

Yale University
HIST 892: China at Its Borders
Fall 2021
Denise Y. Ho

Professor Denise Y. Ho

Office: Humanities Quadrangle, Room 220

Email: denise.ho@yale.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:30-3:30 (email for appointments) and Fridays, 3:30-5:00 (drop-in)

Note: Preferred correspondence is via email. Please note that emails will be returned between Mondays and Fridays.

Class Hours: Friday, 1:30-3:20 in SML 218

Course Description: This is a graduate reading seminar on modern China's borders, both spatial and temporal. It begins with internal borders, considering the divide between city and countryside from the Republican period to the Cultural Revolution and examining today's urban-rural divide. Next, it turns to traditional state borders, from China's maritime borders in Qing to its Central Asian frontier from the Mao era to the present. Then, the seminar considers China beyond its borders, focusing on the history of migration and then China's Belt and Road. Finally, it considers three temporal borders: 1949, 1966, and 1989.

Course Structure: This course is primarily designed for graduate students interested in modern Chinese history. All students are required to do both readings for the week (a book and an article), but PhD students planning to prepare an examination field in modern Chinese history are encouraged to develop a longer reading list in consultation with the instructor. Pending enrollment, all students will sign up to be paired discussion leaders two or more times during the course of the semester. The first hour of discussion will be devoted to the book. The second hour of discussion will be divided between a) the article and b) the organization/writing of both works. All students will write two book reviews (1-2 pages) over the course of the semester, and will write one final historiographical review essay on a "border" of their choosing and based on at least four books not assigned in the class.

Course Readings: In the past, most students have used Borrow Direct; please plan to order books in advance. Some of the books will also be available as electronic books. All of the books will be placed on reserve at the university library and ordered at the university bookstore.

Course Requirements and Grading:

Discussion leading (including 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 (Friday). At least one question should be about sources. Based on course enrollment, students will submit questions two or more times per semester.

- **Discussion Participation:** will be assessed on the basis of regular attendance and engagement with class discussion.
- **Book Reviews:** Students will write two 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, to be determined with the instructor. At least four of the books used for the essay should extend beyond the course reading list.

Borders Between City and Countryside

Week 1: September 3, 2021

- ~~Wen-hsin Yeh, *Provincial Passages: Culture, Space, and the Origins of Chinese Communism*, 1996. (Available as an e-book via Yale Library)~~
- ~~Elizabeth Perry, "Teaching Revolution: The Strike of 1922," in *Anyuan: Mining China's Revolutionary Tradition*, 2012. (CANVAS)~~

Note: As this is the first week of class, please read at least Yeh (intro+conclusion), Perry, and be prepared to discuss also:

- Strategies for reading for the semester
- Book reviews and their preparation, and "state-of-the-field" papers
- The use of "borders" in history and historical writing

Week 2: September 10, 2021

- ~~Bin XU, *Chairman Mao's Children: Generation and the Politics of Memory in China*, 2021. (Available as an e-book via Yale Library)~~
- ~~Micah S. Muscolino, "The Contradictions of Conservation: Fighting Erosion in Mao-Era China, 1953-1955," in *Environmental History*, Volume 25, Issue 2, April 2020. (CANVAS)~~

[September 3, 2021: Monday Classes Meet Instead of Friday Classes, to accommodate the Labor Day Holiday]

Week 2: September 10, 2021

- Wen-hsin Yeh, *Provincial Passages: Culture, Space, and the Origins of Chinese Communism*, 1996. (Available as an e-book via Yale Library).
 - Read Part 1, up to page 67
- Elizabeth Perry, "Teaching Revolution: The Strike of 1922," in *Anyuan: Mining China's Revolutionary Tradition*, 2012. (CANVAS)
- Bin XU, *Chairman Mao's Children: Generation and the Politics of Memory in China*, 2021. (Available as an e-book via Yale Library)
 - Read Introduction, Chapter 1 and Chapter 2, up to page 101
- Micah S. Muscolino, "The Contradictions of Conservation: Fighting Erosion in Mao-Era China, 1953-1955," in *Environmental History*, Volume 25, Issue 2, April 2020. (CANVAS)

Week 3: September 17, 2021

- Nick R. Smith, *The End of the Village: Planning the Urbanization of Rural China*, 2021. (Available as an e-book via Yale Library)
- Kristin E. Looney, “Rural Development in China, 1980s-2000s,” in *Mobilization for Development*, 2020. (CANVAS)

China and Its Borders

Week 4: September 24, 2021

- Melissa Macauley, *Distant Shores: Colonial Encounters on China’s Maritime Frontier*, 2021. (Available as an e-book via Yale Library)
- Andrew Liu, “Incense and Industry: Labour and Capital in the Tea Districts of Huizhou, China,” *Past & Present*, No. 230 (February 2016), pp. 161-195. (CANVAS)

Week 5: October 1, 2021

- Soren Urbansky, *Beyond the Steppe Frontier: A History of the Sino-Russian Border*, 2020. (Available as an e-book via Yale Library)
- Qingfei Yin, “From a Line on Paper to a Line in Physical Reality: Joint State-Building at the Chinese-Vietnamese Border, 1954-1957,” *Modern Asian Studies*, 2020. (CANVAS)

Week 6: October 8, 2021

- Benno Weiner, *The Chinese Revolution on the Tibetan Frontier*, 2020. (Available as an e-book via Yale Library)
- Dasa Pejchar Mortensen, “Historical Amnesia in Gyalthang: The Legacy of Tibetan Participation in the Cultural Revolution,” in *Conflicting Memories: Tibetan History Under Mao Retold*, 2020. (CANVAS)

Week 7: October 15, 2021

- David Tobin, *Securing China’s Northwest Frontier: Identity and Insecurity in Xinjiang*, 2020. (Available as an e-book via Yale Library)
- Adrian Zenz, “Thoroughly Reforming Them Towards a Healthy Heart Attitude: China’s Political Re-Education Campaign in Xinjiang,” *Central Asian Survey* 38, No. 1, 2018. (CANVAS)

OCTOBER RECESS

China Beyond its Borders

Week 8: October 29, 2021

- Mae Ngai, *The Chinese Question: The Gold Rushes and Global Politics*, 2021. (Note: Awaiting Publication)
- Chien Wen Kung, “In the Name of Anticommunism: Chinese Practices of Ideological Accommodation in the Early Cold War Philippines,” *Modern Asian Studies*, September 2018. (CANVAS)

Week 9: November 5, 2021

- David Lampton, *Rivers of Iron: Railroads and Chinese Power in Southeast Asia*, 2020. (Available as an e-book via Yale Library)
- Matthew S. Erie and Thomas Streinz, “The Beijing Effect: China’s ‘Digital Silk Road’ as Transnational Data Governance,” *New York University Journal of International Law and Politics*, forthcoming. (CANVAS)

Temporal Divides

Week 10: November 12, 2021

- Dominic Yang, *The Great Exodus from China: Trauma, Memory, and Identity in Modern Taiwan*, 2020 (Available as an e-book via Yale Library)
- Evan Dawley, “Ethnicity, Nationalism, and the Re-creation of Jilong, 1945-1955,” in *Becoming Taiwanese: Ethnogenesis in a Colonial City, 1880s to 1950s*, 2019. (CANVAS)

Week 11: November 19, 2021

- Andrew Walder, *Agents of Disorder: Inside China’s Cultural Revolution*, 2019. (Available as an e-book via Yale Library)
- Daniel Koss, “The CCP and Regime Survival in Times of Crisis, 1967-1969,” in *Where the Party Rules: The Rank and File of China’s Communist State*, 2018. (CANVAS)

THANKSGIVING RECESS

Week 12: December 3, 2021

- Jeremy Brown, *June Fourth: The Tiananmen Protests and Beijing Massacre of 1989*, 2021. (Available as an e-book via Yale Library)
- Timothy Cheek, Klaus Muhlhahn, and Hans van de Ven, eds., *The Chinese Communist Party: A Century in Ten Lives*, 2021. Read the following two excerpts: (CANVAS)
 - Klaus Muhlhahn, “The 1980s: Zhao Ziyang and the Voices of Reform”
 - Xu Jilin, “The 1990s: Wang Yuanhua: A Party Intellectual Reflects”

Week 13: December 10, 2021

- Peter E. Hamilton, *Made in Hong Kong: Transpacific Networks and a New History of Globalization*, 2021. (Available as an e-book via Yale Library)
- Edmund W. Cheng, “United Front Work and Mechanisms of Countermobilization in Hong Kong,” *The China Journal*, no. 83 (January 2020), pp. 1-33. (CANVAS)

Final Paper Due:

For undergraduates (if applicable): December 16, 2021

For graduates: December 20, 2021