

COURSE NUMBER: VR258		COURSE TITLE: The History of Modern China’s Foreign Relations 中国对外关系史	
CREDIT: 4		PREREQUISITES: None	
TEXTBOOKS/REQUIRED MATERIAL: Jonathan Spence, <i>The Search for Modern China</i> (1998) John King Fairbank, <i>China: a New History</i> (1991) J. A. G. Roberts, <i>The Complete History of China</i> (2003)		PREPARED BY: Chihyun Chang DATE OF PREPARATION: N/A DATE OF UC APPROVAL: May, 2019	
INSTRUCTOR(S): Chihyun Chang		SCIENCE/DESIGN: n/a	
CATALOG DESCRIPTION: This module is designed to give students a chronological understanding of the course of Sino-foreign relations from the late eighteenth century to the mid twentieth century. It starts by introducing students to an overview of the first contact between the development of the Celestial Court of the Qinglong Reign, through to the decline of the Manchu empire and the downfall of the Northern Government, finally ending with an understanding of the collapse of the Nationalist Government in 1949. By presenting an underlying historical narrative through the module arching across almost two hundred years, it aims to provide students with a solid grounding in modern Sino-Foreign history and an insight into the complexity and continuity of a country with a radically different cultural and historical heritage to Europe and America. By emphasizing Chinese perspectives of history, this course is primarily designed as a correction to and update of John King Fairbank’s seminal Impact-Response framework for interpreting Chinese history, which has played a dominant role in Western historiographies of China over the past 50 years.		COURSE TOPICS: Session 1: Introduction Session 2: The First Official Contact of the Qing and British Empires Session 3: Confronting the West: The Opening of the Celestial Court: The Frist Opium War and the Treaty of Nanking. Session 4: The Reconfirmation of the Treaty System: The Second Opium War and the Treaties of Tientsin and Peking. Session 5: The Self-Strengthening Movement and the Formation of China’s Foreign Policies. Session 6: Wars, Defeats and the Deterioration of Sino-Foreign Relations Session 7: Indemnities, Loans and the Recovery of Sino-Foreign Relations Session 8: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the New Policies Reforms Session 9: Constitutional Struggles of the Early Republic Session 10: The Participation into WWI Sessions 11: The Rise of Chinese Nationalism and the Southern Revolutionaries. Session 12: The Nanjing Decade of the Nationalist Government. Session 13: The Second Sino-Japanese War, Phase I. Session 14: The Second World War, Phase II. Session 15: The Collapse of the Super Four.	
COURSE STRUCTURE/SCHEDULE: Lecture: 2 times per week, 120 minutes each			
COURSE OBJECTIVES [Course Outcomes in brackets]	The overall aim for the module is to give students a postgraduate-level introduction to research on modern Chinese history and contemporary Chinese studies. This unit aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● advance students’ understanding of the notion of the Middle Kingdom and its historical background; [1, 3]● explain the reasons why China found it difficult to adapt itself after its collision with Western Modernity; [2,3, 4]● consider the relative strengths and weaknesses of China’s modernising projects; and[1, 4]● equip students with an understanding of the continuities of China’s past and its current and future development. [2,3]		
COURSE OUTCOMES [Student Outcomes in brackets]	In the classes, we will use a variety of approaches including general discussions around a theme, student-led discussions and debates. This course will teach students historical methodologies, which will develop their transferable skills and ability to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● research relevant information using different resources; [1 , 2, 3, 4]● present an argument either verbally or in written form relating to unit content; [1 , 2, 3, 4]● and debate new and diverse issues from different perspectives. [1 , 2, 3, 4]		
ASSESSMENT TOOLS [Course Outcomes in brackets]	Class attendance and participation 30% [1, 2, 3] Pop quiz 10% [1, 2] Midterm essay (1,500 English words, Formative Assignment) 30% [1, 2] Final paper (3,000 English words, Summative Assignment) 30% [1, 2, 3]		