

**PUBLIC COPY ONLY (Canvas Access required for full Syllabus)**

**ANS 302C/HIS 302C Introduction to China  
Fall 2018**

**Dr. Chiu-Mi Lai**

**INTRODUCTION TO CHINESE CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION  
[All lectures, discussion and readings in English.]**

**Office Hours:**

**Teaching Assistant:**

**Required Text: (Available at University Co-op Bookstore)**

Charles A. Desnoyers, *Patterns of Modern Chinese History* (Oxford, 2017)

**[Additional readings on Canvas/Course Documents]**

**Recommended:**

Rana Mitter, *Modern China: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford, 2016)

Evan Osnos, *Age of Ambition – Chasing Fortune, Truth, and Faith in the New China* (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2014)

**Statement on Global Cultures Flag:** This course carries the Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one non-U.S. cultural group, past or present.

**Course Description:**

This course will provide an introduction to major concepts and ideas from Chinese cultural traditions to construct a course inquiry into understanding Chinese culture and society. A guiding principle in this course inquiry will be to investigate the past to help inform the present. The overall course inquiry: How is the present informed by an understanding of the past? How has the past shaped the present geopolitics?

Lectures and discussion will examine key concepts from art, history, language, literature, and thought that greatly shaped, and continue to influence, “Chinese” cultural and geopolitical entities.

**COURSE EXPECTATIONS**

- **This course will be graded on the Plus/Minus system.**
- There is no written final exam during the Final Exam period.

- *Late assignments will not be accepted for credit. There is no make-up of exams, assignments or presentations. (In legitimate cases for missed exam/presentation, official documentation must be provided within 1 week)*
- **Laptop and Other Electronic Devices Use Policy – All devices must be turned off during class.** Any use of these devices, including texting, websurfing, etc. will lead to dismissal from class (and marked as an absence for that day). **Repeat offenders will result in a filing of a report of academic problems.**
- **Laptops may be used for Oral Presentations only.**
- **Academic honesty is imperative. Acts of academic dishonesty will result in a failing grade.**
- **There is no official class attendance policy for this course but there are unannounced quizzes and graded discussion/participation exercises that cannot be made up.**

Attendance is vital for success in this course, in assimilating assigned readings and lectures, and I value your contribution to class discussion especially in assigned Roundtable discussions. As well, lectures will be vital to flesh out ideas and concepts from readings and for discussion, all of which cannot be replaced by reading lecture outlines online.

**Religious Holidays** – Religious holy days sometimes conflict with class and examination schedules. If you miss an examination, work assignment, or other project due to the observance of a religious holy day you will be given an opportunity to complete the work missed within a reasonable time **after** the absence. It is the policy of The University of Texas at Austin that **you must notify each of your instructors at least fourteen days prior to the classes scheduled on dates you will be absent** to observe a religious holy day.

**Final Course Grade will be based on the following (see Canvas course site):**

- I. 11% *Class and online discussion, participation and “preparedness”  
(unannounced reading quizzes and discussion exercises)*
- II. 50% *TWO Written Exams (Responses to Discussion and Reading Questions, based on  
Lectures, Readings, Class Discussion, and Roundtable Presentations)*
- III. 24% *ONE Roundtable Discussion and Video “Essay” (Designated Topics) –  
Canvas signup available after 12<sup>th</sup> class day*
- IV. 15% *Final Video Essay with written commentary\**  
\*in class option for oral presentation of essay (limited earned slots)

**Recommended:** View Sculpture by Ai Weiwei, ongoing installation in Austin  
<https://www.thecontemporaryaustin.org/exhibitions/ai-weiwei/>

**INTRODUCTION TO CONCEPTS AND IDEAS IN CHINA’S CULTURAL HISTORY**

- **IMPORTANT DATES:**  
EXAMS: 10/3 (in class) and 11/20 (take home, due 11/20)  
Roundtables (Video Essay): 11/5, 11/7, 11/14, 11/16  
Final Video Essay: 12/9 (in class option 12/10, limited earned slots)  
(No final exam during Final Exam Period.)
- See Syllabus on Canvas for detailed Course Expectations
- See Weekly “Modules” on Canvas for detailed schedule and access to other readings, assignment submission links, and announcements
- Lecture Outlines are posted on Canvas/Course Files (link on Modules)
- Recommended Lectures for background and supplementary information posted on Canvas/Course Files (link on Modules)
- Assignments due on Canvas/Assignments (link on Modules)  
**No late submissions accepted. No make-up of exams or presentations**  
(In legitimate cases for missed exam/presentation, official documentation must be provided within 1 week of missed exam/presentation. Acceptable documentation include those for emergency medical and sanctioned organizational and job-essential absences.)
- Unannounced reading quizzes, in-class informal writing discussion exercises, and/or “Canvas video comments” on assigned readings and lectures (No make-up)
- “Core Reading” assignments listed by section/chapter in required course text: Charles A. Desnoyers, *Patterns of Modern Chinese History* (Oxford, 2017) (abbreviated as *Patterns*)  
*Reading Tip: Consult “Timelines” pp. 4-6 and pp. 108-110; “Glossary” on pp. 403-415*
- Additional Assigned and Supplementary Readings on Canvas/Course Files (link on Modules)

**WEEKLY CLASS FORMAT (General Outline)**

- **Weeks 2-10 (Except for Week 6)**  
Mondays-Wednesdays: Lectures on Key Concepts for Designated Period  
Fridays: Lecture/Discussion
- **Weeks 11-12**  
Lectures and Roundtable Forums – Brief student presentations of Video Essays in “Roundtable” Forum and Discussion
- **Weeks 14-16**  
Lectures/Discussion – preparation and discussion of articles for Final Video Essay

Weeks 1-5 (8/29 – 9/28)	Introduction, Ancient China, Qin-Han Dynasties, Period of Northern and Southern Dynasties
Week 6 (10/1-10/5)	Review and EXAM 1 (in class)
Weeks 7-10 (10/8-11/2)	Tang-Qing Dynasties
Weeks 11-12 (11/5-11/16)	Lectures and Roundtable Presentations: From the Qing to the Republic (Empire to Nation)  Individual Video “Essays” for designated Roundtable topics
Week 13 (11/19-11/20)	Review and EXAM 2  Take home: due 11/20 by 11:59 pm on Canvas  <i>Weds-Friday THANKSGIVING BREAK</i>
Weeks 14-15 (11/26-12/7)	Modern and Contemporary China  Final Video “Essay”
Week 16 12/10 “Chinese”	Course Overview: Contemporary China – What makes it  In class presentations of Final Video Essay (limited earned slots)

## **Use of Canvas**

This course uses Canvas, a Web-based course management system in which a password-protected site is created for each course. Canvas can be used to distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, to post grades, to submit assignments, and to take online quizzes and surveys.

You will be responsible for checking the Canvas course site regularly for class work and announcements. As with all computer systems, there are occasional scheduled downtimes as well as unanticipated disruptions. Notifications of these disruptions will be posted on the Canvas login page. Scheduled downtimes are **not** an excuse for late work. However, if there is an unscheduled downtime for a significant period of time, I will make an adjustment if it occurs close to the due date.

Canvas is available at <http://canvas.utexas.edu>. Support is provided by the ITS Help Desk at 475-9400 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., so plan accordingly.

## **The UT Library**

The UT Library offers resource help and many services. The following link is for Undergraduate Students:

Website: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu>

## **The Undergraduate Writing Center**

The Undergraduate Writing Center provides individual, professional advice on all aspects of writing to UT undergraduates on a drop-in basis or by appointment. Location: PCL 2.330.

Website: <http://uwc.utexas.edu/>

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

### **The University of Texas Honor Code**

The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the University is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community.

### **University Electronic Mail Notification Policy**

#### **(Use of E-mail for Official Correspondence to Students)**

All students should become familiar with the University's official e-mail student notification policy. It is the student's responsibility to keep the University informed as to changes in his or her e-mail address. Students are expected to check e-mail on a frequent and regular basis in order to stay current with University-related communications, recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical. It is recommended that e-mail be checked daily, but at a minimum, twice per week. The complete text of this policy and instructions for updating your e-mail address are available at

<http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html>.

In this course e-mail will be used as a means of communication with students. You will be responsible for checking your e-mail regularly for class work and announcements. Note: if you are an employee of the University, your e-mail address in Canvas is your employee address.

### **Documented Disability Statement**

Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (Video Phone) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations. See Website below for more information:

<http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/ssd/providing.php>