

Comparative Urban Modernities: China and the United States
HIST 3990 To2 Seminar, 2018-19
Friday, 11:30am-1:20pm
Fall Term: 377 University College/ Winter Term: location TBA

Profs. Tina M. Chen and David S. Churchill

Tina.Chen@umanitoba.ca and David.Churchill@umanitoba.ca

Tel: 204-474-9149

Office Hours: 361 University College. 10:30am-12pm Wednesdays.

Course Description

This course is an introduction to modes of learning and scholarly engagement important to HIST seminar courses, including building the skills and knowledge for higher-level study and scholarship in the field of History. The course also develops knowledge of particular historical moments and processes, and familiarizes students with specific methodologies. This course centers on an exploration of the dynamics and crises of modernity in China and the United States. The course is rooted in urban history and students will learn about the specific histories of New York City and major metropolises in China including Beijing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong. The course also encourages students to think about how we study similar historical dynamics and processes in different places and across a broad time period. Methodologically, we will be approaching the histories of urban centres in the USA and China through the lenses of local history, world history, transnational history, and comparative history. Thematically, we will explore: (a) the modern girl as symbol of modernity; (b) materiality of the built and natural environment in urban space; (c) regulation of public spaces.

Expectations

This course is an introduction to the seminar class format and experience for History Majors and is a requirement in the attainment of an Honours Degree. Students will be expected to do intensive reading on a weekly basis; learn how to analyze scholarly writing; participate fully in discussion; differentiate a range of primary and secondary source materials and evidence; learn basic research methods; and produce an original piece of scholarly writing.

Required Texts

Students can purchase books at the University of Manitoba Bookstore or through other vendors including e-books and kindle. Other readings can be accessed through the University of Manitoba Libraries. Students are responsible for downloading or borrowing library materials as needed. In instances where materials are not available through UM libraries or for purchase, the readings will be made available on UMLearn.

Course Assignments

1. Weekly Assignments

Total: 25% of Final Grade. Ongoing and various due dates.

A. Annotated Timeline (all year) – Timeline 3D – 10%

Students will be responsible for identifying key events from readings to post to a shared timeline. The timeline entries will include basic information (what, where, when), as well as additional text box addressing significance or other compelling details. Entries may also include images or video clips.

During Fall term, the last 30 minutes of each class will be dedicated to sharing timeline entries. Please note: the class will be divided into 3 groups so that even though we discuss timeline entries weekly, each student only presents entries every 3rd week. Following the class, students will edit their entries based on peer feedback and upload their entries to a shared class timeline. Winter term students are still required to upload entries regularly, with periodic review and discussion of entries throughout the term.

The goal is to have a collective timeline at the end of each term, that we may choose to circulate more widely as a collaborative course project on comparative urban modernities.

B. Fall Term Reading Notes – 10%

Reading notes for at least two readings per week will be handed in at the conclusion of each class. These notes will be based on a pre-circulated template. Students will hand in readings notes for 9 classes in Fall Term. Hard-copy notes only.

Note: Students will have one 'late pass' on reading notes. This means you can hand in notes the following week ONCE (but the notes must be received prior to Thursday of the following week). After this, no late reading notes will be accepted.

C. Winter Term

Primary Source Analysis – 5%. Various dates between Jan. 4 to Feb. 1 2019.

Written paper is due 1 week after in-class presentation.

Students will be divided into groups of 3. The group is responsible for selecting a primary document relevant to the readings for the week. This document **MUST** be circulated to the class at least 1 week prior to the presentation date. The group will prepare to lead a discussion of the document (including context, close reading of the source as historical text, and making connections to modes of analysis/methodology in the readings). Following the class, the students who presented that week will individually prepare a written primary source analysis essay of approximately 750-800 words.

2. Classroom Participation: 10%

Students will be expected to participate in classroom discussion and analysis of the reading. This is often a significant challenge to students who have not had the expectation or opportunity of presenting ideas and engaging in constructive discussion in a collegial setting. Nonetheless students need to be able to communicate and enter into discussion with their cohort. This class will help students develop the skills and

confidence for oral engagement with scholarly readings and each other. If a student is unable to do this in class they must work with the instructor to find an alternative interactive forum such as a blog/vlog they can share with the class.

Students should note that attendance is merely a prerequisite to seminar participation. That is, if you are not in class you cannot earn participation marks. However, simply being in class does not earn you any participation marks. Regular thoughtful participation based on adequate preparation is expected from all students.

To prepare for class discussion students should approach the text(s) based on the following considerations: (i) descriptive content; (ii) the analytic arguments/insights; (iii) types of evidence and sources; (iv) the organizational frame of the work. Specific questions for consideration are:

- What is the subject matter of the text?
- What is the larger context of the work (location/period)/events)?
- Does the author refer to specific works of history, theoretical texts, that are being engaged and/or responded to?
- What categories of analysis is the author utilizing (class, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, modernization, agency, hegemony, political culture, etc.)?
- How does the author organize the article or book?
- What sorts of sources does the author use?
- How does the author support their findings?
- How does the author organize the article or book?

3. Historiographical Essays – 15 % of final course grade (2 essays, each worth 7.5%). Each essay will be approximately 1500 words.

Students will write two short historiographical essays. More details for each historiographical essay will be provided in class.

Due Dates: November 23, 2018

Due Date: February 1, 2019.

4. Research Essay Proposal: Short research essay proposal consisting of: (i) a brief statement regarding the topic of the research essay (300 to 400 words); (ii) list of primary sources to be consulted and timeline of plans to acquire the primary sources; (iii) bibliography list of works to be consulted and referenced.

5% of Final Grade. January 11, 2019

5. Research Seminar Essay: This is a major assignment. Students are required to do an in depth scholarly paper on a topic approved by the instructors. The essay will build on one of the major themes of the course, and will provide a critical analysis of the existing literature on that theme. The paper must be drawn from both primary and secondary source materials. This material may be difficult to get so students are advised to work well in advance and to utilize Document Delivery

(<http://umanitoba.ca/libraries/units/docdel/contact.html>) at the Dafoe Library for collections of letters, periodicals, newspapers, government documents etc. that might be available from research libraries and archives. Drafts of the essays will be circulated amongst the students for constructive critical review in the weeks prior to the submission deadline. We will discuss expectation and review examples of these essays in greater detail in class. Your essay must be between 16-20 pages (approximately 4000-5000 words).

25% of Final Grade. Due March 29, 2019

- 6. Final Exam Take Home:** Students will answer two essay questions based on the assigned readings. One essay will be from readings in Term 1 and the other from readings from Term 2. We will develop the essay questions consultatively in class in Term 2.

20% of Final Grade. Due date TBA

Voluntary Withdrawal Date

The last date for voluntary withdrawal from this course is **January 18, 2019**. Evaluation and feedback will be provided to you before this date.

Assignments and Late Policy

All written assignments should be typed and double spaced. Further details about written assignments will be provided in class. Pay close attention to due dates. Extensions will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Papers are due in class, in hard copy, on the date indicated. Please make sure you print your assignments. We may request electronic copies of assignments but please do not email or upload assignments unless directly requested. Late papers will be penalized 2.5% per day.

Students who wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the term work have been made available to them. Uncollected term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.

Statement on Academic Dishonesty

Students should acquaint themselves with the University's policy on plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty in the General Academic Regulations in the online Academic Calendar and Catalogue and the Faculty of Arts regulation

http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student_resources/student_responsibilities_integrity.html)

which reads: *The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is a grade of F on the paper and a final grade of F (DISC) (for Disciplinary Action) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty.*

The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism or to other experts for authentication. The common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is F for the paper, F (DISC) for the

course, and a one-year suspension from courses acceptable for credit the Faculty. For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department or program in Arts or from all courses taught in or accepted for credit by this Faculty.

Computers, Cellular Phones, Tablets etc.

Students will only be allowed to use computers or other electronic devices for taking notes with the permission of instructor. All phones must be on silent/vibrate mode and stored in pockets, bags or purses for the duration of the class. Texting, instant messaging, surfing the web etc. is not appropriate in class, students engaging in any of these activities will be asked to leave.

Essay and Assignment Citations and Format

All assignments should be printed double-spaced and in 12 point Font Size. Students should use humanities citation style with footnotes. For a guide to proper citation consult Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*. A copy of this manual can be found in the reference room at the Elizabeth Dafoe Library (LB2369 T8 1987). Or students can consult the *Chicago Manual of Style Online*.

<http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html>

Marking Scale

A+ 88-100%	C+ 65-59%
A 80-87%	C 60-64%
B+ 75-79%	D 50-59%
B 70-74%	F 0-49%

Reading List and specific topics to be distributed on the first day of class.