Class Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 11:35-12:50. Please note that Monday classes will meet Friday, January 19 for that week only.

Course Description: How do we understand the recent Chinese past, and how do we frame contemporary events in China in historical context? At the end of the Mao years (1949-1976), China’s revolutionary experiment gave way to the reforms of a market economy, and observers of China predicted that political transformation would follow. Yet more recently, social scientists have suggested that the key to the Communist Party’s resilience lies in its “adaptive governance,” that Mao-era politics and policy continue to inform governance today. This introductory course investigates the history of the People’s Republic from “Mao to Now,” asking questions about how the Party-State is organized, how state and society interact, what are the causes and consequences of economic disparities, and how various groups—from intellectuals to religious believers—have shaped the meaning of contemporary Chinese society.

Course Structure: This is a lecture course with discussion section. Students are expected to prepare the readings in advance of each class meeting. Lectures will provide context and frameworks for each topic, and students should pay particular attention to “keywords” and the questions posed by each theme. The midterm will be based on short answers, and the cumulative final will include short answers and essays. Instructions for one primary source paper and one independent paper (op-ed, policy memo, research) will be distributed in class.

Course Readings: The books for this course are available at the university bookstore and on reserve at the university library. Articles and excerpts will available in a coursepak from TYCO. Required books include:


Course Requirements and Grading:

Attendance and participation 10%
Midterm 10%
Primary Source Paper 20%
Independent Paper 20%
Final Exam

40%

- **Attendance and 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**. The two lowest participation grades, which may include excused or unexcused absences, may be dropped. If illness or family emergency results in missing more than two sections, it is the student’s responsibility to meet with the instructor in office hours to create an alternate arrangement.

- **Midterm and Final:** will be short answer and short answer plus essays. The final is cumulative. Students should pay particular attention to keywords, primary sources, and continuity and change from “Mao to Now.”

- **Primary Source Paper (5 pp):** For this assignment, students will be provided a choice of packets of primary sources (or they may assemble their own packet). Using the sources in the packet, students will write a five page essay on one topic. No outside research is required.

- **Independent Paper (5 pp):** For this assignment, students will choose their own topic/question, and write a five page essay on how this topic has changed over time. The paper can take one of the following forms: a long op-ed piece, a policy memo, or a traditional research paper. For this paper, students are expected to locate and use at least one outside primary source and two outside secondary sources, on their own and in consultation with the teaching assistant.

- For BOTH short papers, students should refer to the Yale College Writing Center website for proper citation of sources: (http://writing.yalecollege.yale.edu/advice-students/using-sources/understanding-and-avoiding-plagiarism).

- **Extensions and Make-Ups:** Paper extensions and make-up exams will be granted only with an accompanying dean’s excuse. Late papers without a dean’s excuse will be marked down one step per day (i.e., A→A-), counting weekend days and with the day ending at 12:00 midnight. Students requesting an alternate exam (either midterm or final) for a legitimate and documented reason not covered by a dean’s excuse (i.e. job interview or graduate school visit) must contact the teaching assistant and instructor in advance for approval.

**Week 1: Introduction**

- **Introduction to the Course: Issues and Themes** (Wednesday, January 17)

- **The People’s Republic of China: “Crash Course”** (Friday, January 19)
  - **Primary Source:** Mao Zedong, “On New Democracy” (1940)
  - **Primary Source:** Mao Zedong, “On the People’s Democratic Dictatorship” (1949)

**Week 2: Introduction II**

- **The People’s Republic of China: “Crash Course”** (Monday, January 22)
  - **Primary Source:** CCP Central Committee, “Decision Concerning the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution,” 1966
Week 3: State I: State, Party, and Problems of Governance

- **Primary Source:** Mao Zedong, “Quotations from Chairman Mao Zedong” 1968 edition
- **Primary Source:** CCP Central Committee, Excerpt from “Resolution on Certain Questions in the History of Our Party Since the Founding of the People’s Republic of China,” 1981

The People’s Republic of China: “Crash Course” (Wednesday, January 24)

- **Primary Source:** Deng Xiaoping, “On Science and Modernization,” 1978
- **Primary Source:** Deng Xiaoping, “Build Socialism with Chinese Characteristics,” 1984
- **Optional Primary Source:** Xi Jinping, “Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era,” 2017 (Review the beginning)
  - [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/19thcpcnationalcongress/2017-11/04/content_34115212.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/china/19thcpcnationalcongress/2017-11/04/content_34115212.htm)

Sections begin this week!

- **Primary Source:** Chen Yun, “How to Be a Communist Party Member,” 1939
- **Primary Source:** Liu Shaoqi, “Training of the Communist Party Member” 1939 (Section 1 only)
- **Primary Source:** Mao Zedong, “On the Correct Handling of Contradictions among the People,” 1957
- **Primary Source:** Peng Dehuai, “Letter of Opinion to Mao Zedong on the Great Leap Forward,” 1959

- **Now** (Wednesday, January 31)

- Questions: What is the structure of Chinese rule, and in particular, the balance between the Party and the State? How would you characterize the types of reform described by Fewsmith and Walder?
- From *Chen Village*. Read pp. 1-73.

Week 4: State II: Organizing China: City and Countryside

- **Mao** (Monday, February 5)

- Now (Wednesday, February 7)

- Questions: How is the rural and urban divide “visible”? How does urbanization function as a strategy of governance and control?

- From *Chen Village*: Read pp. 74-140.

[Primary Source Paper Packets Distributed/Review on Source Citation]

**Week 5: State III: “Bottom Up”: From Political Campaigns to the Village Election**

- **Mao** (Monday, February 12)

- **Now** (Wednesday, February 14)
  - **Primary Source**: Organic Law of the Villagers’ Committee of the PRC
  - **Primary Source**: Sang Ye, “The People’s Deputy: A Congresswoman”

- Questions: How do you evaluate “state building by campaign”? What opportunities does village election provide? In what ways is it limited?

- From *Chen Village*: Read pp. 141-212.

**Week 6: Economy: Reform (Capitalism→Socialism→Capitalism?)**

- **Mao**: Socialist Transformation (Monday, February 19)

- **Now**: Dismantling Socialism and “Socialism with Chinese Characteristics” (Wednesday, February 21)
• Questions: What was the Mao-era economy and what were its goals? What are the pros and cons of the mixed economy in the reform era? Can we call today’s economy capitalist?
• From Chen Village: Read pp. 213-287.

[Primary Source Paper Due, Friday 23rd at midnight]

Week 7: Society I: Class
• Mao: Social leveling? Class in China’s Mao Era (Monday, February 26)
  o Yu Hua, “Disparity,” in China in Ten Words, pp. 142-162.
• Now: The Problem of Inequality (Wednesday, February 28)
• Questions: Were there classes in Mao’s China? Was the class critique of the Cultural Revolution valid? What characterizes inequality in China today, and how is it perceived?
• From Chen Village: Read pp. 288-329.

Week 8: Midterm
• Midterm Examination: (Monday, March 5)
• Michael Meng, Yale University Library (Wednesday, March 7)
  o Classroom TBD
  o Please see the library’s research guide for our course: https://guides.library.yale.edu/HIST375/EAST375
• From Chen Village: Read pp. 330-396.

[Independent Paper Instructions Distributed/Review on Source Citation]

Week 9: Society II: Education
• Mao: Education for all? (Monday, March 26)
  o Primary Source: Mao Zedong, “Chairman Mao on Educational Revolution”
  o Gao Mobo, “Rural Education,” in Gao Village: A Portrait of Rural Life in Modern China, pp. 92-121.
• Now: One-Child Policy, Higher Education, and the Quest for Global Citizenship (Wednesday, March 28)
• Questions: What are the implications of an educational system that “levels down” as opposed to an educational system with a competitive exam requirement? How does
Fong use education as a way to reconcile her students’ nationalistic yet global identities?

Week 10: Society III: Labor/Religion

- Labor, Mao to Now (Monday, April 2)
  - **Primary Source**: Sang Ye, “The Union Rep: A Worker Against the Party”

- Questions: The Communist Party came to power pledging to make workers and peasants the masters of the country. In what ways has it failed, and why is this so politically dangerous?

- Religion, Mao to Now (Wednesday, April 4)
  - **Primary Source**: Documents of the Three-Self Movement, pp. 48-69
  - **Optional Primary Source**: Tongxiang Municipal Committee of the CCP, Documents on Struggle of Catholic and Protestant Christians. Read the appendices: [https://www.hrw.org/reports/1997/china1/](https://www.hrw.org/reports/1997/china1/)

- Questions: In what ways did religion persist in the Mao era, and why? How does the state view religion and religious organization today? Do you see Mao-era strategies in the Tongxiang crackdown on local Catholics?

Week 11: Culture I: Intellectuals and the Media

- Intellectuals from Mao to Now: (Monday, April 9)
  - **Primary Source**: Mao Zedong, “Talks at the Yan’an Forum on Literature and Art” (1942)
  - **Primary Source**: Charter ’08
  - **Primary Source**: Xi Jinping’s Talks on the Beijing Forum on Literature and Art (China Copyright and Media summary)

- Media, Intellectuals, and the Party-State: (Wednesday, April 11)
  - Guest lecture by Nick Frisch, Yale University, East Asian Languages and Literatures
  - **Primary Source**: Mao Zedong, “A Talk to the Editorial Staff of the Shansi-Suiyuan Daily” (1961)

- Questions: Compare Mao Zedong and Xi Jinping’s talks to artists, and the contrasting worldviews of Mo Yan and Liu Xiaobo. How does the Party see the role of artists, writers, and intellectuals? What options does Chinese culture present for such roles? How might the Western media’s portrayal of Chinese media be fair or biased, and what might shape biases?
Week 12: Culture II: Material Culture and Consumer Culture

- **Mao: (Monday, April 16)**
  - **Primary Source:** Mao Badges, morningsun.org
  - **Primary Source:** Poster Art, chineseposters.net

- **Now: (Wednesday, April 18)**

- **Questions:** How do the posters project images of how people/life should be in socialist China? (Choose one and be ready to discuss it) Compare posters from early and late in the Cultural Revolution; do you notice any differences? How is revolutionary class status the same/different from consumer brand consciousness today?

Week 13: Culture III: China and the World, China in the World

- **The Chinese Diaspora from Mao to Now (Monday, April 23)**
  - Guest Lecture by Melissa Paa Redwood, Yale University, History Department
  - **Readings TBD (to be posted to Canvas)**

- **Reflections and Conclusions (Wednesday, April 25)**

**FINAL EXAM (Group 34) May 7, 2018 (2:00)**