

Nationhood, Statehood, and Citizenship: From Late Qing to Mao

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Schedule:

Wednesday 12 March 11:00-13:00 Aula 2
Wednesday 19 March 11:00-13:00 Aula 2
Wednesday 26 March 11:00-13:00 Aula 2
Wednesday 16 April 11:00-13:00 Aula 2
Wednesday 23 April 11:00-13:00 Aula 2
Wednesday 30 April 11:00-13:00 Aula 2
Wednesday 14 May 11:00-13:00 Aula 2
Wednesday 28 May 15:00-17:00 Aula 5

I. Overview:

This course examines the dynamic transformations of nationhood, statehood, and citizenship in China from the late Qing dynasty to the Maoist era. Through a thematic exploration, it investigates how China navigated the profound challenges of modernity, reform, and revolution, reshaping its political, social, and cultural landscapes. The course focuses on key historical moments and ideas, such as the formation of national identity, the evolution of state authority, and the redefinition of citizenship in response to changing political and ideological frameworks. It explores the tensions between tradition and modernity, the role of race and gender in constructing the “Chinese nation,” and the competing visions of China’s future during periods of upheaval. Additionally, the course considers how these transformations were influenced by global currents and regional dynamics, offering insights into China’s unique path in the modern world. Students will critically analyze how these themes intersect and diverge across different historical periods, from the late imperial reforms to the revolutionary ideologies of the 20th century. By situating China’s experiences within broader historical processes, the course encourages a deeper understanding of the complexities of nation-building, the reimagining of citizenship, and the interplay between domestic and international forces in shaping modern states.

II. Assessment:

1. Oral: Students are required to present their seminar papers, 15-20 minutes.
2. Writing: Students can choose one of the two 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 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.) 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 2500 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. Bibliography:

- Harrison, Henrietta. *The Making of the Republican Citizen: Political Ceremonies and Symbols in China 1911–1929*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Perry, Elizabeth J. *Patrolling the Revolution: Worker Militias, Citizenship, and the Modern Chinese State*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2006.
- Duara, Prasenjit. *Rescuing History from the Nation: Questioning Narratives of Modern China*. Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press, 1997.
- Karl, Rebecca E. *Staging the World: Chinese Nationalism at the Turn of the Twentieth Century*. London: Duke University Press, 2002.
- Spence, Jonathan D., *The Gate of Heavenly Peace: The Chinese and Their Revolution*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1982.
- Frank Dikötter, *The Discourse of Race in Modern China* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2015).

IV. Schedule:

1. Introduction to Historiography and Concepts

Klaus Mühlhahn, *Making China Modern: From the Great Qing to Xi Jinping* (Cambridge, Mass.: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2019), ix–20.

Bill Hayton, *The Invention of China* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2020), 7–34.

2. Creating “Society” in Late Qing China: Political Rights and Liberation

Sources of Chinese Tradition (Hereafter SCT), 254–73.

Joan Judge, “Talent, Virtue, and the Nation: Chinese Nationalisms and Female Subjectivities in the Early Twentieth Century,” *The American Historical Review* 106, 3 (2001), 765–803.

Kai Vogelsang, “Chinese ‘Society’: History of A Troublesome Concept,” *Oriens Extremus* 51 (2012): 155–92.

3. Envision the Future: Anarchism, Asianism, Federal Republic, and Constitutional Monarchy

Zou Rong, *Revolutionary Army*, 1903, 51–128.

Peter Zarrow, *Anarchism and Chinese Political Culture* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1990), 238–258.

OR

Anne Cheng, “Nationalism, Citizenship, and the Old Text/New Text Controversy in Late Nineteenth Century China,” in *Imagining the People: Chinese Intellectuals and the Concept of Citizenship 1890–1920*, eds. Joshua A. Fogel and Peter G. Zarrow (London: Routledge, 2015), 61–81.

OR

Craig A. Smith, *Chinese Asianism, 1894–1945* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2021), 77–106.

4. Race, Citizenship, and Territory of the Republic: Inventing the “Chinese Nation”

Sun Yat-sen, *Proclamation by Sun Yat-sen, Provisional President of the Republic of China*, 1912

———, *Speech at the Special Liaison Office of the Chinese Nationalist Party Headquarters in Guangdong*, 1921.

Hsiao-ting Lin, *Tibet and Nationalist China’s Frontier: Intrigues and Ethnopolitics, 1928–49* (Vancouver: UBC Press, 2006), 19–50.

5. Change the “National Character”: The May Fourth New Culture Movement

Lu Xun, *A Madman’s Diary*, 1918. <https://www.marxists.org/archive/lu-xun/1918/04/x01.htm>;
———, *Medicine*, 1919. <https://www.marxists.org/archive/lu-xun/1919/04/x01.htm>;

Leo Ou-fan Lee, “Incomplete Modernity: Rethinking the May Fourth Intellectual Project,” in *The Appropriation of Cultural Capital: China’s May Fourth Project*, eds. Milena Doleželová-Velingerová et al. (Leiden: Harvard University Asia Center, 2001), 29–65.

6. Chinese Communist Party: Nationalism and Internationalism

SCT, 404–25.

Luoyang Zhou, “Boosting nationalism with non-nationalist ideology: A comparative biographical analysis of the Chinese communist revolutionaries,” *Nations and Nationalism* 24 (2018): 767–91.

Hong-yop Ip, “Cosmopolitanism and the Ideal Image of Nation in Communist Revolutionary Culture,” in *Constructing Nationhood in Modern East Asia*, eds. Kai-wing Chow et al. (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan, 2001), 215–243.

7. Disciplining People/Women: KMT and CCP

SCT, 426–49.

Gao Hua, *How the Red Sun Rose: The Origin and Development of the Yan'an Rectification Movement, 1930–1945* (Hong Kong: The Chinese University Press, 2018), read either chapter 10 or chapter 15 or both.

Louise Edwards, “Policing the Modern Woman in Republican China,” *Modern China* 26 (2000), 115–47.

8. China under Mao: Class, Gender, and Ethnic Minorities

SCR, 459–68; 474–81.

Tina Mai Chen, “Dressing for the Party: Clothing, Citizenship, and Gender-formation in Mao’s China,” *Fashion Theory* 5, 2 (2001), 143–171.

Nicholas Tapp, “In Defence of the Archaic: A Reconsideration of the 1950s Ethnic Classification Project in China,” *Asian Ethnicity* 3, 1 (2002): 63–84.