Course Title : HISTORY OF CHINA IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Course Code : HST203/GEC303

No. of Credits/Term : 3

Mode of Tuition : Sectional approach

Class Contact Hours : 3 hours per week

Category in Major Prog. : Elective

Prerequisite(s) : None

Co-requisite(s) : None

Exemption Requirement(s) : N/A

Brief Course Description : This course introduces students to the major trends in the history of China since 1900. Topics are organized chronologically and thematically.

Aims : Students are expected to understand the sequential development and major themes of 20th century China, such as the quest for modernity, the state-making and nation-building attempts, the practicing of socialism and communism, the change in the relationship between the state, intellectuals, and the masses, etc.

Learning Outcomes : Students will be able to
(1) explain the constancy and change in the political development of 20th century China.
(2) conduct research using primary sources.
(3) analyze current Chinese issues with a historical perspective.

Indicative Content : I. The Collapse of the Old Order
A. Treaty System
B. Change in State-society Relations
C. From Reform to Revolution

II. Making a New Political Culture
A. Creating New Ceremonies and Symbols
B. The Quest for a Chinese Civil Society
C. Anarchism and Communism
III. State-making and Nation-building, 1920s-1930s
   A. Creating New National Culture and Symbols
   B. The State and the Capitalists
   C. The Quest for Modernity and the Limits of Change

IV. Making a Class Society
   A. CCP and the Mobilization of the Masses
   B. CCP and the Intellectuals
   C. The Yan’an Way

V. State-making and Nation-building, 1949-1950s
   A. Creating New National Symbols
   B. Putting Socialism into Practice
   C. Handling Contradictions

VI. The Cultural Revolution
   A. Permanent Revolution
   B. The Mao Cult and the Masses
   C. Organizational Causes of Violence

VII. From Revolution to Reform
   A. Transition to Capitalism
   B. The Fifth Modernization
   C. Change in State-society Relations

Teaching Method: This course is taught partly as lectures, partly as seminars with assigned readings and discussions.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes: (1) individual research paper: to evaluate students’ ability to synthesize scholarly research and primary sources.
   (2) examination: to assess students’ ability to explain the constancy and change in the historical development of modern China.
   (3) intensive class discussion and presentations: to assess students’ ability to critically analyze scholarly literature and connect the past to current issues.
   (4) film reviews: to evaluate students’ ability to use films critically as historical sources.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment 65%
                   Examination 35%
Required Readings: Selected readings from the following:


