

Approval: 9th Senate Meeting

Course Number: HS 364

Course Name: Modern China: A Historical Survey

Credits: 3-0-0-3

Prerequisites:

Intended for: UG

Distribution:

Semester:

COURSE OUTLINE:

From the Indian perspective, China is not only a neighbor and a rising world power, but also a rival. Yet, apart from popular stereotypes, we know little of its history, which at time echoes our own, and at others sharply diverges from the Indian experience. This course will provide an introduction to how China became ‘modern’ in the last two hundred years. It will focus on the Western impact on China through colonial wars, and the Chinese response to the West via internal reforms. At the same time, it will explore the ways in which China charted its own trajectory of development with the adoption of Communism. Students taking this course will, by the end of it, have a sense not only of political and economic developments, but will also understand how the Chinese have come to perceive the world—and themselves—in the 21st century.

COURSE MODULES:

1. China in the 19th Century: Wars (8 contact hours)

- Unit 1: The Confucian Value System
- Unit 2: Chinese Feudalism
- Unit 3: Opium Wars
- Unit 4: The Informal Colonization of China

2. China in the 19th Century: Popular Movements (8 contact hours)

- Unit 1: Popular Uprisings: The Taiping and Boxer Movements
- Unit 2: Internal Reforms in China: The Self Strengthening Movement and the 100 Days’ Reform Movement

3. China in the 20th Century: Nationalism (8 contact hours)

- Unit 1: The Revolution of 1911; Role of Sun Yat-sen and Yuan Shi-kai
- Unit 2: Warlordism in China: 1916-1928
- Unit 3: The May Fourth Movement of 1919
- Unit 4: Nationalism: 1921-1937

4. China in the 20th Century: Communism (8 contact hours)

- Unit 1: The Rise and Growth of the Communist Movement
- Unit 2: China During the Second World War (1939-45)
- Unit 3: The Communist Revolution (1949)

5. The Mao Era (10 contact hours)

- Unit 1: The Great Leap Forward (1958-61)
- Unit 2: The Cultural Revolution (1966-76)
- Unit 3: Mao's Legacy

Total contact hours: 42

Prescribed Texts

1. John K. Fairbank and Merle E. Goldman, *China: A New History*, Belknap Press (Harvard University Press), Cambridge, MA, Revised and Enlarged Edn., 2006.
2. Rana Mitter, *Modern China: A Brief Insight*, Sterling, New York/London, 2009.

Additional Readings

1. Immanuel C. Y. Hsu, *The Rise of Modern China*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, Sixth Edn., 1999.
2. Jung Chang and Jon Halliday, *Mao: The Unknown Story*, Jonathan Cape, 2005
3. Jonathan Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, W.W. Norton & Co., New York, Third Edn., 2012.
4. Jonathan Fenby, *The Penguin History of Modern China: The Fall and Rise of a Great Power, 1850 to the Present*, Penguin, London, Second Edn., 2013.

Additional Activities

1. Film Screening
 - a. The Last Emperor (Bernardo Bertolucci, 1987).
2. Reading Group (optional)
 - a. Non fiction: Pallavi Aiyer, *Smoke and Mirrors, An Experience of China*, Harper Collins, New Delhi, 2008.
 - b. Fiction: Dai Sijie, *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress*, Vintage, London, 2002.