

HI2J6-30 China Transformed: From Early Modern to Modern Times

26/27

Department

History

Level

Undergraduate Level 2

Module leader

Song-Chuan Chen

Credit value

30

Module duration

22 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

Being one of the oldest civilizations, China has a long, rich, and diverse history. In chronological frameworks, this module offers twenty one weeks of feasting on its most recent past: the history of early modern and modern China, which in actuality is still in the grip of its dynastic past, despite countless reforms, revolutions and modernization that started in mid-nineteenth century and were modelled on the West. The chronological approach of Term One shows how China transformed over time. Leaning history through a series of major themes in Term Two allows us to connect dots into a comprehensible narrative and to conduct macro as well as micro analysis.

Module aims

During the Term One, we will examine eight major historical events that will build a chronological framework for understanding the history of modern China. The eight events chosen—for instance, the First Opium War (1839-1842) and the 1911 Revolution—are signposts that will help you navigate the historical landscape. Following that, the eight themes that we will explore during the Term Two, including topics such as gender and China-West relations, will explore connections between historical and contemporary China. The lectures and seminars pose questions through which you can explore modern Chinese history. As a survey course, this module provides a

foundational understanding of China that is a module on its own and can be a starting point for further studies on historical China or contemporary China. This course is open to all students without prerequisites and assumes no prior knowledge of Chinese language or Chinese history.

Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

The eight events that we will examine in the Term One, along with other major events, profoundly shaped early modern and modern Chinese history. Sometimes the event itself made a difference to people's life, such as the establishment in 1644 of the Qing dynasty as a new regime that brought about transformation of the country's socio-political structures. At other times, an event's symbolic meaning is the main focus of the history. The First Opium War, for instance, is central to the Century of Humiliation narrative that galvanized generations of Chinese people. The eight events have been chosen to help you better grasp the outline of early modern and modern Chinese history, while other events that we do not focus on are as important in a different context. Syllabus of Term One:

1. Introduction
2. The Qing's Conquering of the Ming, 1644
3. The First Opium War, 1839
4. The Taiping Rebellion, 1850
5. Reform Movements, 1861
6. The 1911 Revolution, 1911
7. The Second Sino-Japanese War, 1937
8. The Communist Revolution, 1949
9. The Cultural Revolution, 1966

In the Term Two, we will study eight themes that each speaks to a aspect of early modern and modern China. Learning history through a series of major events as we did in Term One allows us to connect dots into a comprehensible narrative. This chronological approach shows how China changed over time. However, there is a great danger that we might create a linear narrative forgetting the complex and chaotic nature of everyday life and reality—the history. In the Spring Term, we will employ a thematic approach that will allow us to see modern Chinese history from a different perspective. Each week we will examine a theme that cuts through time to see connections or to make comparisons. The eight themes of Term Two have been chosen because of their significance to modern Chinese history. You can and should invent as many themes as you want to cut through time and space and form an understanding of the history. We will first in the new term do revisions in three different ways in three sections to consolidate what we have learned during the Term One. Syllabus of Spring Term:

1. China transformed to modern times
2. Gendered China, from early modern to modern
3. The Civil Service Examination
4. The Intellectuals and political dissent
5. Chinese believers, religious transformation
6. Changes in rural and urban China

7. The Chinese ordinary workers
8. Nationalism and Politicized Youth
9. The Rise of Modern China and its relations with the West

Syllabus of Term Three:

1. Revision I (optional)

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a detailed knowledge of historical and theoretical interpretations of early modern and modern China.
- Communicate ideas and findings, adapting to a range of situations, audiences and degrees of complexity.
- Generate ideas through the analysis of a range of primary source material for the study of early modern and modern China, including electronic resources.
- Analyse and evaluate the contributions made by existing scholarship.
- Act with limited supervision and direction within defined guidelines, accepting responsibility for achieving deadlines.

Subject specific skills

See learning outcomes.

Transferable skills

See learning outcomes.

Study

Study time

| Type | Required |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Lectures | 19 sessions of 1 hour (6%) |
| Seminars | 19 sessions of 1 hour (6%) |
| Tutorials | 1 session of 1 hour (0%) |
| Private study | 258 hours (86%) |
| Assessment | 3 hours (1%) |
| Total | 300 hours |

Private study description

History modules require students to undertake extensive independent research and reading to prepare for seminars and assessments. As a rough guide, students will be expected to read and prepare to comment on three substantial texts (articles or book chapters) for each seminar taking approximately 3 hours. Each assessment requires independent research, reading around 6-10 texts and writing and presenting the outcomes of this preparation in an essay, review, presentation or other related task.

Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

Assessment

You do not need to pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Assessment group A2

| | Weighting | Study time | Eligible for self-certification |
|--|------------------|-------------------|--|
| Assessment component | | | |
| Seminar Contribution | 10% | | No |
| Reassessment component | | | |
| 1000 word reflective essay in lieu of Seminar Contribution | | | Yes (extension) |
| Assessment component | | | |
| 1500 word essay | 10% | | Yes (extension) |
| Reassessment component is the same | | | |
| Assessment component | | | |
| 3000 word essay | 40% | | Yes (extension) |

| | Weighting | Study time | Eligible for self-certification |
|--|------------------|-------------------|--|
|--|------------------|-------------------|--|

Reassessment component is the same

Assessment component

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|---------|-----------------|
| Applied History Project | 40% | 3 hours | Yes (extension) |
|-------------------------|-----|---------|-----------------|

Reassessment component

| | | | |
|---|--|--|-----------------|
| An Applied History Project or 3000 word replacement essay | | | Yes (extension) |
|---|--|--|-----------------|

Feedback on assessment

- written feedback on essay and presentation
- student/tutor dialogues in one-to-one tutorials

Availability

Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- Year 2 of UENA-VQ32 Undergraduate English and History

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of UENA-VQ32 Undergraduate English and History
- Year 2 of UENA-VQ34 Undergraduate English and History (with a term in Venice)
- Year 2 of UHIA-V102 Undergraduate History (Renaissance and Modern History Stream)

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
- Year 2 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
- Year 2 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology

This module is Option list B for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
- Year 2 of UHIA-V1V7 Undergraduate History and Philosophy (with a term in Venice)
- Year 2 of UHIA-VM13 Undergraduate History and Politics (with a term in Venice)

This module is Option list D for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-V100 Undergraduate History
- Year 2 of UHIA-V102 Undergraduate History (Renaissance and Modern History Stream)

This module is Option list E for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy
- Year 2 of UHIA-VM11 Undergraduate History and Politics
- Year 2 of UHIA-VL13 Undergraduate History and Sociology
- Year 2 of UHIA-VL15 Undergraduate History and Sociology (with a term in Venice)

This module is Option list F for:

- Year 2 of UHIA-V1V5 Undergraduate History and Philosophy