China and Modern World (43.204)

This course takes China's search for modernity as its field of historical study. Concentrating on major events since the 1840s, the course explores the internal and external forces that have shaped and are still shaping China.

Required readings
The following books are available in the University Bookstore:

- Pei-kai Cheng and Michael Lestz, The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection, third edition
- Ezra Vogel, Deng Xiaoping and the Transformation of China
- Jeffrey Wasserstrom, China in the 21st Century: What Everyone Needs to Know

Course Requirements
Students are expected to keep up with the assigned readings. Class attendance is required and recorded. Class participation is encouraged. Students are required to write two 3-page papers and to take midterm and final exams. Both exams contain essay questions. There are random quizzes throughout the semester to help students keep up with the course. Random quiz questions can come from readings or from materials already covered in class. There are no makeup exams or quizzes, except for cases with documented emergency reasons. The papers are due on the days indicated in the syllabus and a late paper will suffer a reduction of 10 points each day, both weekday and weekends.

Grades
A total of 380 points are assigned as follows:

- 100--midterm exam
- 100--final exam
- 120--two papers (60 points for each paper).
- 30—random quizzes
- 30—attendance

This class does not offer extra credit.
Week 1 (Jan. 20 and 22)

Introduction: The Course and Confucianism.
Readings: Wasserstrom, chapter 1: Schools of Thought

Week 2 (Jan. 27 and 29)
Confrontation with the West—The Opium Wars.
Readings: Cheng and Lestz, 6.2 and 6.3, 6.4 and 6.5, 7.1 through 7.5; and Wasserstrom, pp. 23-31.

Week 3 (Feb. 3 and 5)
China faces external and internal problems: Unequal treaties and Taiping Rebellion.
Readings: Cheng and Lestz, 8.4 and 8.5, 8.6 and 8.7; and Wasserstrom, pp. 31-34.

Week 4 (Feb. 10 and 12)
Readings: Cheng and Lestz, 9.3 and 9.4, 10.2, 10.5 and 10.6; Wasserstrom, pp. 34-37.
First 3-page paper is due on Thursday. Topic: Use three historical events to explain the nature of the conflict between China and the West (which includes the westernized Japan) between 1840 and 1900.

Week 5 (Feb. 19)
This class does not meet on Tuesday because it is Monday schedule.
The 1911 Revolution.
Readings: Cheng and Lestz, 10.1, 11.1 through 11.6; Wasserstrom, pp. 37-42.

Week 6 (Feb. 24 and 26)
The Nationalists and the Communists.

Week 7 (March 3 and 5)
WWII.
Readings: Cheng and Lestz, 15.3 through 15.5, 16.1 through 16.8, 17.1 through 17.5; Wasserstrom, p. 52; Vogel, pp. 31-33.

Week 8 (March 10 and 12)
The Civil War.
Readings: Cheng and Lestz, 18.1 through 18.6; Wasserstrom, pp. 52-54; Vogel, pp. 33-36.
Midterm exam is on Thursday.

Spring Break
Week 9 (March 24 and 26)
Establishing and defending the People’s Republic.

Week 10 (March 31 and April 2)
The Great Leap Forward and the Cultural Revolution.

Week 11 (April 7 and 9)
Relations with the United States and Soviet Union.
Documentary movie: Nixon’s China Game.

Week 12 (April 14 and 16)
Post-Mao economic reforms and Deng Xiaoping.
Readings: Vogel, 217-591.

Week 13 (April 21 and 23)
Globalization and consequential challenges.
Readings: Vogel, 595-714.
Second 3-page paper is due on Tuesday, April 23. Topic: Use three concrete examples to illustrate why Deng Xiaoping is regarded as the “chief architect” of China’s post-Mao economic reforms.

Week 14 (April 28 and 30)
China today.
Readings: Finish reading Wasserstrom’s book and discuss any questions students raise.