

Yale University
HIST 032/EAST 032: Shanghai
Fall 2017
Denise Y. Ho

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:

- Bergère, Marie-Claire. *Shanghai: China’s Gateway to Modernity*. Stanford University Press, 2009. (\$21.59 on Amazon, new/used from \$17.55)
- Li, Jie. *Shanghai Homes: Palimpsests of Private Life*. Columbia University Press, 2014. (\$26.99 on Amazon, new/used from \$19.12)
- 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>). 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.
 - Meng Yue, "The Border of Histories," in *Shanghai at the Edges of Empires*, pp. vii-xxx. Coursepak.
- Part B: The Foreign Presence (I)
 - Bergère, pp. 11-49
 - Bickers and Wasserstrom, "Shanghai's 'Dogs and Chinese Not Admitted' Sign: Legend, History, and Contemporary Symbol." *The China Quarterly* (1995), pp. 444-466. Coursepak.
 - Bickers, Robert. "Moving Stories: Memorialisation and its Legacies in Treaty Port China." *The Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History* (2014), pp. 826-856. Coursepak.
- 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)
 - Documents from the Yale Divinity School Library.
- Part B: New Media and the Shanghairen
 - Yang, Chia-Ling. “The Crisis of the Real: Portraiture and Photography in Late Nineteenth-Century Shanghai,” in *Looking Modern: East Asian Visual Culture from Treaty Ports to World War II*, pp. 20-37. Coursepak
 - Mittler, Barbara, “Image and Voice of the Shanghairen,” in *A Newspaper for China?* Pp. 312-360. Coursepak.
- 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
 - Bergère, *Shanghai*, pp. 50-83, 147-177
 - Chan, Wellington K.K., “Selling Goods and Promoting a New Commercial Culture: the Four Premier Department Stores on Nanjing Road, 1917-1937,” in *Inventing Nanjing Road*, pp. 19-36. Coursepak.
 - Lee, Leo Ou-Fan., “The Urban Milieu of Shanghai Cinema, 1930-40: Some Explorations of Film Audience, Film Culture, and Narrative Conventions.” In *Cinema and Urban Culture in Shanghai, 1922-43*, pp. 74-94. Coursepak.
- Part B: Advertisements
 - Cochran, Sherman, “Marketing medicine and advertising dreams in China, 1900-1950,” in *Becoming Chinese*, pp. 62-97. Coursepak.
 - Laing, Ellen Johnston, “Newspaper Advertisements, Advertisement Calendar Posters, and Chinese Paintings,” in *Selling Happiness*, pp. 139-170. Coursepak.
 - Sanger, J.W., *Advertising Methods in Japan, China, and the Philippines*. United States Department of Commerce, 1921.
- 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
 - Honig, Emily. “The Politics of Prejudice: Subei People in Republican-Era Shanghai,” *Modern China*, pp. 243-274.
 - Honig, Emily. “The Contract Labor System and Women Workers: Pre-Liberation Cotton Mills of Shanghai,” *Modern China*, pp. 421-454.
- Part B: Politics
 - Bergère, *Shanghai*, pp. 177-212
 - Perry, Elizabeth J. “Textiles,” in *Shanghai on Strike*, pp. 167-215. Coursepak.

- 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
 - Farrar, James and Andrew David Field, “The Golden Age of the Jazz Caberet,” in *Shanghai Nightscapes*, pp. 16-38. Coursepak.
 - Harris, Kristine. “*The New Woman* Incident: Cinema, Scandal, and Spectacle in 1935 Shanghai,” in *Transnational Chinese Cinemas*, pp. 277-302. Coursepak.
 - Watch *The New Woman*:
<http://www.virtualshanghai.net/Films/Collection?ID=211>
 Translation: <http://u.osu.edu/mclc/online-series/new-woman/>
- Part B: Beyond the Neon Lights
 - Yeh, Wen-hsin, “Corporate Space, Communal Time: Everyday Life in Shanghai’s Bank of China,” *American Historical Review* 100:1 (February 1995), pp. 97-122. Coursepak.
 - Lu, Hanchao, “Away from Nanking Road: Small Stores and Neighborhood Life in Modern Shanghai,” *Journal of Asian Studies* 54:1 (Feb. 1995), 93-123. Coursepak.
- 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
 - Bergère, *Shanghai*, pp. 287-322
 - Henriot, Christian, “Beyond Glory: Civilians, Combatants, and Society During the Battle of Shanghai,” *War & Society*, 31, 2, pp. 106-135. Coursepak.
 - Ristaino, Marcia Reynders, “Nazi Victims Find Refuge,” in *Port of Last Resort*, pp. 98-123. Coursepak.
- Part B: Class Visit with Stephen Naron, Fortunoff Video Archive
 - Eber, Irene, “Strangers in Shanghai,” in *Wartime Shanghai and the Jewish Refugees from Central Europe*, pp. 117-155. Coursepak.
- 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
 - Bergère, *Shanghai*, pp. 367-406

- Wakeman, Frederic, "Cleanup: The New Order in Shanghai," in *Dilemmas of Victory*, pp. 21-58. Coursepak.
- "Shanghai, Poster City." <https://chinese posters.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
 - Braester, Yomi, "A Big Dying Vat': The Vilifying of Shanghai during the Good Eighth Company Campaign," *Modern China* Vol. 31, No. 4 (Fall 2005), pp. 411-447). Coursepak.
 - Gerth, Karl, "Wu Yunchu and the Fate of the Bourgeoisie and Bourgeois Lifestyles Under Communist," in *The Capitalist Dilemma in China's Communist Revolution*, pp. 175-201. Coursepak.
- Part B: The Shanghai Museum
 - Ho, Denise Y., "Revolutionizing Antiquity: The Shanghai Cultural Bureaucracy in the Cultural Revolution, 1966-1968," *The China Quarterly*, no. 207 (September 2011), pp. 687-705. Coursepak.
- 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 A: Qiu Xiaolong, *Years of Red Dust: Stories of Shanghai*, pp. 1-74.
- 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
 - Wortzel, Heidi Vernon. "Equity and Efficiency in the Distribution of Non-Food Consumer Goods in China: Shanghai as an Example," *Asian Survey*, pp. 845-857. Coursepak.
 - Davis, Deborah S. and Julia S. Sensenbrenner, "Commercializing Childhood: Parental Purchases for Shanghai's Only Child," in *The Consumer Revolution in Urban China*, pp. 54-79. Coursepak.
- Part B: Shanghai as a City of Migrants
 - "Peasants in the Cities," in Ebrey, *Chinese Civilization: A Sourcebook*, Ch. 98. Coursepak.
 - Ling, Minhua, "Bad students go to vocational schools!?: Vocational Education for Migrant Youth in Urban China," *The China Journal* 73: 108-131. 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
 - Liang, Samuel, "Amnesiac Monument Nostalgic Fashion: Shanghai's New Heaven-and-Earth," *Wasafiri* (September 2008), pp. 47-55. Coursepak.
 - Perry, Elizabeth J. "Shanghai's Politicized Skyline," in *Shanghai Architecture and Urbanism for Modern China*, pp. 104-109. Coursepak.
 - Xu Jilin, "Shanghai Culture Lost," translated by Geremie R. Barmé, *China Heritage Quarterly*. Coursepak.
- Part B: The Nail House in Shanghai
 - Shao, Qin, "Waving the Red Flag: Cultural Memory and Grass-roots Protest in Housing Disputes in China," *Modern Chinese Literature and Culture*, Vol. 22, No. 1, 2010 (Spring), pp. 197-232. Coursepak.
- 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
 - Fernsebner, Susan R. "Contextualizing the Visual and Virtual Realities of Expo 2010," in *Visualizing Modern China*, pp. 279-293. Coursepak.
 - Huang, Yasheng, "What is Wrong with Shanghai?" in *Capitalism with Chinese Characteristics*, pp. 175-232. Coursepak.
- Part B: Shanghai Food
 - Dunlop, Fuchsia, "Introduction," In *Land of Fish and Rice: Recipes from the Culinary Heart of China*, pp. 9-33. Coursepak.
 - Swislocki, Mark, "Serve the People: Socialist Transformations of Shanghai Food Culture," In *Culinary Nostalgia: Regional Food Culture and the Urban Experience in Shanghai*, pp. 176-218. Coursepak.
- 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