MODERNITY AND NATIONHOOD IN CHINA  
Autumn 2008 Prof. Thomas Wilson  
MW 2:30-3:45 in SCCT G042 Office hours: W 4:00-5:00; F 1:30-2:30

Aims of the course: This course examines modernity and nationhood in China from the nineteenth- to the early twenty-first-century. Readings and class sessions consider the problem of understanding modern China from a Western perspective and how to situate the issues involved within contexts of Chinese historical experiences. The course critically examines the “Western impact” model – premised on the belief that the West was the source of modernity – in global and Chinese historical contexts and challenges prevalent conception of modernity.

Books for purchase
Jonathan Spence, God’s Chinese Son: The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom of Hong Xiuquan  
Adam Chau, Miraculous Response: Doing Popular Religion in Contemporary China

Other readings:  
* Blackboard  
* electronic reserve  
† electronic journals found on Burke Library catalogue (e.g., JSTOR, Project Muse, etc.)

Come to class prepared to discuss all readings on the dates for which they are assigned.

Introduction (9/1)

I. Late Imperial China (9/3-9/22)  
A. Society: social status; economic organization and practices; bureaucratic regulation 9/3  

B. State: emperor, religious functions; civil bureaucracy, Confucian gentry, civil examinations;  
Manchu conquest and Qing rule 9/8  
• Richard Smith, China’s Cultural Heritage: The Qing Dynasty, 1644-1912 (Boulder: Westview, 1994), 155-185  

C. CLASS DISCUSSION 9/10

No class: 9/15-17  
Begin reading assignments for next week, when we have a quiz and class discussion!

D. Beyond the Western impact 9/22  
• Duara, “Introduction,” Rescuing History from the Nation (Chicago, 1995), 3-16 (start this early; it’s not an easy read!)  

Quiz 9/22
II. China & the West (9/24-10/1)
A. Modernity: Enlightenment, rationalism, secular humanism, positivism, linear history; industrial revolution 9/24


B. European expansion into Asia: Marco Polo, Jesuits, MaCartney Mission, Canton System, Opium Wars 9/29
* Schirokauer, A Brief History of Chinese and Japanese Civilizations 5th Ed., 329-342, 405-418
* Pomeranz, The Great Divergence, 51-68

C. Missionaries 10/1
† James Hevia, “Leaving a Brand on China” (Modern China) 18 (1992) 3: 304-332 (JSTOR)

III. Nineteenth-century rebellions: The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom (10/6-10/8)
A. Secret societies and rebellions 10/6
Spence, God’s Chinese Son
• “The Taiping Heavenly Chronicle,” The Taiping Rebellion 2: 51-79

B. CLASS DISCUSSION: Spence, God’s Chinese Son 10/8

#1 paper due: Friday 10/10 (see page 4)

IV. Late imperial reform (10/15-10/15)
A. Self-Strengthening Movement, 100 Days Reform, Kang Youwei, Tan Sitong 10/15
* Schirokauer, A Brief History of Chinese and Japanese Civilizations 5th Ed., 419-433 (middle)
• “Restoration through Reform,” The Search for Modern China: A Documentary Collection, eds. Pei-kai Cheng, Michael Lestz, Jonathan Spence (Norton, 1999), 150-65

B. CLASS DISCUSSION of readings 10/15

V. Nationhood and Revolution (10/20-10/22)
* Schirokauer, A Brief History of Chinese and Japanese Civilizations 5th Ed., 487-495
A. Nationalism, Nationhood 10/20
• Sun Yatsen, “Three Principles of the People” (San min zhourui) (Chungking: Ministry of Information, Republic of China, 1945)

Quiz 10/22
B. Republican Revolution, 1911-12 (10/22)
• “Generalissimo Jiang on National Identity,” Chinese Civilization, A Sourcebook, 401-406

VI. Competing Modernities (10/27-11/10)
A. May 4th Movement: Hu Shi & Chen Duxiu 10/27
○ Schirokauer, A Brief History of Chinese and Japanese Civilizations 5th Ed., 496-511
• “The Spirit of the May Fourth Movement,” Chinese Civilization, A Sourcebook, 360-363

B. Republicanism: anti-religion campaigns 10/29
○ Schirokauer, A Brief History of Chinese and Japanese Civilizations 5th Ed., 537-560

No class 11/5

C. CLASS DISCUSSION of readings 11/5

D. Post-Modernity 11/10
• Duara, “Critics of Modernity,” Rescuing History, 205-227

#2 paper due: Thursday 11/13 (see page 4)

VII. Mao and Maoism (11/12-12/1)
Film: “The Mao Years, 1949-76” 11/12

A. Pre-‘49 Mao: formation of a Chinese Marxism 11/17
• Spence, The Search for Modern China, 574-617

Quiz 12/1

B. State Maoism 11/19-12/1
○ Schirokauer, A Brief History of Chinese and Japanese Civilizations 5th Ed., 587-608
• “Mao’s Appearance at the First Red Guard Rally…,” The People’s Republic of China
• Mao Zedong, “On the Correct Handling of Contradictions among the People” (2/27/57), 384-421
• Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-tung, 1-22, 45-57
• “Daily Life in the Work Unit,” Michael Dutton, Streetlife China (Cambridge, 1998), 42-61

Thanksgiving Break 11/24-26
CLASS DISCUSSION: Mao’s writings 12/1
VIII. Post-Mao Era (12/5-12/15)
A. Economic Reforms & Political Effects 12/3
B. Post-reform Culture and Society 12/8-10
   Chau, *Miraculous Response*
C. CLASS DISCUSSION
   Chau, *Miraculous Response* 12/10

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Course Requirements:
Quizzes based on textbook and other background readings

Writing assignments: All papers are due as an email attachment by 3:00 P.M. on the date due. No extensions granted unless by prior arrangement more than 24 hours before assignments are due.

**Be sure to present a clear thesis and use evidence in the sources to develop your argument.**

#1: critical essay on Spence, *God’s Chinese Son*, other readings, and a careful analysis of at least one primary source listed under section iii 19th Century Rebellions of the syllabus; 5-7 pages. October 10.

#2 critical essay on the problem of modernity in China based on readings listed in section vi. Competing Modernities on the syllabus; 4 pages. November 20.

#3: critical essay on everyday life in the post-Mao era using Chau’s *Miraculous Response* and at least TWO other sources listed on the syllabus under sections vii Mao and Maoism or viii Post-Mao Era, due on Dec 15; 5-7 pages.

final course grade determined on the basis of the following:
| Quizzes | 20% |
| essay #1 | 25% |
| essay #2 | 15% |
| essay #3 | 25% |
| regular class participation | 15% |