

Yale University
HIST 893/EAST 893: The History of China's Republican Era
Spring 2018
Denise Y. Ho

Class Hours: Thursday, 1:30-3:20

Course Description: This graduate reading seminar examines recent English-language scholarship on China's Republican period (1912-1949), covering themes from state and economy to society and culture. Weekly topics, which juxtapose one recent monograph with one classic study, include state institutions and law, nationalism, politics and political movements, the development of cities, media and publication, gender, education, labor, and rural reconstruction.

Course Structure: This course is primarily designed for graduate students preparing an oral examination field in modern Chinese history. The readings for the course are arranged thematically, with each week featuring a recent work paired with one classic study. Depending on class enrollment, PhD students are required to do both readings, and master's students are required to do the first reading (unless it is their week to present). Students will sign up to be paired discussion leaders four times during the course of the semester (pending enrollment). Each presenter will write a 1-2 page book review, to be shared with the class. The first hour of discussion will be devoted to the first title. The second hour of discussion will be divided between a) the second title and b) the organization/writing of both books. In addition to the four book reviews, all students will write one final historiographical review essay based on a theme of their choosing and based on at least four books not assigned in class.

Course Readings: All of the first titles will be available at the university bookstore and all titles on reserve at the university library. In certain cases the library has purchased an e-book for student use. Students are also encouraged to use Borrow Direct.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Discussion leading (including four sets of discussion questions)	15%
Discussion participation	15%
Book reviews	20%
Review essay	50%

- **Discussion Leading/Questions:** There will be assigned readings for each class session, and students are expected to come to class having done the readings and ready to participate in class discussion. For each class discussion, two students will be assigned to lead discussion, and will be required to email **ten discussion questions** to the instructor by **9:00 a.m.** on the day of the discussion (Thursday). At least one question should be about sources. Based on course enrollment, students will submit questions up to four times per semester.
- **Discussion Participation:** will be assessed on the basis of regular attendance and engagement with class discussion.

- **Book Reviews:** Students will write four short (800-word) book reviews, to be shared with other participants in the seminar.
- **Review Essay:** Students will write one historiographical essay on a topic of their choosing. The topic need not be one of the weekly themes, but should be cleared with the instructor in advance. At least four of the books in the essay should extend beyond the course reading list.

Week 1: Introduction (January 18, 2018)

Week 2: Teaching/Researching Republican China (January 25, 2018)

- Stapleton, Kristin. *Fact in Fiction: 1920s China and Ba Jin's Family*. 2016.
- Harrison, Henrietta. *The Man Awakened from Dreams: One Man's Life in a North China Village*. 2005.

Week 3: Making the Republican Citizen (February 1, 2018)

- Strand, David. *An Unfinished Republic: Leading by Word and Deed in Modern China*. 2011.
- PhD Students: Harrison, Henrietta. *The Making of the Republican Citizen: Politic Ceremonies and Symbols in China, 1911-1929*. 2000.

Week 4: Revolutionary Politics (February 8, 2018)

- Clinton, Maggie. *Revolutionary Nativism: Fascism and Culture in China, 1925-1937*. 2017
- PhD Students: Fitzgerald, John. *Awakening China: Politics, Culture, and Class in the Nationalist Revolution*. 1996.

Week 5: Society (February 15, 2018)

- Lam, Tong. *A Passion for Facts: Social Surveys and the Construction of the Chinese Nation-State, 1900-1949*. 2011.
- PhD Students: Chen, Janet Y. *Guilty of Indigence: The Urban Poor in China, 1900-1953*. 2012.

Week 6: Labor (February 22, 2018)

- Smith, S.A. *Like Cattle and Horses: Nationalism and Labor in Shanghai, 1895-1927*. 2002.
- PhD Students: Hershatter, Gail. *The Workers of Tianjin, 1900-1949*. 1986.

Week 7: Media (March 1, 2018)

- Lean, Eugenia. *The Trial of Shi Jianqiao and the Rise of Popular Sympathy in Republican China*. 2007.
- PhD Students: Mittler, Barbara. *A Newspaper for China?: Power, Identity, and Change in Shanghai's News Media, 1872-1912*. 2004.

Week 8: Education/Intellectuals (March 8, 2018)

- Lanza, Fabio. *Behind the Gate: Inventing Students in Beijing*. 2010.
- PhD Students: Yeh, Wen-hsin. *The Alienated Academy: Culture and Politics in Republican China*. 1990.

Week 9: The City (March 29, 2018)

- Jackson, Isabella. *Shaping Modern Shanghai: Colonialism in China's Global City*. 2017.
- PhD Students: Tsin, Michael. *Nation, Governance, and Modernity in China: Canton: 1900-1927*. 1999.
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Week 10: The Countryside (April 5, 2018)

- Merkel-Hess, Kate. *The Rural Modern: Reconstructing the Self and State in Republican China*. 2015.
- PhD Students: Faure, David. *Emperor and Ancestor: State and Lineage in South China*. 2007. (Possibly selections)

Week 11: Religion (April 12, 2018)

- Poon, Shuk-Wah. *Negotiating Religion in Modern China: State and Common People in Guangzhou, 1900-1937*. 2011.
- PhD Students: Nedostup, Rebecca. *Superstitious Regimes: Religion and the Politics of Chinese Modernity*. 2010.

Week 12: Family (April 19, 2018) [Sommer talk this week]

- Ransmeier, Johanna. *Sold People: Traffickers and Family Life in North China*. 2017.
- PhD Students: Glosser, Susan. *Chinese Visions of Family and State, 1915-1953*. 2003.

Week 13: Gender (April 26, 2018)

- Ma Zhao. *Runaway Wives, Urban Crimes, and Survival Tactics in Wartime Beijing, 1937-1949*. 2015.
- PhD Students: Honig, Emily. *Sisters and Strangers: Women in the Shanghai Cotton Mills, 1919-1949*. 1986.

Review Essay **DUE** Friday, May 4