

**Division of Humanities
Tentative Course Syllabus**

Course Code: HUMA 2440
Course Title: 20th Century China in Documentary Films
Course Offered in: Spring 2019
Course Instructor: Professor David CHANG

Course Description: This course presents the turbulent history of twentieth century China through documentary films. In addition to reading historical texts, we will study various films made by journalists and filmmakers of the time and in recent years. In the first half of the semester we will cover major historical events from the 1911 revolution to 1989. In the second half, through closely studying documentary films we will focus on several themes, including China's role in WWII, the Anti-Rightist Campaign, the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution, and the Tiananmen Incident in 1989. Some of the films are in English and some in Chinese with subtitles.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs):

	Course ILOs
1	Familiar with major historical events and general trends in 20th century China
2	Think historically and critically about history and films
3	Understand history as personalized and lived experiences
4	Conduct oral history interviews and write oral history report
5	Produce a short documentary film

Course Outline:

Week	Topics
1	Introduction (Film: <i>China: A Century of Revolution</i>)
2	The Late Qing and the 1911 Revolution
3	The May Fourth Movement and The Rise of Chinese Nationalism
4	The War of Resistance against Japan
5	The Communist victory
6	The Mao Years (1949-1976)

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7	Deng Xiaoping and the Reform Years
8	Film: <i>The 400 Million</i> (Ivens & Capa, 1939), & various WWII news reels
9	Film: <i>The Search for Lin Zhao's Soul</i> (Hu Jie, 2008)
10	Film: <i>The Morning Sun</i> (Hinton, 2003)
11	Film: <i>From Mao to Mozart: Isaac Stern in China</i> (1981)
12	Film: <i>Tiananmen</i> (Hinton, 1998)
13	Student oral history and film presentation

Planned Assessment Tasks:

Mid-term tests:	40%
Written assignments:	20%
Project reports:	15%
Course participation:	10%
Short Documentary:	15%

Three samples of readings:

Spence, Jonathan D. *The Search for Modern China*. New York: Norton, 2013..

Berry, Chris, Lu Xinyu, and Lisa Rofel, eds. *The New Chinese Documentary Film Movement: For the Public Record*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2011.

Robinson, Luke. *Independent Chinese Documentary: From the Studio to the Street*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.