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)**

**Week 3: Making the Republican Citizen (February 1, 2018)**
• Strand, David. *An Unfinished Republic: Leading by Word and Deed in Modern China*. 2011.

**Week 4: Revolutionary Politics (February 8, 2018)**
• Clinton, Maggie. *Revolutionary Nativism: Fascism and Culture in China, 1925-1937*. 2017

**Week 5: Society (February 15, 2018)**
• PhD Students: Chen, Janet Y. *Guilty of Indigence: The Urban Poor in China, 1900-1953*. 2012.

**Week 6: Labor (February 22, 2018)**

**Week 7: Media (March 1, 2018)**

**Week 8: Education/Intellectuals (March 8, 2018)**
• Lanza, Fabio. *Behind the Gate: Inventing Students in Beijing*. 2010.
Week 9: The City (March 29, 2018)


Week 10: The Countryside (April 5, 2018)


Week 11: Religion (April 12, 2018)


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


Week 13: Gender (April 26, 2018)


Review Essay **DUE** Friday, May 4