Class Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 11:35-12:50

Course Description: The city of Shanghai occupies a unique place in imagining China, for foreigners and Chinese alike. In the nineteenth century it was transformed from a fishing village to an international “treaty port,” growing rapidly in population and becoming China’s gateway to the West. In the twentieth century Shanghai was a site of innovation, from politics and capitalism to media and fashion. Vilified in the early Mao years for its past, it has since emerged again as a symbol of China’s modernization. This freshman seminar introduces students to the city and its past, asking how Shanghai has been seen and what its experience reveals about modern China.

Course Structure: This is a freshman seminar with the following goals: using Shanghai as our topic and case study, the discussions will model how to approach scholarly readings (and particularly historical scholarship), and four short writing assignments will provide opportunities to practice researching, writing historical narrative, and crafting an argument.

Course Readings: The books for this course are available at the university bookstore and on reserve at the university library. The main course readings will be bound in a Coursepak available at TYCO. Readings include:

- Qiu Xiaolong. *Years of Red Dust: Stories of Shanghai*. St. Martin’s Press, 2010. ($7.38 on Amazon, new/used from $3.55)
- Coursepak at TYCO (unbound: $68.00, 3-hole punched: $71.25, bound: $74.50)

Course Requirements and Grading:

“Six Quotes” Diary 10%
Discussion participation 30%
Writing Assignments 40%

- “Six Quotes” Diary: For each class session students will write down six quotations from the readings (i.e., twelve quotes per week). These quotes might include the author’s argument, a description you found striking, a direct quote from an historical actor, or anything else you find worth highlighting. It is not necessary to annotate them or write anything further, but you should bring your six quotes in paper copy to each class session (printed out or written in a notebook). Be prepared to submit a complete paper copy of your “Six Quotes” Diary at the end of the semester,
including a **one-page cover letter** explaining how you chose your quotes, and how your selections changed over time.

- **Discussion Participation**: will be assessed on the basis of regular attendance and engagement with class discussion. Students must have the texts and/or notes in class in **hard copy**; laptops are discouraged (see the instructor if you need accommodation). The four lowest participation grades, which may include excused or unexcused absences, may be dropped. If illness or family emergency results in missing more than four class meetings, it is the student’s responsibility to notify the instructor; we will work together to create an alternative.

- **Writing Assignments**: Throughout the semester you will complete four short writing assignments of three pages each. These may be on a source that the whole class will work with (i.e., excerpts from memoirs or a book of short stories) or on a source that you will choose from or locate yourself (i.e., video testimonies or travel guides and travel writings). For all writing assignments, please refer to the Yale College Writing Center for proper citations ([http://writing.yalecollege.yale.edu/advice-students/using-sources/understanding-and-avoiding-plagiarism](http://writing.yalecollege.yale.edu/advice-students/using-sources/understanding-and-avoiding-plagiarism)). In accordance with undergraduate regulations, plagiarized papers will be referred to the Yale College Executive Committee.

**Week 1: Introduction: Wednesday, August 30**

**Please note that Monday classes meet on Friday, September 1 INSTEAD of Monday, September 4 (Labor Day)**

**Week 2: Treaty Port Shanghai: Friday, September 1 and Wednesday, September 6**

- **Part A: The Question of Modernity and Why Shanghai?**
  - Bergère, *Shanghai*, pp. 1-10
  - Lee, Leo Ou-fan, “Remapping Shanghai,” in *Shanghai Modern*, pp. 3-42. Coursepak.

- **Part B: The Foreign Presence (I)**
  - Bergère, pp. 11-49

- **Questions: What is modernity? Is it necessarily Western? What is the myth of “Dogs and Chinese Not Admitted,” and why has it been so powerful? Are the monuments of imperial powers a legitimate part of Shanghai history?**

[Instructions for Writing Assignments Distributed]

**Week 3: Shanghailanders and Shanghairen: Monday, September 11 and Wednesday, September 13**
Part A: The Foreign Presence (II)
  o Documents from the Yale Divinity School Library.

Part B: New Media and the Shanghairen

Questions: How did the students of the Shanghai American School view Shanghai and China? (How would you use these accounts as an historical source?) Who can be called “people of Shanghai?” What made portrait photography so popular in Shanghai?

Due on the following Monday: Writing Assignment #1, The Memoir (Documents from Yale Divinity School Library)

Week 4: On Nanjing Road: Monday, September 18 and Wednesday, September 20

Part A: The Rise of Commercial Institutions
  o Bergère, Shanghai, pp. 50-83, 147-177

Part B: Advertisements

Questions: What else is being “sold” along with products? What is the relationship between a person’s identity and their possessions, if any? How is leisure also a form of consumption? How would you use the materials by the U.S. Trade Commissioner to write about advertising in China?

Week 5: Shanghai on Strike: Monday, September 25 and Wednesday, September 27

Part A: Labor and Migration

Part B: Politics
  o Bergère, Shanghai, pp. 177-212
• Questions: In what ways were Subei people an “ethnicity” in Republican-era Shanghai? How was labor also tied to native-place? What is the significance of political consciousness among workers at this point in Chinese history?

Week 6: The Neon Lights and Beyond: Monday, October 2 and Wednesday, October 4
• Part A: Shanghai Jazz, Shanghai Cinema

• Part B: Beyond the Neon Lights

• Questions: How are women portrayed in The New Woman, and why was it an “incident”? How was Shanghai experienced by the “petty urbanites”? In what ways were their lives transformed or not?

Week 7: The Lonely Island: Monday, October 9 and Wednesday, October 11
• Part A: Shanghai in Wartime
  o Bergère, Shanghai, pp. 287-322

• Part B: Class Visit with Stephen Naron, Fortunoff Video Archive

• Questions: What does Henriot mean by “total war”? What were the conditions of life and various survival strategies during the war?

• Due on the following Monday: Writing Assignment #2, The Testimony (Videos from the Fortunoff Video Archive)

Week 8: Red Star Over Shanghai: Monday, October 16
• Part A: Takeover
  o Bergère, Shanghai, pp. 367-406
“Shanghai, Poster City.” https://chineseposters.net/themes/shanghai.php

Questions: What problems were faced by the new ruling power after 1949? What vision of the future was projected by propaganda posters of Shanghai?

Week 9: Shanghai in the Mao Era: Monday, October 23 and Wednesday, October 25
Part A: Painting the Town Red

Part B: The Shanghai Museum

Questions: Why did Shanghai occupy such a negative place in Chinese understanding, despite its role in new China’s economy? What do worker strikes reveal about inequalities in the Mao period? Did the Cultural Revolution create a new culture out of the old?

Week 10: Shanghai in Literature: Monday, October 30 and Wednesday, November 1
Part B: Qiu Xiaolong, Years of Red Dust: Stories of Shanghai, pp. 75-227.
Questions: How does the neighborhood blackboard function in these stories? Which story or stories reveals the greatest disjunct between official pronouncement and everyday life?
Due on the following Monday: Writing Assignment #3, Literature

Week 11: Shanghai in the Reform Era: Monday, November 6 and Wednesday, November 8
Part A: Urban Transformations
Bergère, Shanghai, pp. 407-432

Part B: Shanghai as a City of Migrants
“Peasants in the Cities,” in Ebrey, Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook, Ch. 98. Coursepak.
• Questions: What was the consumer revolution, and in what ways is it similar/different from the transformation of Nanjing Road or the lives of the petty urbanites in the Republican period? How are migrant workers seen and treated in China today, and how is this like/unlike the experience of Emily Honig’s migrants and workers?

Week 12: Memory and Landscape: Monday, November 13 and Wednesday, November 15
• Part A: Memory and Nostalgia
• Part B: The Nail House in Shanghai
• Questions: What is nostalgia, and what is it for? In what ways have Shanghai people—from intellectuals and residents—tried to preserve their culture and memory?
• Due on the following Monday: Writing Assignment #4, Travel Guides and Travel Writing

Week 13: Shanghai in Memoir: Monday, November 27 and Wednesday, November 29
• Part A: Jie Li, Shanghai Homes, Part 1 and Part 2
• Part B: Jie Li, Shanghai Homes, Part 3 and Part 4
• Questions: What is the role of material remains of the past in Jie Li’s memoir? Recalling Week 12, what happens to memory when the material is lost?

Week 13: Shanghai Model?: Monday, December 4 and Wednesday, December 6
• Part A: Shanghai Today
• Part B: Shanghai Food
• Questions: What image of Shanghai was presented during the Expo in 2010? How does this contrast with Yasheng Huang’s critique of the Shanghai Model? What role does food play in Shanghai identity?
Friday, December 8: “Six Quotes” Diary with Cover Letter due by 5:00 p.m. in instructor’s mailbox in the Council for East Asian Studies, Luce Hall Room 320