HIEA 132: History of the People’s Republic of China  
Spring Quarter 2011  
Tuesday & Thursday, 8:00–9:20 a.m.  
Center Hall 212

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Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 noon (HS&S Building 3070), or by appt.

Course Description
This course is an upper-division survey of Chinese history during the second half of the twentieth century. The goal of this course is to familiarize you with the most important political, economic, social, and cultural developments of the Mao (1949–76) and Deng years (1978–97). We will diverge from traditional narratives of modern Chinese history, however, by devoting a substantial amount of our time to subjects that often receive short shrift in the mainstream histories: the non-Han peripheries, Taiwan, and identity politics. Wherever possible, we will also analyze popular history from the ground up, by looking at elementary school textbooks from the Mao era, visual propaganda from the Cultural Revolution, and the experiences of ordinary people.

Required Texts: The reading assignments for this course will be drawn from three books (available for purchase from the UCSD Bookstore) as well as online reserves accessed through the UCSD Library. In the weekly class schedule outlined below, all readings taken from the following three books will be underlined:


All other readings (articles, book chapters, etc.) can be accessed via the UCSD Libraries’ online course reserve website (http://libraries.ucsd.edu/resources/course-reserves/index.html), or checked out in hard-copy format from the main circulation desk at Geisel Library.

Grading
Your final grade for the course will be determined by two (2) short 20-minute quizzes, one (1) 80-minute midterm exam, and one (1) 80-minute final exam. Please note: because all quizzes and examinations will be taken in-class, you must attend class consistently and punctually in order to succeed in this course. Make-up exams will not be held for students who miss class or arrive late on a test day. The dates and times for the midterm and final exams are noted in the class schedule below. The two 20-minute in-class quizzes will be unannounced and may occur on any day. The composition of your final grade will be as follows:

Quiz #1: 10%  
Quiz #2: 10%  
Midterm Exam: 40%  
Final Exam: 40%  
Total: 100%
WEEK 1

March 29: The Chinese Civil War and the Birth of the People’s Republic of China
⇒ origins of the conflict, war with Japan, and the postwar struggle
READING: ♣ Mao’s China and the Cold War (chs. 1–2), 17–48.

March 31: Consolidating the Chinese Nation
⇒ urban consolidation, bandit extermination campaigns, and the return of overseas Chinese

WEEK 2

April 5: Defining the Chinese Nation
⇒ ideal of national unity, legacy of national humiliation, Outer Mongolia, ethnic classification projects
READINGS: ♣ Thomas Mullaney, “Identity Crisis in Postimperial China” (ch. 1 of Coming to Terms with the Nation: Ethnic Classification in Modern China) 18–41 ♦ William A. Callahan, “The Cartography of National Humiliation and the Emergence of China’s Geobody,” 141–73.

April 7: FILM: The Mao Years, Part I
READING: ♣ The Private Life of Chairman Mao (chs. 1–9), 3–113.

WEEK 3

April 12: China and the Cold War
⇒ the Korean War, Soviet experts in China, and the Sino-Soviet split
READING: ♣ Mao’s China and the Cold War (chs. 3–7), 49–204.

April 14: Alienating the Intellectuals, Plunging into Utopia
⇒ the Hu Feng campaign (1955), the Hundred Flowers movement (1956), the Anti-Rightist backlash (1957), rural reform, and prelude to the Great Leap Forward
READING: ♣ Jonathan D. Spence, The Search for Modern China (ch. 20), 514–43.

WEEK 4

April 19: * GUEST LECTURER * ⇒ Paul Pickowicz, Professor of History, UCSD
-topic: “The Biggest Famine in Human History”
April 21: Teaching the Next Generation
⇒ language reform, grade school curriculum, and new educational system


**WEEK 5**
April 26: The Nationalists in Taiwan, Part I: 1949–59
⇒ the return of Chiang Kai-shek, waving the flag of “free China,” and political reform


April 28: MIDTERM EXAM—bring a blue book!

**WEEK 6**
May 3: FILM: *The Mao Years*, Part II

**READING:** ♣ Mao’s China and the Cold War (chs. 8–9), 205–76.

May 5: Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang, and Tibet
⇒ system of regional autonomy, Han migration and colonization, non-Han resistance and cooperation, foreign interests and military conflict


**WEEK 7**
May 10: Post-Leap China: Liu Shaoqi at the Helm
⇒ Mao on the sidelines, the 7,000 Cadre Conference, and economic development


May 12: The Cultural Revolution, Part I: The Return of Mao
⇒ mobilization of China’s youth, “bombard the headquarters!,” and the specter of civil war

**Week 8**

May 17: The Cultural Revolution, Part II: Closing Pandora’s Box
⇒ *sent-down youth, the Lin Biao affair, alienation of China’s youth, and the bankruptcy of Maoism*


May 19: The Nationalists in Taiwan, Part II: 1959–93
⇒ *the origins of Chinese democracy and the economic miracle*

**Reading:** ♠ Jay Taylor, “Shifting Dynamics,” “Nixon and the Last Years” (chs. 12–13 of The Generalissimo: Chiang Kai-shek and the Struggle for Modern China), 503–95.

**Week 9**

May 24: Deng Xiaoping and the Legacy of Mao
⇒ *the Gang of Four, Deng Xiaoping marginalizes Hua Guofeng, repudiation of the Cultural Revolution, four modernizations, and Democracy Wall movement*


May 26: The 1980s: Testing the Limits of Reform
⇒ *Deng’s economic reforms, political liberalization, social strains, and Tiananmen Square*

**Reading:** ♠ China Candid, 1–156.

**Week 10**

May 31: “To Get Rich Is Glorious”: The Post-Deng Era
⇒ *the dual face of Chinese nationalism, challenges to Communist authority, and the widening socioeconomic gap*

**Reading:** ♠ China Candid, 157–323.

June 2: FINAL EXAM—bring a blue book!