

Art and History in Modern China

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This course explores tensions between modernity and tradition, past and present, personal and universal, throughout the art and history of modern China. Some aspects of Chinese modernity can be traced back to the 17th century and even earlier, while others are the result of China's tumultuous history in the 19th and 20th centuries.

REQUIRED READING:

Andrews, Julia F. and Kuiyi Shen. *The Art of Modern China*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2012.

Schell, Orville and John Delury. *Wealth and Power: China's Long March to the Twenty-First Century*. New York: Random House, 2013.

Wasserstrom, Jeffrey N., ed. *The Oxford Illustrated History of Modern China*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016.

OFFICE HOURS: [...] I'm also available before and after class, and by appointment.

LECTURES: [...] Handouts and high-resolution PDFs of the slides from the lectures will be available on Blackboard immediately following class. Artworks that appear in both the lectures and the readings are marked by an asterisk [*] in the slides.

EXAMS: There will be two exams. The format is a hybrid between an art history exam and a history exam, combining art comparisons and history identifications. A list of the artworks for each exam will be available on Blackboard two weeks prior. The history identifications will be drawn from the lecture handouts.

PAPERS: There will be two papers. All students are free to write about history or art, or both, but majors are required to meet departmental objectives. [...]

PRESENTATIONS: These will be biographical, based on chapters in *Wealth and Power*. [...]

GRADING: Participation 10%; Presentation 10%; First Paper 15%; Midterm Exam 15%; Second Paper 25%; Final Exam 25%.

Week ONE (January 18)

Lecture: "Introduction; Late Imperial China"

Reading: *Wealth and Power*, Chapter 1. *History*, Chapter 1.

Week TWO (January 25)

Lecture: "Humiliation; Crisis"

Art Slides: "Traditional Painting & Calligraphy, 1850–1915"

Reading: *Art*, Chapter 1. *Wealth and Power*, Chapters 2–3. *History*, Chapter 2.

Week THREE (February 1)

Lecture: "Self-Strengthening; New Citizen"

Art Slides: "Traditional Painting & Calligraphy, 1915–1939"

Reading: *Art*, Chapter 2. *Wealth and Power*, Chapters 4–5. *History*, Chapter 3.

Week FOUR (February 8)

Lecture: "Revolution; New Youth"

Art Slides: "Modernist Painting to 1937"

Reading: *Art*, Chapter 3. *Wealth and Power*, Chapters 6–7. *History*, Chapter 4.

Week FIVE (February 15)

Lecture: "Unification; Not a Dinner Party"

Art Slides: "The Modern Woodcut Movement"

Reading: *Art*, Chapters 4 & 5. *Wealth and Power*, Chapter 8. *History*, Chapter 5.

Week SIX (February 22)

Lecture: "World War; Civil War"

Art Slides: "Art in Wartime, 1937–1949"

Reading: *Art*, Chapter 6. *Wealth and Power*, Chapter 9. *History*, Chapter 6.

[FIRST PAPER DUE]

Week SEVEN (March 1): [MIDTERM EXAM]

Week EIGHT (March 15)

Lecture: "New Society"

Art Slides: "Art in the People's Republic, 1949–1964"

Reading: *Art*, Chapters 7–8. *History*, Chapter 7.

Week NINE (March 22)

Lecture: "Creative Destruction"

Art Slides: "Art in the People's Republic, 1964–1979"

Reading: *Art*, Chapter 9. *Wealth and Power*, Chapter 10. *History*, Chapter 8.

Week TEN (March 29)

[FILM: *Morning Sun*]

Week ELEVEN (April 5)

Lecture: "Black Cat, White Cat"

Art Slides: "Experimental Art, 1979–1989"

Reading: *Art*, Chapter 10. *Wealth and Power*, Chapter 11. *History*, Chapter 9.

Week TWELVE (April 12)

Lecture: "Turmoil"

Art Slides: "Contemporary Art, 1989–2008, Part I"

Reading: *Art*, Chapters 11–12. *Wealth and Power*, Chapter 12. *History*, Chapter 10.

Week THIRTEEN (April 19)

Lecture: "Entering the World"

Art Slides: "Contemporary Art, 1989–2008, Part II"

Reading: *Art*, Chapter 13. *Wealth and Power*, Chapters 13–14. *History*, Chapter 11.

Week FOURTEEN (April 26)

[FILM: *Ai Weiwei: Never Sorry*]

[SECOND PAPER DUE]

Week FIFTEEN (May 5): [FINAL EXAM]