

**Course Syllabus**  
**Online HIS 591: 01**  
**Readings in Asian History: Modern Chinese History**  
**3 Credit Hours, Summer 2008**

Dr. Tracy Steele

Office Phone:(936)294-1480

Department Secretary's Office: (936)294-1475

**E-MAIL ADDRESS:** [his\\_tls@shsu.edu](mailto:his_tls@shsu.edu)

**Web Address:** [http://www.shsu.edu/~his\\_tls/](http://www.shsu.edu/~his_tls/)

### **Contact**

Contact will be primarily through the internet. My office hours for Summer I are between 10 AM and 11 AM, but I will also be available at other times. My office hours during Summer II will be from 9 AM to 10 AM.

### **Blackboard and Computer Support**

The telephone number for the **Help Desk** is **(936)294-1950**. Sam Houston State University's Help Desk is open from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Central Standard Time, Monday through Friday. Jacob Spradlin is in charge of the Blackboard system. His number is 936-294-3929. I would recommend that you call him if you have a serious problem with the system. I have found in the past few years of teaching this online course that when you have problems with Blackboard, I usually am experiencing the same problems and it is because Blackboard is down for updating. These problems are normally sorted out within a few hours, certainly within 24 hours.

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### **Getting Started -- First Steps for this Class**

1. Please ALWAYS use the same e-mail address throughout the duration of this course in order to avoid confusion. Students must use their student accounts to participate in the course via blackboard.
2. Please see the calendar at Blackboard to get an overview of all class deadlines.
3. This is an intensive course schedule and it will require a great deal of commitment and self-discipline, but will be rewarding.

**Course Texts (all these texts are available either through Amazon or can be**

obtained through the library)

**Jonathon D. Spence, *Return to Dragon Mountain: Memories of a Late Ming Man*, Viking 2007 (Paperback edition available)**

**Jonathon D. Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, 2nd Edition, W.W. Norton & Co. 1999 (Paperback edition available)**

**Jonathon D. Spence, *Treason by the Book*, Viking (Penguin Press) 2001 (Paperback edition available)**

**Joanna Waley-Cohen, *The Sextants of Beijing: Global Currents in Chinese History*, W.W. Norton & Co. 1999 (paperback edition available)**

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### **Important Dates for Summer School 2008**

June 3 TUESDAY. First class day. Late Registration. Process class schedule changes. Refer to the Schedule of Classes for details and deadlines. Evening Classes Begin.

June 4 WEDNESDAY. Last day to register and to process schedule changes.

June 6 FRIDAY. Classes Meet.

June 6 FRIDAY. Fourth Class Day. Last day to drop without a "Q" and receive 100% refund for regular and 10 week courses by 5:00 p.m.

June 13 FRIDAY. Classes Meet.

June 13 FRIDAY. Half-session courses end. Last day to drop a half-semester course for the First Summer Session with a "Q" by 5:00 p.m.. Last day to resign from half session courses receiving a mark of "W" by 5:00 p.m.

June 20 FRIDAY. Classes Meet.

June 27 FRIDAY. Classes Meet.

June 30 MONDAY. Last Class Day. Last day to resign receiving a mark of "W" by 5:00 p.m. Last day to drop a course without the grade of "F", before taking any scheduled exams or the last business day, whichever comes first (must be processed by 5:00 p.m.).

July 1 TUESDAY. Final examinations. Residence halls close at 10 p.m.

July 2 WEDNESDAY. 9:00 a.m. Deadline for filing grades with the Registrar's Office.

July 4 FRIDAY. University Holiday. First Summer Session ends.

July 8 TUESDAY. First class day. Late Registration. Process class schedule changes. Refer to the Schedule of Classes for details and deadlines. Evening Classes Begin.

July 9 WEDNESDAY. Last day to register and to process schedule changes.

July 11 FRIDAY. Fourth Class Day. Last day to drop without a "Q" and receive 100% refund by 5:00 p.m. Classes Meet.

July 17 THURSDAY. Half-session courses end. Last day to drop a half session course for the Second Summer Session with a "Q" by 5:00 p.m. Last day to resign for half-session courses receiving the mark of "W" by 5:00 p.m.

July 18 FRIDAY. Classes meet.

July 25 FRIDAY. Deadline for submission of theses and dissertations to the appropriate academic dean's office. Classes Do Not Meet.

August 1 FRIDAY. Classes Do Not Meet.

August 6 WEDNESDAY. Last Class Day. Last day to resign receiving a mark of "W" by 5:00 p.m. Last day to drop a course without the grade of "F", before taking any scheduled exams or the last business day, whichever comes first (must be processed by 5:00 p.m.).

August 7 THURSDAY. Final examinations. Residence halls close at 12:00 Noon.

August 9 SATURDAY. TENTATIVE. Commencement, Bernard G. Johnson Coliseum

August 11 MONDAY. 9:00 a.m. Deadline for filing grades with the Registrar's Office. Second Summer Session ends

**Main Text : Jonathon D. Spence, *The Search for Modern China*, 2nd Edition**

**Journalization of the Main Text (50%)**

*The Search for Modern China* (2nd Edition) is one of the finest books on Chinese history to have been published. Its author is a widely acclaimed scholar at Yale University and past president of the American Historical Association. Although Spence has written numerous books on various topics of Chinese history, this overview of

modern China since the late Ming Dynasty meets the needs of the course objective.

The purpose of this assignment is to ensure that students develop knowledge of modern China since the sixteenth century. **Students should be aware that the second edition is being used for this course. Please check to make sure that you have borrowed or purchased the correct edition.**

This assignment is a summary, in your own words, of each chapter of the book, which are divided into five sections. The journalization of **each chapter should be four pages, double-spaced in Arial, 12 pitch**. Your journalizations should not include frequent or lengthy quotes. Your name should be at the top of each assignment along with the chapter name and your e-mail address. Please add page numbers and turn in all assignments using **Microsoft Word**. Please post all chapters in one document for each individual assignment to Blackboard under Discussion Board. Grading will be based on the accuracy of fact and interpretation. Egregious typos and grammatical errors may cause the assignment grade to drop by several grades and the student may be asked to resubmit the assignment with corrections. Your assignments may also be turned in to the Writing Center to be reviewed before being posted to Blackboard to the Discussion Board. Each journalization is worth 10% of the final grade.

All journalizations of this text should be posted to Blackboard's Discussion Board and e-mailed to Dr. Steele at [his\\_tls@shsu.edu](mailto:his_tls@shsu.edu) by Monday afternoons by 5:00 PM.

Assignment from <i>The Search for Modern China</i> , 2nd Edition	Date to Post Assignment
Please access <a href="#">Blackboard</a>	
Section I: Conquest and Consolidation - <b>6 chapters</b> (24 pages)	Monday, June 16
Section II: Fragmentation and Reform - <b>5 chapters</b> (20 pages)	Monday, June 23
Section III: Envisioning State and Society - <b>5 chapters</b> (20 pages)	Monday, June 30
Section IV: War and Revolution - <b>6 chapters</b> (24 pages)	Monday, July 7
Section V: Re-Entering the World - <b>5 chapters</b> (20 pages)	Monday, July 14

### Online Discussions (10%)

As the time approaches for book reviews to be submitted, students should alert Dr. Steele as to a date and time which would be convenient for a simultaneous discussion. These discussions will be worth 10% of the course grade and will be conducted through Blackboard.

## Book Reviews (40%)

Please access <a href="#">Blackboard</a>	Online Discussion Dates	Book Review Due Dates
<b><i>The Search for Modern China</i></b>	To be determined	Weds., July 16
<b><i>The Sextants of Beijing</i></b>	To be determined	Wednesday, July 23
<b><i>Return to Dragon Mountain</i></b>	To be determined	Wednesday, July 30
<b><i>Treason by the Book</i></b>	To be determined	Wednesday., August 6

Please post your book reviews to [Blackboard](#) and e-mail to **Dr. Steele at his\_tls@shsu.edu**. Each book review book is worth 10% of the student's final grade. Each book review should be between 800 and 850 words, no more and no less.

1. **You MUST include your full name and e-mail address at the BEGINNING of your comments.**
2. **Remember, a book review is not simply an overview of a book. It is an analysis. You should give a very, very brief introduction to the author's thesis. You should discuss how the author sets about proving his or her thesis. You should discuss how well the author proves his thesis and the quality the argument as well as its sources and documentation. You may note how readable the text may be as well as the overall quality (ie, are there numerous typos although I would not expect that to be a problem with these texts) including presentation and look. You should also discuss to whom this book would be of interest, either a specialist or a student.**
3. **You should consult Jules Benjamins A STUDENTS ONLINE GUIDE TO HISTORY chapter that discusses writing book reviews at: [http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/history/benjamin/con\\_index.htm](http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/history/benjamin/con_index.htm)**

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### Grading:

Journalizations of The Search for Modern China: 50%

Online Discussions: 10%

Book Reviews: 40%

Final Grade: 100%

The semester will come to a close sooner than we think. Therefore, students must keep up with assignments and due dates. All assignments must be turned in by the posted

due date and time.

Please notify me immediately if you have experienced some sort of trauma such as illness or car accident that will prevent your from finishing the course work within the semester. With the permission of the department chair, terms for an IP (extension for one semester which will turn to an F at the end of the following semester if the course work is not completed) may worked out and new due dates set. Otherwise, the student will receive the grade as it stands at the end of the semester even if all course work has not been submitted.

Please allow at least one week before you contact me regarding grades for each assignment.

All assignments will be awarded a letter grade based on the quality of the student's work. Factors that are included in the grade are: punctuality, grammar, spelling, accuracy and interpretation. This letter grade translates into a number grade which will appear online at the gradebook on blackboard.

#### **Grade Scale: Letter Grade and Percentages**

A+, 100	C+, 79
A, 95	C, 75
A-, 90	C-, 70
B+, 89	D+, 69
B, 85	D, 65
B-, 80	D-, 60
<b>An F is 59 and BELOW</b>	

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**Requirements for all written assignments submitted directly to Dr. Steele at [his\\_tls@shsu.edu](mailto:his_tls@shsu.edu) and posted on blackboard under discussion board:**

Written assignments should be typed, double-spaced, Arial font, one inch margins, and in 12 pitch with **page numbers**. Each paragraph should begin with an indentation (tab) of five spaces. Written assignments must be submitted in **Microsoft Word**. Proper attribution for sources is required. Assignments will be marked down by up to twenty percent for egregious typos and grammatical errors. If the same typos and grammatical errors continue to appear in various lessons, the lessons will be returned by Dr. Steele for corrections before a grade will be issued.

Students **MUST** activate their university e-mail account to use in conjunction with Blackboard. If you do not wish to use [SamMail](#), you can have it forwarded to an email address you do use. To do this, follow the steps in the [E-Mail Forwarding](#) menu on

[SamInfo](#).

Hints on Grammar:

A sentence is supposed to convey a complete thought in a rational and organized way. A number of sentences grouped together should contribute to a basic idea or theme that is the foundation of a paragraph.

<http://www.bartleby.com/141/>

<http://webster.commnet.edu/grammar/>

Writing Center

Students are strongly recommended to take their written assignments to the Writing Center in Wilson 114 to be previewed before submission. Online students may submit their assignments for review online. You will need to complete the assignment in advance of the due date in order to give the Writing Center time to review your assignment.

telephone number is 294-3680,

e-mail: [wctr@shsu.edu](mailto:wctr@shsu.edu)

web address: <http://www.shsu.edu/~wctr/>

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## Course Policies

### Academic Dishonesty

All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials. Please see the following web address at the Student Guidelines at

<http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

For additional information on what constitutes plagiarism, please see Jules Benjamin's (*A Student's Guide to History*) [discussion of plagiarism](#).

### ADA Accommodations

Student requests for accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act must be initiated by the student. A student seeking accommodations should contact the Counseling Center and Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) in a timely manner. Any student who may require an accommodation under the provisions of the

Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the instructor on this matter as soon as possible.

### **Copyright Statement**

The materials presented in this course are copyrighted. Reproduction of class notes for commercial purposes without the express permission of the copyright holder is prohibited.

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### **Web Addresses**

**Local Places of Interest:** [Forbidden Gardens](#), [Jade Buddha Temple](#), [Museum of Fine Arts Houston](#)

**The People's Daily Online** <http://www.peopledaily.com.cn/english/>  
**China Daily** <http://chinadaily.com.cn.net/>

The Association of Asian Studies: <http://www.aasianst.org/>

**Southwest Conference on Asian Studies:** <http://www.trinity.edu/org/swcas/home.html>

**The University of Texas at Austin:** <http://asnic.utexas.edu/asnic/index.html>

Pronunciation Guide: If you want to know how to pronounce a place name or proper name please try this web site sponsored by the Voice of America:

<http://names.voa.gov/index.cfm>

Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the U.S.A. <http://www.china-embassy.org/eng/index.html>

Permanent Mission of the PRC to the United Nations <http://www.china-un.org/eng/index.html>

Chinese History Web Site:

<http://campus.northpark.edu/history/WebChron/China/China.html>