

Western Images of China and Taiwan

西方眼中的中國與臺灣

Spring 2018

Wednesday 4:10-6 pm, 三 78 季陶 340414

Office – 340527; Office hours: Wednesday 2 to 4 and by appointment

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Please, no eating during class (please save food for class breaks) – thanks!

No cellphones, tablets, or laptops – thanks!

We critically examine Western (mostly Western European and American) images of China and Taiwan. The course covers a range of images and time periods, from the ancient world to contemporary Western images in Europe and the United States. We will look at texts, visual images, and film versions. The approach taken in the course presumes that Western images of China/Taiwan are self-referential, that analysis of these stereotypes might tell us something about Western observers and commentators. Our focus is on trying to understand how images have changed over time, while attempting to understand both the how and why stereotypes and distortions occur.

Assignments and grading criteria:

Participation and attendance: 10% ('perfect' attendance policy – 0 or 1 absence, regardless of cause)

Mid-term: 30%

Essay and/or class projects: 30%

Final: 30%

Course outline: **subject to change**. It is important that you read the assigned course reading before class.

Week	Theme of the Week	Course Content	Course readings
February 28	228 Memorial Day (Holiday)		
March 7	Introduction to the Course; Early Images of China (before 1600)	PPT, class discussion	Colin Mackerras, <i>Western Images of China</i> [abbreviated <i>Western Images</i> hereafter], chapters 1 & 2
March 14	Jesuits, Philosophes, and <i>Chinoiserie</i>	PPT, class discussion	François Quesnay, "Le despotisme de la Chine" (1767) & Oliver Goldsmith, "Citizen of the World" (1760-61) excerpts
March 21	Changing Fashions: Nineteenth-Century Images of China	PPT, class discussion	Macartney's "Observations on China" (1794) & Rev. Arthur Smith, "Chinese Characteristics" (1894) excerpts
March 28	Early Images of Taiwan	PPT, class discussion	George Psalmanazar, "An Historical and Geographical Description of

			Formosa" (1704) excerpts; contemporary maps of Formosa
April 4	Holiday		
April 11	Early Republican China	PPT, class discussion	Readings to be announced
April 18	China and Civil War	PPT, class discussion	Edgar Snow, "Red Star over China" (1937) excerpts
April 25	Midterm Examination		
May 2	China and World War II	PPT, class discussion	<i>Time</i> and <i>Life</i> magazine excerpts
May 9	Images of China, Post-1949	PPT, class discussion	<i>Western Images</i> , chapter 6
May 16	Images and the Cultural Revolution, The "Intellectuals" and China	PPT, class discussion	Jann Myrdal, "China: The Revolution Continued," (1970), Lorenz Stucki, "Behind the Great Wall: An Appraisal of Mao's China," (1965), Felix Greene, "Awakened China: The Country Americans Don't Know," (1961), Shirley MacLaine, "You Can Get There from Here," (1975)
May 23	Cold War Images of Taiwan	PPT, class discussion	<i>Time</i> and <i>Life</i> magazine excerpts
May 30	The PRC's Diplomatic Opening: 1970s	PPT, class discussion	Magazine and newspaper excerpts; visual images
June 6	The PRC's Economic Opening: 1978 -	PPT, class discussion	<i>Time</i> and <i>Life</i> magazine excerpts
June 13	Taiwan's Modernization, Derecognition, and Democratization	PPT, class discussion	Magazine and newspaper excerpts (including <i>National Geographic</i>); visual images
June 20	Conflicting Images: Tiananmen, World Trade Organization, Beijing 2008; Images of Contemporary China	PPT, class discussion	Magazine and newspaper excerpts; visual images
June 27	Final Examination		