

**EASTD 197:
China's Cultural Revolution
Fall 2019**

Tuesday and Thursday 10:30-11:30
Section to be arranged
Room 212 at 2 Divinity Avenue

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Office Hours: Thursday 2:30 – 4pm
2 Divinity Avenue, Room 227

Course Description: This course introduces a cataclysmic movement that brought the People's Republic of China to the brink of anarchy: The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution (1966-1976). The first part looks at historical precursors, including rebellion in the imperial era, political movements in the Republican Era, Communist campaigns and purges, as well as the Great Leap Forward famine that cost tens of millions of lives. Paying equal attention to elite politics at Mao Zedong's "court" and the lived experiences of ordinary citizens, the second part focuses on the evolution of the turmoil, once Mao had called for "bombarding the headquarters" of his own party state, discussing the Red Guards, the worker rebels in Shanghai, local power seizures, factional warfare, military crackdowns, the "Gang of Four," the "coup attempt" by Lin Biao, and finally the return to order. The third part begins with the reception of the movement abroad, and focuses on its afterlives, including the quasi-pluralist lessons drawn in the immediate aftermath, the role of Cultural Revolution legacies in decisions such as the violent crackdown on the Tiananmen protesters in 1989, and memory politics under Xi Jinping. No language requirement.

Class Participation:

Students are required to attend class and participate actively during sections. Every week by noon on Monday, students will post short responses (100-200 words) to the readings of this week to the course website, posing questions or raising issues they would like to address in section. Any student who has to miss a class should communicate with the instructor beforehand.

Grades:

Student work will contribute to the final grade in the following proportions:

Participation (online and sections)	20%
Analysis of a primary document (1,500-2,000 words, due Oct 22)	20%
Midterm examination (Nov 12)	25%
Final paper (4,000-4,500 words, due by Registrar's deadline)	35%

To be fair to all students in the class, the final paper deadline is firm. Late papers turned in without an extension will be penalized 1/3 of a grade to 1 full grade, depending on the circumstances.

Collaboration & Academic Honesty:

Collaboration is vital to academic research and will be encouraged throughout the class. You must credit others for any ideas or evidence that they contribute to your project in your citations. Any instances of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will be reported to the Honor Council.

Language of Instruction: This course is taught in English and has no other language requirement. Please consult instructor for additional resources in other languages, especially in Chinese.

Readings: Most of the readings will be available online on the course website, all other readings will be held on reserve at the Harvard-Yenching Library and/or the Fung Library. I strongly recommend buying the textbook Walder, A. 2015. *China under Mao: A Revolution Derailed*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. In addition, you could also buy (1) Yang, R. 1997. *Spider Eaters: A Memoir*. Berkeley: University of California Press. (2) Ji, X., & Jiang, C. 2016. *The Cowshed : Memories of the Chinese Cultural Revolution*. New York: New York Review Books. For prices, see <https://tinyurl.com/300-F19-EALC-197-1>

Weekly readings:

9/3 Introduction & overview

PART I: PRECURSORS AND ORIGINS

9/10 Deep precursors

- Naquin, S. 1981. *Shantung Rebellion: The Wang Lun Uprising of 1774*. New Haven: Yale University Press. Read pp. 37-149.
- Cohen, P. 1997. *History in Three Keys: The Boxers as Event, Experience, and Myth*. New York: Columbia University Press. Read chapter 9, “The Cultural Revolution and the Boxers,” pp. 261-288.

9/17 Communist precursors: Yan'an rectification, land reform, and Hundred Flowers

- Saich, Tony. 1996. “The Historical Origins of the Chinese Cultural Revolution.” *China Information* 11, no. 2-3, pp. 21-34.
- MacFarquhar, R. 1974. *The Origins of the Cultural Revolution*. New York: Columbia University Press. Read volume 1, chapter 16 “Blooming and Contending” (pp.218-249) and volume 1, chapter 17 “The Publication of the Contradictions Speech” (pp.261-269).
- Yang, K. 2015. “How a ‘Bad Element’ Was Made: The Discovery, Accusation, and Punishment of Zang Qiren.” In *Maoism at the Grassroots: Everyday Life in China’s Era of High Socialism*, edited by Brown, J., Cambridge: Harvard University Press, pp.19-50.

9/24 The Great Leap Forward

- Dikötter, F. 2011. *Mao's Great Famine: The History of China's Most Devastating Catastrophe, 1958-1962*. New York: Walker & Co. Read “Preface,” “Launching Sputniks,” “Warning Signs,” “On the Sly,” “Exodus,” “Disease,” “The Gulag,” “Violence.”
- MacFarquhar, R. 1974. *The Origins of the Cultural Revolution: The Great Leap Forward*. New York: Columbia University Press. Read volume 2, chapter 10 “High Noon at Lushan” (pp.187-251).

PART II: “TEN YEARS OF CHAOS”

10/1 “Bombard the headquarters:” The first weeks of the movement

- Video: Hinton, C., et al. 2005. *Morning Sun*. Brookline: Long Bow Group.
- Walder, A. 2015. *China under Mao: A Revolution Derailed*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Read chapter 10 “Fractured Rebellion” (pp. 200-230).

10/8 Student Red Guards

- Yang, R. 1997. *Spider Eaters: A Memoir*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Leese, D. 2011. *Mao Cult : Rhetoric and Ritual in the Cultural Revolution*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Read chapter 5, “The Little Red Book” (pp.108-127).

- Perry, E., et al. 1993. "Revolutionary Rudeness : The Language of Red Guards and Rebel Workers in China's Cultural Revolution." *Indiana East Asian Working Paper Series on Language and Politics in Modern China 2*. Bloomington: Indiana University.

10/15 Worker rebels and factional warfare

- Walder, A. 2015. *China under Mao*. Read chapter 11 "Collapse and Division" (pp. 231-262).
- Perry, E., & Li, X. 1997. *Proletarian Power: Shanghai in the Cultural Revolution*. Boulder: Westview Press. Read chapter 2 "Rebels: The Workers' General Headquarters," pp.29-69.
- MacFarquhar, R. & Schoenhals, M. 2006. *Mao's Last Revolution*. Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press. Read chapter 12 "The Wuhan Incident" (pp.199-220).

10/22 Collective killings and military violence

- Walder, A. 2015. *China under Mao*. Read chapter 12 "Military Rule" (pp. 263-286).
- Su, Y. 2011. *Collective Killings in Rural China During the Cultural Revolution*. New York: Cambridge University Press. Read chapter 1 "Kill Thy Neighbor" (pp. 1-34).
- Schoenhals, M. 2005. "Why Don't We Arm the Left? - Mao's Culpability for the Cultural Revolution's 'Great Chaos' of 1967." *China Quarterly*, no.182, pp. 277-300.

10/29 Intellectuals and sent-down youth

- Li, Z., et al. 2003. *Red-Color News Soldier: A Chinese Photographer's Odyssey through the Cultural Revolution*. New York: Phaidon. pp. 19-28, 71-80, 131-140, 203-212, 247-256.
- Ji, X., & Jiang, C. 2016. *The Cowshed : Memories of the Chinese Cultural Revolution*. New York: New York Review Books.
- Yang, G. 2016. *The Red Guard Generation and Political Activism in China*. New York: Columbia University Press. Read chapter 5 "Underground Culture" (pp.119-141).

11/5 Return to order, Mao's death and the end of the Gang of Four

- Walder, A. 2015. *China under Mao*. Read ch.13 "Discord and Dissent" (pp. 287-314).
- Jin, Q. 1999. *The Culture of Power: The Lin Biao Incident in the Cultural Revolution*. Read chapter 7 "The Lin Biao Incident" (pp.163-199).
- Dong, G. and Walder A. 2012. "Nanjing's 'Second Cultural Revolution' of 1974." *China Quarterly* 212, pp. 893-918.
- MacFarquhar, R. & Schoenhals M. 2006. *Mao's Last Revolution*. Cambridge: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press. Read chapter 14 "The Tiananmen Incident of 1976" (pp.413-430) and chapter 15 "The Last Days of Chairman Mao" (pp.431-449).

PART III: RECEPTION AND AFTERLIVES

11/12 International reception

- Video: Ivens, Y. 1976. *The Football Incident*. Nijmegen: Europese Stichting Joris Ivens (20 min., English and Dutch soundtracks).
- Perry, E. 1999. "From Paris to the Paris of the East and Back: Workers As Citizens in Modern Shanghai." *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 41(2), 348-373.
- Bourg, J. 2014. "Principally Contradiction: The Flourishing of French Maoism." In *Mao's Little Red Book: A Global History*, edited by Cook, A., Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, chapter 14.
- Lovell, J. 2016. "The Cultural Revolution and Its Legacies in International Perspective." *China Quarterly* 227, pp. 632-52.

11/19 Official verdict and societal impact

- Zhongguo gong chan dang. 1981. *Resolution on CPC History (1949-81)*. Beijing, China: Foreign Languages Press.
- Kleinman, A. & Kleinman, J. 1994. "How Bodies Remember: Social Memory and Bodily Experience of Criticism, Resistance, and Delegitimation following China's Cultural Revolution." *New Literary History* 25:3, pp. 707-23.

11/26 Afterlives

- Li, J. 2016. "Introduction: Discerning Red Legacies in China." In Li, J. & Zhang, E. *Red Legacies in China: Cultural Afterlives of the Communist Revolution*. Cambridge: Harvard University Asia Center, pp.1-22.
- Tian, X. 2018. "Why is it Still so Hard to Talk About the Cultural Revolution?" In Rudolph, J., & Szonyi, M. *The China Questions: Critical Insights Into a Rising Power*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

12/3 Legacies today

- MacFarquhar, R. 2016. "The Once and Future Tragedy of the Cultural Revolution." *China Quarterly* 227, pp.599-603.