GRADUATE READING SEMINAR on

GOVERNING CHINA IN LATE IMPERIAL AND MODERN TIMES

Course description:

With the fall of the Qing and the founding of the Republic in 1911, political arrangements in China underwent significant changes. The Qing Empire transformed into a Chinese Republic. The Chinese Republic contained frontiers and borderlands that defied the unifying and standardizing constructions of a Republican Chinese citizenship. Tension between the heartland and the frontier poses major challenges to 20th-century Chinese aspirations for the building of an integrated Chinese nation-state.

In this seminar we examine key issues in the governing of China in late imperial and modern times. We view governance practices as changing in different ways under diverging circumstances. Readings will include foundational texts in the field. But the syllabus is designed to bring the class up to date with the most recent scholarships.

Students in this seminar are expected to take turns leading seminar discussions each week. Students should plan to submit, every other week, a three-page response paper based on seminar discussions and required readings. Final assignment for the course is a fifteen-page review essay on a topic of the student’s own choice that draws on at least five titles required in the syllabus.

A general familiarity (undergraduate upper-division level) with late imperial and modern Chinese history is a prerequisite.

Grade assignment for the semester will be calculated according to the following formula: attendance and seminar participations: 25%; response papers: 40%; final essay: 35%.

READING SYLLABUS

Week I – January 25

Organizational Meeting

Part I: Envisioning the World
Week II – February 1


Week III – February 8


Week IV – February 15


Week V – February 22

Benjamin Schwartz, *In Search of Wealth and Power: Yen Fu and the West* (Harvard University Press, 1964)

Part II: Dealing with the People

Week VI – March 1


Week VII – March 8


**Week VIII – March 15**


**Week IX – March 22 (AAS meeting in San Diego. NO class.)**

**Spring Break**

**Part III: Bordering China**

**Week X – April 5**


**Week XI – April 12**


**Week XII – April 19**

Thomas Mullaney, *Coming to Terms with the Nation: Ethnic Classification in Modern China* (California 2011), **ISBN: 978-0-520-26278-2**

**Week XIII –April 26**

**Part IV: Constructing the New Era**

**Week XIV – May 3**
