27 is the last day to register without a late fee	Spence, Chapter 6
Thursday, August 29	Qing: How were the Qing different from the Ming? *Note: Monday, September 2 is the last day to cancel a course without it appearing on one's record	Begin reading <i>A World Trimmed with Fur</i>
Week 3 Tuesday, September 3	Tribute and Trade in the Qing dynasty: What was the economic system of the Qing, and how did the Opium Wars disrupt that system?	Spence, Chapter 7
Thursday, September 5	The Taiping Rebellion and Restoration: Did the Tongzhi Restoration save the dynasty, or destroy Chinese civilization?	Spence, Chapters 8-9
Week 4 Tuesday, September 10	The First Sino-Japanese War and the Boxer Uprising:	Spence, Chapter 10
Thursday, September 12	The Fall of the Qing * Note: Monday, September 16 is the last day to withdraw from a course without a signature	Spence, ch. 11
Week 5 Tuesday, September 17	Test and discussion * Professor Schlessinger will join us at 11:00 for a discussion	Finish reading <i>A World Trimmed with Fur</i>
Thursday, September 19	The Birth of the Republic and Yuan Shikai	Spence, ch. 13 Begin reading <i>Death in Beijing</i>
Week 6 Tuesday, September 24	The Warlord Period	
Thursday, September 26	New Movements	Spence ch. 14

	* Note: Monday, September 30 is the last day for a grade correction (for a previous semester)	
Week 7 Tuesday, October 1	No class meeting.	Watch: The Blue Kite (available on Kanopy)
Thursday, October 3	No class meeting. Midterm due on Blackboard, due at 5:00 PM .	
Week 8 Tuesday, October 8 *Yom Kippur	October Break: class does not meet	
Thursday, October 10	The Return of the Nationalists	Spence, ch. 15
Week 10 Tuesday, October 15	The Survival of Communists: The Long March	Spence, Ch. 15 ("Drift")
Thursday, October 17	Test and Discussion Discussion of <i>Death in Beijing</i> * Professor Assen will join us at 11:00 for a discussion	Finish reading <i>Death in Beijing</i>
Week 11 Tuesday, October 22	Class does not meet regularly; attend the Purdue-East Asia Conference instead OR watch Professor Hsiung's keynote address online (more information to follow) * Note: Tuesday, October 22 is the last day to add or modify a course with instructor, advisor, and departmental head signatures; last day to withdraw from a course with a W or WF grade	
Thursday, October 24	World War II	Spence, Ch. 17 ("World War II")
Week 12 Tuesday, October 29	War and Post-war	Spence, Ch. 18
Thursday, October 31 *Halloween	The Establishment of the PRC and 1950s reforms	Spence, Ch. 19 (Birth) Begin reading <i>Spider Eaters</i>
Week 13 Tuesday, November 5	PRC Movements : Hundred Flowers and Anti-Rightist Campaigns	Spence, Ch. 20
Thursday, November 7	The Great Leap Forward	Spence, Ch. 21
Week 14 Tuesday, November 12	The Atomic Age	

Thursday, November 15	Détente	Spence Ch. 22
Week 15 Tuesday, November 19	Reforms of the 1970s	Spence, Ch. 23
Thursday, November 21	Reforms of the 1980s	Spence, Ch. 24
Week 16 Tuesday, November 26	Class attendance optional: Watch "Morning Sun"	View Carma Hinton's "Morning Sun" (available via the library on Kanopy)
Thursday, November 26 * Thanksgiving	Thanksgiving: No class meeting.	
Week 17 Tuesday, December 3	Test and discussion of <i>Spider Eaters</i>	Finish reading <i>Spider Eaters</i>
Thursday, December 5	Chinese history in perspective	
December 9-14	Final exams ; final exam schedule will be announced mid-semester as per Purdue policy	
Tuesday, December 17	Final grades due at 5 PM; grades will be posted after that time	
Winter Break		

** Schedule and assignments subject to change. Any changes will be posted in Blackboard.*

Please check email/Blackboard for notifications about greater details regarding weekly updates, esp. regarding very short primary-source readings.

Course Evaluation

During the last two weeks of the course, you will be provided with an opportunity to evaluate this course and your instructor. Purdue now uses an online course evaluation system. You will receive an official email from evaluation administrators with a link to the online evaluation site. You will have up to two weeks to complete this evaluation. Your participation is an integral part of this course, and your feedback is vital to improving education at Purdue University. I strongly urge you to participate in the evaluation system.

Disclaimer

This syllabus is subject to change. Sometimes the pace of the class has to be recalibrated on the basis of what students are able to accomplish. Please check Blackboard for further updates about what will be doing from week to week.

If you have finished reading the syllabus, please send the instructor an image of a dragon.