

SUBJECT: Modern History of China. The Ming and Qing dynasties

Teacher: Dolors folch

Timetable: Monday and Wednesday from 16.00 to 17.30 p.m.

Place: Room 20.183

Office hours: office 20.273 bis: Monday and Wednesday from 5.30 to 6.00 p.m.;
for other hours, connect the professor by mail.

General competences

Instrumental	Interpersonal	Systemic
GC 3	GC 6	GC 10
GC 4	GC 8	GC 12
GC 5		GC 13

Specific competences of the degree

SC 1 / SC 2 / SC 3 / SC 8 / SC 10 / SC 12 / SC 13

Specific competences of the subject

1. General competences
 - a. Instrumental competences
 - i. Critical research of historical information in bibliographical sources about East Asia.
 - ii. Critical appraisal of the information available on internet.
 - b. Interpersonal competences
 - i. Coordinated group work to prepare the seminars.
 - ii. Active participation in seminar sessions.
 - c. Systemic competences
 - i. Achievement of the specific knowledge about the history of 15th to 20th century China.
 - ii. Organization of the data, events and processes studied in a complex historical discourse.
 - iii. Synthesis and critical appraisal of specialized studies about the history of East Asia and participation in debates and reflections around the theses and ideas provided.
 - iv. Integration of methods and data of different disciplines: economic history, geography, art, literature, philosophy and discourse analysis.
2. Specific competences
 - a. Use of the information
 - i. Use of graphic instruments to express statistical and quantitative data about the studied periods of time.
 - ii. Topographic situation of kingdoms, dynasties, key regions, routes, historical Chinese enclaves.
 - b. Historical reflection
 - i. Identification and description of the main historical processes of the studied period.
 - ii. Integration of the historical Chinese processes to the global historical dynamics.
 - iii. Interpretation and analysis of primary sources about the studied periods.

- iv. Appraisal of the historicity and analysis of the context of production and reception of objects of Chinese material and artistic culture of the 15th to 20th centuries.
 - v. Metahistorical and methodological reflection: orientalism, the main historiographical paradigms, sources, periodization.
- c. Linguistic competences
- i. Identification and acknowledgement of the subject's most relevant Chinese characters.
 - ii. Use and application of the different ways of transliterating Chinese terms.

Presentation and goals

The main goal of the subject Modern History of China is to offer students a historical approach to the period that spans from the 15th century to the beginning of the 20th, and which basically includes the Ming and Qing dynasties, which represent the two last Chinese empires. It is a period that is qualitatively different to that defined by the previous China: since the China of the Ming we find several characteristics (politico-administrative, social, cultural, territorial) that define the modern history until the end of the empire as a system of organization and which, in some cases, remain valid until contemporary China.

The title of the subject (which uses a periodization inherent in the European world when referring to the Chinese reality) invites us to think about the way in which we have constructed our knowledge of Chinese history through the centuries. In this sense, the subject seeks to look into the main aspects of the organizational, political, social and intellectual history of this long period, using both primary and secondary sources and documents, while understanding questions to help students interpret this history and gain a better understanding of it and guide him/her around the most basic bibliography dealing with these themes.

Results of learning

- To identify the conceptual corpus that sets the periodization and the study of modern Chinese history.
- To critically analyse the different current historiographical approaches to the analysis of modern China.
- To identify and use the basic historical sources for the study of modern China.
- To recognize the main dynamics and the main historical processes that allow understanding the transformations, evolutions, changes and revolutions that take place in the social, economical, political and cultural systems of modern China.
- To analyse the patterns of transformation and foreign interaction of the two last imperial dynasties: Ming and Qing.
- To analyse the economic development process of modern China in the context of the Great Divergence between Western and the Eastern World.

Master's degree in Chinese Studies
Modern History of China (31410)

Syllabus

Week 0	25/9 Introduction and Basic coordinates: Space and Time
Week 1	30/9 Lecture 1 Mongol's China and its Western visitors. 2/10 Seminar 1
Week 2	7/10 Lecture 2 The rise of the Ming dynasty. Ming government, administrative geography and Ming law. 9/10 Seminar 2
Week 3	14/10 Lecture 3 Chinese World Order and China's foreign policy 16/10 Seminar 3
No class	21/10 No class
Week 4	28/10 Lecture 4 Ming economy: taxes, money and communications 30/10 Seminar 4
Week 5	4/11 Lecture 5 Cultural life under the Ming: religion, education and books 6/11 Seminar 5
Week 6	11/11 Deadline for Midterm paper Lecture 6 The rise of the manchus and the enlargement of China's territory. The Kangxi and Qianlong reigns 13/11 Seminar 6
Week 7	18/11 Lecture 7 The Opium wars 20/11 Seminar 7
Week 8	25/11 Lecture 8 The Taiping and muslim rebellions 27/11 Seminar 8
Week 9	3/12 Lecture 9 The self-strengthening movement and the beginning of China's modernization 5/12 Seminar 9
Week 10	11/12 Lecture 10 The end of the Chinese Empire and the 1911 Revolution 13/12 Final conclusions

Assessment

The students have to present two papers, one at the midterm and one at the course's end. The final assessment will be based on those two papers (30% / 30%) and on the students participation in the classroom (40%).

Deadlines

Midterm paper: 11/11/2013

Final paper: 10/01/2014

Language

English