This course introduces some of the major events, individuals, and themes in modern Chinese history. We begin with the fall of the Qing dynasty and end with the founding of the Communist People’s Republic of China (PRC). I will distribute a list of important events and individuals early in the course, which you can use to study for the two exams. The major themes of the course will be introduced in our first meeting, and discussed throughout the quarter. The course will be an examination of the first half of the twentieth century: the final decline of the Qing and the 1911 revolution, warlord rule, the May Fourth and New Culture Movements, modern urban culture in China, Nationalist rule in the Nanjing Decade (1927-1937), war with Japan, the rise of revolutionary nationalism, and finally the Chinese Communist rise to power.

Reading is assigned by the week, and is to be completed by the first session of each week. The only exceptions are the first three meetings of the class. Other than the first three classes, there will be two pop quizzes, which can come anytime. No make-ups on the pop quizzes, except with a medical excuse signed by a doctor. The pop quizzes will be given either in the first or last ten minutes of class. On the pop quiz, I will not be trying to trick you with a minute detail from the reading. The quiz questions will be open enough for you to show a strong understanding of the week’s entire reading assignment, but specific enough to require that you read closely and take good notes. The quizzes will be based only on the reading for that week, and may be given on a Tuesday or Thursday, so finish your reading by the first session of the week. Please note that some reading assignments are significantly larger than others, so budget your time accordingly.

It is your responsibility to read and understand this institution’s regulations on plagiarism, and the consequences. No phones during quizzes or exams, or any time during lectures. Please note that besides the two required-purchase books, there will be additional reading materials to be found online. These will be available through online databases (JSTOR or Project Muse) and/or posted through the library’s e-reserve desk.

**Required books:**
Other readings will be posted on-line and/or assigned in class. Keep up to date on adjustments of the syllabus and the addition of online reading assignments. Any readings marked with an asterisk (*) are available either through an online database like JSTOR or Project Muse, or through the library’s e-reserve desk.

Grading policy
One pre-midterm pop quiz: 10% (based only on reading assigned for that week)
One post-midterm pop quiz: 10% (based only on reading assigned for that week)
In-class midterm: 35%
Final: 45% (Friday December 10, 7pm, please confirm this time and the location)
The midterm and final exams will have a mix of short-answer and essay portions.

Schedule
Week 0-1: Introduction through the End of the Qing
Meeting 1. September 23: Introduction to the course and main themes
Meeting 2. September 28: Limits of China: Ethnicity, borders, culture
Meeting 3. September 30: End of the Qing

Reading: Schoppa, 1-124; Documents, 92-213

Week 2: Revolution and Warlords
Meeting 4. October 5: Revolution – International and Provincial
Meeting 5. October 7: The Warlords Co-opt the Revolution

Reading: Schoppa, 125-161; Documents, 214-251

Week 3: New Culture, New Nationalism
Meeting 6. October 12: New Culture, May Fourth, and Nationalism
Meeting 7. October 14: Guest Lecture, Professor Paul G. Pickowicz, “Urban China in Transition”

Reading: Schoppa, 162-180

Week 4: Leninist Parties
Meeting 8. October 19: The Nationalist Party Reorganized
Meeting 9. October 21: The Early Communist Party

Reading: Schoppa, 181-220; Documents, 252-269
Week 5: **Film and Midterm**
Meeting 10. October 26: Part One of film, “China in Revolution”
Meeting 11. October 28: Midterm

*Xiao Hong “The Field of Life and Death” in *The Field of Life and Death & Tales of Hulan River* (Howard Goldblatt, tr.) Boston: Cheng & Tsui Company, 2002. (i-91) (e-reserve)

Week 6: **Early Chinese Communism and the Japanese**
Meeting 12. November 2: Chinese Communism’s Rural Shift and the Long March
Meeting 13. November 4: Japanese Imperialism through the Xi’an Incident

*Reading: Schoppa, 221-259; Documents, 270-313 (Begin frontier readings for next week!)*

Week 7: **Frontiers**
Meeting 14. November 9: Republican China’s Frontiers
----. November 11: Veterans’ Day – No class

*(You will not be tested on every specific name and date in the below frontier readings, but please read them for a strong understanding of themes – domestic and international governance, ethnicity, identity, religion...)*


Week 8: **War with Japan**
Meeting 15. November 16: Collaboration and Continuing the Civil War

*Reading: Schoppa, 260-285; Documents, 314-335


Week 9: **Wartime China**
Meeting 17. November 23: Japanese Defeat and the Civil War
----. November 25: Thanksgiving Holiday – No class
Reading: Schoppa, 286-304; Documents, 336-357

Week 10: From the Republic of China to the People’s Republic of China
Meeting 18. November 30: From RoC to PRC and Current Resonances
Meeting 19. December 2: Summary and Review of Course Material and Themes

Reading: Schoppa, 305-325; Documents, 358-380