

China's Republican Era: Political Turmoil, Intellectual Emancipation, and the Road to Communism

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Schedule:

Thursday 13 March 15:00-17:00 Aula 5

Thursday 27 March 15:00-17:00 Aula 5

Thursday 3 April 15:00-17:00 Aula 5

Thursday 10 April 15:00-17:00 Aula 5

Thursday 17 April 15:00-17:00 Aula 5

Thursday 24 April 15:00-17:00 Aula 2

Thursday 8 May 15:00-17:00 Aula 5

Thursday 15 May 15:00-17:00 Aula 5

I. Overview:

This course seeks to familiarize students with the political, cultural, intellectual, and military developments of Republican China. The Republican era in Chinese history, spanning from 1911 to 1949, marked the end of thousands of years of imperial rule, the experimentation with constitutionalism, and the eventual division of China into the Communist-led People's Republic of China and Taiwan, where a distinct national identity has been evolving over several decades and dominating in recent years. This relatively brief period of Chinese history nevertheless witnessed some of the most tumultuous changes, reforms, and crises at political, social, and intellectual levels, the repercussions of which continue to be felt and are crucial for understanding contemporary China, a subject upon which we will also reflect.

II. Assessment:

1. Oral: Students are required to present their seminar papers, 10-15 minutes.
2. Writing: Students can choose one of the three types of writing assignments:
 - 1.) Choose one of the required readings from Section III and evaluate the strengths or weaknesses of its argument. Examine the arguments the author addresses, the unique contribution they claim to make, the extent to which the evidence provided effectively supports their claims, and whether the argument is presented in a clear and logically coherent manner. Your analysis and critique of the author's arguments and contributions should be framed in relation each week's reading materials and course content.
 - 2.) Choose a theme from the course that particularly interests you. Create a timeline of events and periods related to the event, movement, idea, war, or social phenomenon you have selected. Analyse its historical development and discuss its significance in the context of modern Chinese history.

- 3.) Select a theme from the course that resonates with your interests and provide a brief overview. Situate this theme within a comparative framework by identifying a similar or related theme from your own area of research or geographical focus. Highlight the similarities and differences between the two and reflect on how this comparison offers broader insights into global or regional historical processes and the methodologies of historical analysis.

Around 2000 words. Footnotes and bibliography are not included in the word count. A bibliography is not necessary if you use footnotes for citation instead of in-text citations (author-date style). All citations should adhere to the *Chicago Manual of Style*: (https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html).

III. Required Books:

Hayton, Bill. *The Invention of China*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2020.
Spence, Jonathan. *The Search for Modern China*. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 2013.
Zarrow, Peter. *China in War and Revolution, 1895-1949*. Routledge, 2006.

IV. Schedule:

1. End of Empire and the 1911 Revolution

Sources of Chinese Tradition (thereafter SCT), 320–28.

Yuanchong Wang, *Remaking the Chinese Empire: Manchu-Korean Relations, 1616–1911* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2018), 176–214.

Hayton’s chapter on Chinese nation, National Territory, and Maritime Claim

2. Political Fragmentation and the Warlord Era

“Dr. Goodnow’s Memorandum to the President.”
<https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1915/d47>

Edward McCord, “Military Atrocities in Warlord China,” in *Civil-Military Relations in Chinese History: From Ancient China to the Communist Takeover*, ed. Kai Filipiak (Abingdon: Routledge, 2015), 210–38

3. The May Fourth and New Culture Movements

SCT, 353–355, 378–388.

Lu Xun, *A Madman’s Diary*, 1918. <https://www.marxists.org/archive/lu-xun/1918/04/x01.htm>

Ya-pei Kuo, "The Making of The New Culture Movement: A Discursive History," *Twentieth-Century China* 42, 1 (2017): 52–71.

4. Public Sphere, Civil Society, and Social Transformation

Sebastian Veg, "Creating Public Opinion, Advancing Knowledge, Engaging in Politics: The Local Public Sphere in Chengdu, 1898–1921," *The China Quarterly* 246 (2021): 331–53.

Marie-Claire Bergère, "Civil Society and Urban Change in Republican China," *The China Quarterly*, 150 (1997): 309–28.

5. From May Fourth to Communism

SCT, 399–450.

Prashant Kaushik, "The May Fourth Spirit and the Communist Party of China: Evolution and Significance of an Umbilical Relationship," in *China's May Fourth Movement: New Narratives and Perspectives*, ed. Sabaree Mitra (Abingdon: Routledge, 2023), 109–26.

6. The Northern Expedition and the Nanjing Decade

SCT, 328–36.

Frank Dikötter, *The Age of Openness: China before Mao* (Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2008), 1–30, 53–80.

Frederic Wakeman Jr, "A Revisionist View of the Nanjing Decade: Confucian Fascism," *The China Quarterly* 150 (1997): 395–432.

7. The Second Sino-Japanese War: Resistance and Collaboration

August 1 Declaration, 1935.

David S.G. Goodman, "Reinterpreting the Sino-Japanese War: 1939-1940, Peasant Mobilisation, and the Road to the PRC," *Journal of Contemporary China* 22 (2013): 166–84.

Brian G. Martin, "Patriotic Collaboration?: Zhou Fohai and the Wang Jingwei Government during the Second Sino-Japanese War," in *Japan as the Occupier and the Occupied*, ed. Christine de Matos and Mark E. Caprio (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015), 152–71.

8. Postwar Construction, the KMT-CCP Clash, and the Civil War

Donggil Kim, "Stalin and the Chinese Civil War," *Cold War History* 10, 2 (2010): 185–202.

Giuseppe Paparella, "Losing China? Truman's Nationalist Beliefs and the American Strategic Approach to China, 1948–1949," *The International History Review* 44, 6 (2021): 1306–26.

Zarrow, chapter 16 and 17.