China in Transformation

I. Course Description:

This course deals with the transformation of China from a traditional type of society to a modern nation. Two major themes, nationalism and communism, will serve as organizing threads throughout the course. Major events in the past, such as the Taiping Rebellion, the May Four Movement, Communist victory, will be selectively and emphatically explored. It aims at an understanding of China’s modern history and sheds lights on the contemporary era. Required are one book review and a research paper of approximately 15 pages on any topic related to modern China.

Class sessions will consist of lectures, discussions and student presentations. Students have to finish all readings before coming to any particular class.

II. Required Textbooks:

- W. Travis Hanes and Frank Sanello, *The Opium Wars*
- Gu Hongming, *The Spirit of the Chinese People* (on reserve)
- Ba Jin, *The Family*
- Iris Chang, *The Rape of Nanking*
- William Stueck, *Rethinking the Korean War*
- Jasper Becker, *Hungry Ghosts*
- Alan Lawrance, ed., *China Since 1919: A Sourcebook* (on reserve)

III. Grading:

- Book report: 10%
- Mid-term --------20%
- Final exam -------- 30%
- Term paper --------30%
- Attendance and Discussion --------10%

Class Schedules and Readings:

**Lecture 1: Introduction: Traditional China**
Readings: Schoppa, Chap. 1-2; start reading *The Opium Wars*

**Lecture 2: Trade, Wars and Treaties**
Readings: Schoppa, Chap. 3: *The Opium Wars*

**Lecture 3: Rebellions**
Readings: Schoppa, Chap. 4-5; Finish *The Opium Wars*

**Discussion:** nature of the Opium Wars

**Lecture 4: From Reform to Revolution**
Readings: Schoppa, Chap. 6-7; The Spirit of the Chinese People

**Lecture 5: The May 4th Movement**
Readings: Schoppa, Chap. 8-9; Lawrence, Chap. 1; finish reading The Family
Discussion: clash of civilizations?

**Lecture 6: The Nationalists**
Readings: Schoppa, Chap. 10-11; Lawrence, chap. 2, 4

**Lecture 7: The Communists**
Readings: Schoppa, Chap. 12; Lawrence, chap. 3

**Mid-term and Research Paper Presentations:**

**Lecture 8: War against Japan**
Readings: Schoppa, 13-14; Lawrence, chap. 4; The Rape of Nanking

**Lecture 9: Communists Revolution**
Readings: Schoppa, Chap. 15; Lawrence, chap. 5-6; Rethinking the Korean War
Discussion: what was responsible for the Communist success?

**Lecture 10: China and the Cold War**
Readings: Schoppa, Chap. 16; Lawrence, chap. 7; start reading Hungry Ghosts

**Lecture 11 (Apr. 5): The Great Leap Forward**
Readings: Schoppa, Chap. 17; Lawrence, chap. 8-9; finish Hungry Ghosts
Discussion: causes for the Marxist failure

**Lecture 12 (Apr. 12): The Cultural Revolution**
Readings: Schoppa, Chap. 17-18; Lawrence, chap. 10

Final exam and submission of research paper