Harvard Extension School
Spring Term 2016

HIST E-1827
The United States and China: Opium War to Present

Time: Tuesdays 5:30-7:30 pm
Location: Center for Government and International Studies (CGIS), South Building, Room S040

Instructor: Erez Manela
Office hours: Fridays, 10 to noon (Robinson 220)
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TF: Rui Hua
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Course Description:
The relationship between China and the United States is now, and will likely continue to be, the most important international relationship of our era. But this relationship has a long history, which we must study if we wish to understand present and future challenges and opportunities more fully. In this course, students will explore diverse aspects of the history of Sino-American relations since the early nineteenth century. We will cover major episodes such as the Boxer intervention, the first and second world wars, the Korean War, the Mao-Nixon rapprochement, and the post-Mao relationship. We will also examine central themes such as trade, migration, cultural perceptions, war, and revolution.

Course Requirements:
1. Regular attendance, reading, and active participation (20% of final grade)
2. Two brief, critical oral comments to the class (based on class readings) (10%)
3. Drafting the Paper (10%):
   a. Research question should be discussed with the TF and approved by the instructor; a paragraph describing the approved topic is due online by the Friday of Week 4.
   b. Outline and bibliography (2-3 pages each) due online by the Friday of Week 7.
   c. Preliminary draft (~3000 words) due online by the Friday of Week 9.
4. An oral presentation to the class on the research topic (20%)
5. Final research paper (6000-8000 words), due on May 4 (40%)

Required Texts (available for purchase at the Coop and on reserve at Lamont Library)
Dong Wang, The United States and China: A History from the Eighteenth Century to the Present (2013)
R. David Arkush and Leo O. Lee, eds. Land without Ghosts: Chinese Impressions of America from the Mid-Nineteenth Century to the Present (1989; paperback 1993)
Class Schedule and Readings

Notes:

1. Readings not included in the texts listed above are either available online through Hollis or will be posted on the course website.

2. As you will see below, in weeks 2 and 3 we will read a textbook that will give us the “lay of the land”—a quick overview of the entire history of Sino-American relations from the 1830s to 1989. This will furnish us with a basic familiarity with the main events and issues. In weeks 4-9 we will then delve more deeply into specific themes and periods. Finally, weeks 10-13 will feature student presentations of their ongoing research projects.

Week 1 (Jan. 26): Introduction

Week 2 (Feb. 2): Lay of the Land I: Opium War to the 1911 Revolution

Wang, pp. 1-120

Timeline Assignment due online before class

Week 3 (Feb. 9): Lay of the Land II: World Wars, Revolutions, and after (to 1989)

Wang, pp. 123-246

Timeline Assignment due online before class; map quiz in class

Week 4 (Feb. 16): Trade and the “Open Door”

Arkush and Lee, pp. 15-56

Friday, Feb. 19: A paragraph describing approved research question due online by 5pm

Week 5 (Feb. 23): Migration, Exclusion, Occupation

Arkush and Lee, pp. 57-95

Week 6 (Mar. 1): Revolution, War, and Peace (1911-1931)

Arkush and Lee, 97-127

**Week 7 (Mar. 8): The Long War (1931-1953)**

Arkush and Lee, pp. 129-200

*Friday, Mar. 11: Research paper outline and bibliography due online by 5pm*

NO CLASS MAR. 15 (Spring Recess)

**Week 8 (Mar. 22): From Cold War to Opening (1953-1979)**

Arkush and Lee, 241-279

**Week 9 (Mar. 29): Toward the Present and Future**

Wang, pp. 247-330
Arkush and Lee, pp. 281-298

*Friday, Apr. 1: Preliminary paper draft due online by 5pm*

**Week 10 (Apr. 5): Student Presentations**

**Week 11 (Apr. 12): Student Presentations**

**Week 12 (Apr. 19): Student Presentations**

**Week 13 (Apr. 26): Student Presentations / Concluding Discussion**

Reading TBA

*Wednesday, May 4: Final Paper due by 5 pm.*