Contents

General Information 2
Learning Outcomes 2
Assessment Tasks 3
Delivery and Resources 8
Unit Schedule 9
Policies and Procedures 10
Graduate Capabilities 12
About This Unit 18
Assessment Submission 19
Assessment Tasks in General 20
Extensions and Disruption to Studies 20
Required and Recommended Texts 21
Unit Requirements and Expectations 23
Writing A Research Proposal 23
Writing Essays and Referencing 25
Writing a Research Paper 34

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## General Information

**Unit convenor and teaching staff**

Unit Convenor  
Kevin Carrico  
[kevin.carrico@mq.edu.au](mailto:kevin.carrico@mq.edu.au)

**Credit points**

3

**Prerequisites**

None

**Corequisites**

None

**Co-badged status**

None

**Unit description**

This unit is an introduction to contemporary China. The aim of this unit is to enable students to analyse critically and independently, domestic and international current events and information about China in the present day, including politics, the economy, international relations, the environment, minorities, human rights, law and contemporary culture. This unit is a study of China in the present day, with enough background information to put current affairs in a wider context. Students develop an awareness of the variety of perspectives relating to contemporary China, and develop an ability to analyse the information in the context of Chinese history, politics and culture. This unit may be taken by all students with an interest in contemporary China. No background knowledge is required and all teaching and assessment is in English.

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at [https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates](https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates)

## Learning Outcomes

1. Demonstrate an understanding of Chinese historical, political, philosophical and cultural systems and show how these influence the Chinese world view and contemporary Chinese affairs.

2. Demonstrate an understanding of contemporary Chinese affairs and the underlying forces relevant to change in modern China.

3. Demonstrate an ability to analyse contemporary Chinese affairs objectively and to communicate this analysis in both oral and written forms.
4. Discover, read, and interpret written and material evidence relating to contemporary Chinese affairs with judgement, appreciation and understanding.

5. Understand and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit, in both oral and written form.

6. Combine pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide a critical analysis of a major aspect of contemporary Chinese affairs.

**Assessment Tasks**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
<th>Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Cumulative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial Paper &amp; Presentation</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Week 5 (paper); tutorials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Proposal</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Week 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Week 13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tutorial Participation**

*Due: Cumulative*

*Weighting: 10%*

Students are expected to actively participate in tutorial group discussions about Chinese current events. Students will bring to class news and media articles read during the week and raise items for discussion with the class and tutor. Students will also be expected to have read set readings from the textbook or other assigned readings, as well as attended and reviewed lecture materials. There may also be set questions, which students are expected to have considered before attending class.

Some tutorial classes will include a discussion led by a panel of students based on their tutorial paper presentations. Students will be expected to participate in the panel according to the tutorial schedule, and will be expected to have read the tutorial paper of the week posted to iLearn.

The tutor will look for:

- evidence of student knowledge of readings and current events;
- analysis of those readings;
- an ability to complete set tasks; and
- a willingness to work with and respond to the views of the tutor and other students in verbal form.

*This grade is not a simple attendance mark.* Tutorial attendance is mandatory and attendance will count toward the final grade. Students who miss more than 3 tutorials without evidence of an unforeseen and serious disruption (e.g., illness, supported by documentation) will be excluded.
from the unit. This means that students will receive a FAIL grade, regardless of written work completed.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

• Demonstrate an understanding of Chinese historical, political, philosophical and cultural systems and show how these influence the Chinese world view and contemporary Chinese affairs.
• Demonstrate an understanding of contemporary Chinese affairs and the underlying forces relevant to change in modern China.
• Demonstrate an ability to analyse contemporary Chinese affairs objectively and to communicate this analysis in both oral and written forms.
• Discover, read, and interpret written and material evidence relating to contemporary Chinese affairs with judgement, appreciation and understanding.
• Understand and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit, in both oral and written form.
• Combine pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide a critical analysis of a major aspect of contemporary Chinese affairs.

Tutorial Paper & Presentation

Due: Week 5 (paper); tutorials
Weighting: 25%

This is a group work assignment. Students will form a group of three people in week 2, choose a topic (from the list in the unit schedule). This choice will be recorded on the tutorial schedule. The topic and presentation date should be chosen in week 2 tutorial. Topics will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Tutorial Paper

The tutorial paper will be a 1500 word paper on a topic of contemporary China defined by the chosen tutorial topic (see Unit Schedule). These topics are based on chapters from the textbook, Robert Gamer, Understanding Contemporary China 4th Ed. The tutorial papers will use Gamer as a base, but will be linked to current issues and research as much as possible.

This paper will require students to use relevant sources from the Gamer textbook, in addition to a minimum of 10 other self-located sources to support and justify their arguments. In addition to recent or current events articles and news, sources from academic books and academic journals are expected. The paper will be footnoted and referenced in the format described in Writing Essays and Referencing in this guide. The Group Work Tutorial Paper is due in Week 5.

The tutorial paper will be submitted on the due date. It must be submitted to:
1. the CHN157 assignment box in hard copy
2. electronically via Turnitin.com.
3. A copy must also be posted on iLearn in the designated discussion space.

Papers will not be graded unless all three copies are submitted.

Additionally, a Group Work Declaration sheet (attached in the unit guide and on iLearn as a Word document) must be completed and submitted. On this sheet, students will document the nature of their contribution to the group work. This will be signed by all group members and will be attached and submitted with the hard copy only. Any paper submitted without the Group Work Declaration sheet will not be graded. Examples of both of the above requirements can be found on ilearn.

It is expected that all students will read each week’s tutorial paper on ilearn, as well as the relevant readings from the textbook prior to attending the class.

**Tutorial Presentation**

The tutorial paper will be presented in tutorials on the date on the tutorial schedule. The presentation will be presented in front of the tutorial group for no more than 10 minutes, there will be a question and answer session afterwards. A Powerpoint presentation or equivalent is expected. Students will be expected to ask questions (this will affect the tutorial participation mark).

Students who fail to give the presentation will have all marks deducted. The presentations will begin in Week 7.

The tutorial paper and presentation constitute a significant portion of the content of tutorial discussion, students are expected to submit and present their paper on the scheduled date. Additionally, this group work task is a result of cumulative four or five weeks of work. Consequently no extensions will be given for any circumstances other than unavoidable and unforseen circumstances (illness or misadventure) that prevent you from submitting the paper and making the presentation on the due date. See Extensions and Penalties for policies in this regard. If students know of unavoidable absences in advance, you are requested to choose a topic that will allow you to submit and present the paper according to the tutorial schedule without disruption.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate an understanding of Chinese historical, political, philosophical and cultural systems and show how these influence the Chinese world view and contemporary Chinese affairs.
- Demonstrate an understanding of contemporary Chinese affairs and the underlying forces relevant to change in modern China.
- Demonstrate an ability to analyse contemporary Chinese affairs objectively and to
communicate this analysis in both oral and written forms.

- Discover, read, and interpret written and material evidence relating to contemporary Chinese affairs with judgement, appreciation and understanding.
- Understand and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit, in both oral and written form.
- Combine pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide a critical analysis of a major aspect of contemporary Chinese affairs.

Research Proposal

Due: **Week 7**

**Weighting: 15%**

This unit is designed to enable students to critically analyse current issues involving contemporary China. The major assessment for this unit is a research essay based on a China-related current affairs topic related to the course. Students will pick a topic from current issues/course themes that may be covered in the student's portfolio, and analyse the topic in the form of a research paper. You should start considering the issues at the beginning of the course, beginning with your daily news and current affairs readings, your reading with the set textbook, and moving on to the bibliographies and references in the textbook and to your own independent research.

To assist in the preparation of the research essay, students will complete a research proposal (1000 words) which will outline a proposed topic, review the available current information and literature (eg current news articles, current academic journals, books etc) on this topic, and the student's approach to the analysis. (See Guide to Writing a Research Proposal in this guide.). There should be a minimum of 7 self-located resources to support your proposed research topic. Use of the academic sources such as books and journal articles are expected and additional marks will be awarded if relevant books or academic journal articles are cited.

The proposal is to be written in and referenced in the required style for this unit (see Writing Essays and Referencing in this guide). The research proposal is due in Week 7. The research proposal should be used as a method for students to ‘flesh out’ their ideas and explore the available information on their chosen topic on contemporary China and receive teaching feedback. Students will not be obliged to be ‘locked’ into their topic, since this assessment task is meant to be a process of research development. Marking feedback and further reading should guide students in the development of this topic beyond the proposal an into the research paper. Topics deemed unsuitable (ie not on a contemporary China studies theme) will not be accepted and be graded accordingly.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate an understanding of Chinese historical, political, philosophical and cultural systems and show how these influence the Chinese world view and contemporary Chinese affairs.
• Demonstrate an understanding of contemporary Chinese affairs and the underlying forces relevant to change in modern China.
• Demonstrate an ability to analyse contemporary Chinese affairs objectively and to communicate this analysis in both oral and written forms.
• Discover, read, and interpret written and material evidence relating to contemporary Chinese affairs with judgement, appreciation and understanding.
• Combine pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide a critical analysis of a major aspect of contemporary Chinese affairs.

Research Paper

Due: Week 13
Weighting: 50%

The major research paper will be based on articles and materials collated in the students' current affairs portfolio, from the web, or from newspapers or academic journals and books. The research paper should be based on a minimum of 10 references from the portfolio of current affairs and/or other sources such as journal articles and books. A 'good' research paper will utilise the full range of available resources, and link current affairs resources with more established information in journal articles and books. A 'top' research paper may utilise as many as 10 current affairs articles from the portfolio as well as an additional 10 resources such as books, journal articles and so on. The use of academic resources such as books and academic journals is expected and consideration will be made for papers that do cite academic sources appropriately.

The research essay should link the references together in a coherent fashion and form a critical analysis of the topic. The research essay will be about 2000 words and is due on Week 13. Your work will be judged on the appropriateness of the material presented, collected over the period of the course, and in particular on the quality of your interlinking commentary and analysis. As mentioned above, emphasis is on reasoned analysis, not plain assertion or logically flawed argument. Essays will be marked on the basis of originality, content, organisation and presentation, and particularly the logic with which you present your argument.

The research paper must be written as if it were a research paper submitted for publication to the journal *The China Quarterly* (Cambridge Journals), one of the leading journals in contemporary China studies. It is highly recommended that students access and read articles from *The China Quarterly* (and other academic journals) to get a feel for the style and nature of academic research and writing. [http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=cqy](http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=cqy)

Students must write their research paper in the style of articles submitted to *The China Quarterly*. This is very important. The specified style will include systems of spelling, grammar, the use of numerals, voice and citation of sources. Information regarding the style and referencing system to be used can be found on the document ‘Instructions for Contributors’ on The China Quarterly Cambridge Journals website: [http://assets.cambridge.org/CQY/CQY_ifc.pdf](http://assets.cambridge.org/CQY/CQY_ifc.pdf) and on the ilearn site for CHN157. The relevant sections to the ‘Instructions for Contributors’ document is the section entitled ‘Style sheet’. Ability to write in the specified style will be graded.
As you have four months to think about, research and write this essay, no extensions will be given for any circumstances other than unavoidable and unforeseen circumstances (illness or misadventure) that prevent you from submitting the essay on the due date.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- Demonstrate an understanding of Chinese historical, political, philosophical and cultural systems and show how these influence the Chinese world view and contemporary Chinese affairs.
- Demonstrate an understanding of contemporary Chinese affairs and the underlying forces relevant to change in modern China.
- Demonstrate an ability to analyse contemporary Chinese affairs objectively and to communicate this analysis in both oral and written forms.
- Discover, read, and interpret written and material evidence relating to contemporary Chinese affairs with judgement, appreciation and understanding.
- Combine pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide a critical analysis of a major aspect of contemporary Chinese affairs.

Delivery and Resources

iLearn

Online material can be accessed at: http://ilearn.mq.edu.au

iLearn is an important part of this unit. Lecture slides and recorded audio will be available for download on iLearn.

This unit will make use of iLearn for communications. iLearn also features a messaging system and discussion forum, which students are encouraged to use to circulate information and discussion.

Students should set the iLearn emails to be forwarded to their personal email account for convenience. It is the responsibility of students to be aware and up to date with unit news and announcements via iLearn.

Electronic submission of assignments via Turnitin.com

Macquarie University subscribes to the Turnitin plagiarism detection system. All students will be required to submit all of their written work through this system. See Assessment Submission for details.

Library Databases

The library databases offer access to thousands of academic journal articles on all relevant subject areas. Make a point of searching these databases for scholarly articles for sources of information for assignments. The library enquiry desk is a good point of assistance in the use of these databases. You can also the ‘Ask a Librarian’ service by phone or live chat. http://www.mq.edu.au/on_campus/library/
Unit Schedule

- The course examines five themes, under which three sub-topics are studied.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Theme 1: Key Transitions in Modern China</th>
<th>Theme 2: Key Stakeholders in Modern China</th>
<th>Theme 3: Mobility in Modern China</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction / From Republic to People’s Republic</td>
<td>State and citizen – politics and participation</td>
<td>Geographical change in China – environment and migration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Social and economic change in modern China – an overview</td>
<td>Gender and minorities</td>
<td>The rise of a middle and consumer class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week</td>
<td>Themes</td>
<td>Readings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 7    | China inside-out | Gamer, ch 6  
Research proposals due  
Tutorial presentations begin |
|     |        |          |
|     |        |          |
|     |        |          |
|     |        |          |
and excerpts from  
| 10   | China in Asia | Zhao Hong, “The South China Sea Dispute and China-ASEAN Relations”, *Asian Affairs*, volume 44, issue 1, 2013 |

**Theme 4: China and the World**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Themes</th>
<th>Readings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 12   | Technology | Liu Xiaobo. “Long Live the Internet.” *No Enemies, No Hatred: Selected Essays and Poems*  
and  
James Leibold. “Blogging Alone: China, the Internet, and the Democratic Illusion.” *Journal of Asian Studies* |
| 13   | Popular culture | Gamer, ch 13  
Research paper due |

**Policies and Procedures**

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- **Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public** [http://www.mq.edu.au](http://www.mq.edu.au)

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html) of Policy Central.

**Student Code of Conduct**

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: [https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

**Results**

Results shown in iLearn, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in eStudent. For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

**Student Support**

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit [http://students.mq.edu.au/support/](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/)

**Learning Skills**

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- Workshops
- StudyWise
- Academic Integrity Module for Students
- Ask a Learning Adviser

**Student Enquiry Service**

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

**Equity Support**

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

**IT Help**

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/).

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/68726/unit_guide/print). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.
Graduate Capabilities

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

• Demonstrate an understanding of Chinese historical, political, philosophical and cultural systems and show how these influence the Chinese world view and contemporary Chinese affairs.
• Demonstrate an understanding of contemporary Chinese affairs and the underlying forces relevant to change in modern China.
• Demonstrate an ability to analyse contemporary Chinese affairs objectively and to communicate this analysis in both oral and written forms.
• Discover, read, and interpret written and material evidence relating to contemporary Chinese affairs with judgement, appreciation and understanding.
• Understand and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit, in both oral and written form.
• Combine pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide a critical analysis of a major aspect of contemporary Chinese affairs.

Assessment tasks

• Tutorial Participation
• Tutorial Paper & Presentation
• Research Proposal
• Research Paper

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.
This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Demonstrate an understanding of Chinese historical, political, philosophical and cultural systems and show how these influence the Chinese world view and contemporary Chinese affairs.
- Demonstrate an understanding of contemporary Chinese affairs and the underlying forces relevant to change in modern China.
- Demonstrate an ability to analyse contemporary Chinese affairs objectively and to communicate this analysis in both oral and written forms.
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- Understand and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit, in both oral and written form.
- Combine pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide a critical analysis of a major aspect of contemporary Chinese affairs.

**Assessment tasks**

- Tutorial Participation
- Tutorial Paper & Presentation
- Research Proposal
- Research Paper

**Creative and Innovative**

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Demonstrate an understanding of Chinese historical, political, philosophical and cultural systems and show how these influence the Chinese world view and contemporary Chinese affairs.
- Demonstrate an ability to analyse contemporary Chinese affairs objectively and to communicate this analysis in both oral and written forms.
- Discover, read, and interpret written and material evidence relating to contemporary Chinese affairs with judgement, appreciation and understanding.
- Understand and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit, in both oral
and written form.

- Combine pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide a critical analysis of a major aspect of contemporary Chinese affairs.

**Assessment tasks**

- Tutorial Participation
- Tutorial Paper & Presentation
- Research Proposal
- Research Paper

**Effective Communication**

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Demonstrate an understanding of Chinese historical, political, philosophical and cultural systems and show how these influence the Chinese world view and contemporary Chinese affairs.
- Demonstrate an ability to analyse contemporary Chinese affairs objectively and to communicate this analysis in both oral and written forms.
- Discover, read, and interpret written and material evidence relating to contemporary Chinese affairs with judgement, appreciation and understanding.
- Understand and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit, in both oral and written form.
- Combine pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide a critical analysis of a major aspect of contemporary Chinese affairs.

**Assessment tasks**

- Tutorial Participation
- Tutorial Paper & Presentation
- Research Proposal
- Research Paper
Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate an understanding of Chinese historical, political, philosophical and cultural systems and show how these influence the Chinese world view and contemporary Chinese affairs.
- Demonstrate an understanding of contemporary Chinese affairs and the underlying forces relevant to change in modern China.
- Demonstrate an ability to analyse contemporary Chinese affairs objectively and to communicate this analysis in both oral and written forms.
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- Combine pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide a critical analysis of a major aspect of contemporary Chinese affairs.

Assessment tasks

- Tutorial Participation
- Tutorial Paper & Presentation
- Research Proposal
- Research Paper

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:
Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate an understanding of Chinese historical, political, philosophical and cultural systems and show how these influence the Chinese world view and contemporary Chinese affairs.
- Demonstrate an understanding of contemporary Chinese affairs and the underlying forces relevant to change in modern China.
- Demonstrate an ability to analyse contemporary Chinese affairs objectively and to communicate this analysis in both oral and written forms.
- Discover, read, and interpret written and material evidence relating to contemporary Chinese affairs with judgement, appreciation and understanding.
- Understand and respond to the views of staff and other students in the unit, in both oral and written form.
- Combine pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide a critical analysis of a major aspect of contemporary Chinese affairs.

Assessment tasks

- Tutorial Participation
- Tutorial Paper & Presentation

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Demonstrate an understanding of Chinese historical, political, philosophical and cultural systems and show how these influence the Chinese world view and contemporary Chinese affairs.
- Demonstrate an understanding of contemporary Chinese affairs and the underlying forces relevant to change in modern China.
- Demonstrate an ability to analyse contemporary Chinese affairs objectively and to communicate this analysis in both oral and written forms.
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• Combine pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide a critical analysis of a major aspect of contemporary Chinese affairs.

Assessment tasks
• Tutorial Participation
• Tutorial Paper & Presentation

Commitment to Continuous Learning
Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes
• Demonstrate an understanding of Chinese historical, political, philosophical and cultural systems and show how these influence the Chinese world view and contemporary Chinese affairs.
• Demonstrate an ability to analyse contemporary Chinese affairs objectively and to communicate this analysis in both oral and written forms.
• Discover, read, and interpret written and material evidence relating to contemporary Chinese affairs with judgement, appreciation and understanding.
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• Combine pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide a critical analysis of a major aspect of contemporary Chinese affairs.

Assessment tasks
• Tutorial Participation
• Tutorial Paper & Presentation
• Research Proposal
• Research Paper

Problem Solving and Research Capability
Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and
they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

**Learning outcomes**

- Demonstrate an understanding of Chinese historical, political, philosophical and cultural systems and show how these influence the Chinese world view and contemporary Chinese affairs.
- Demonstrate an understanding of contemporary Chinese affairs and the underlying forces relevant to change in modern China.
- Demonstrate an ability to analyse contemporary Chinese affairs objectively and to communicate this analysis in both oral and written forms.
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- Combine pre-selected and self-located evidence to provide a critical analysis of a major aspect of contemporary Chinese affairs.

**Assessment tasks**

- Tutorial Participation
- Tutorial Paper & Presentation
- Research Proposal
- Research Paper

**About This Unit**

This unit is an introduction to Contemporary China. It is primarily for students enrolled in the Bachelor of International Studies degree, but may be taken by all students with an interest in modern China, especially those studying Chinese and Asian studies. It is a study of China in the 2015, which will put current Chinese affairs in a wider context.

Each week’s lectures will cover particular aspects of history, politics, society and culture. The tutorials will cover various aspects of current affairs involving China, as they develop from week to week.

This unit is a research intensive unit, and aims to introduce students to research methods and techniques. Assessment emphasises students pursuing research in self-selected areas of interest. Students will be expected to read the relevant chapters of the set textbook, Robert Gamer (ed), *Understanding Contemporary China*. (Lynne Rienner, 4th Edition). This textbook will serve as reference material throughout the course, and will reflect the topics covered in lectures.
China is rarely out of the news, and all students will be expected to read items on China in the newspapers and current affairs journals, and download material from the web. It is expected that students will search and read China-related news on a daily basis, and not simply the day before the class, to stay up to date with current events.

Students are encouraged to use the full resources of the web in their research, in particular the Australian daily newspapers, and overseas newspapers and media services, for example *The South China Morning Post* (Hong Kong), BBC (UK) for accurate and detailed reports on China. Periodical news magazines such as *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Asiaweek*, *The New Yorker* and the *Far Eastern Economic Review* all have an online presence, including in some cases, news blogs. For the news from Beijing, see also the *China Daily*, *People’s Daily* website and related links, such as domestic Chinese news sites. English language news from Taiwan such as *China Post* and Hong Kong such as *The Standard* are useful for alternative views of the Chinese news.

Research institutes (‘think tanks’) and NGOs, such as the Lowy Institute for Public Policy, the World Bank, etc., are a good indicator of current academic and public policy research interests.

Students are required to bring relevant and interesting material to the class and are expected to raise discussions on the news or readings of the week with the tutor and class. Questions about the material covered in the lecture may also be discussed. By collecting current affairs articles, students will create a portfolio of material on an aspect of China of interest to them, chosen from the themes of the course or current affairs. Such themes might be China's environment, minorities, religion, politics, defence, legal system, economic development or any other suitable theme. Students will also develop a ‘big picture’ understanding of the complexity of issues involving China throughout the semester.

The emphasis in this unit is on fact and reasoned analysis, not emotional assertions or preconceptions. Students will need to be selective and use their judgement to be aware of bias and propaganda. The course aims to provide a framework for an objective understanding of modern China, outlining the important issues and the important questions, in the face of general assumptions, misconceptions and propaganda. Students must be able to defend your interpretations and answers logically and on the basis of factual material. Ultimately this unit will aim to broaden student’s knowledge and awareness of issues affecting contemporary China and by extension, the rest of the world. This unit will help students on the way to becoming well informed ‘China watchers’ or Sinologists, capable of seeing both the objective and subjective view of issues affecting China.

**Assessment Submission**

All written assessment tasks will be required to be submitted *only electronically via Turnitin.com*, unless otherwise indicated.

*Written assignments not received in e-copy via Turnitin.com by the appropriate due date will NOT be marked.*

Late submission of the essays will result in a penalty of 5% of the total value of the essay towards unit assessment each day (including weekends). The essay will not be marked after a period of five calendar days of non-submission.
Electronic submission via Turnitin.com

Macquarie University's subscription to the Turnitin plagiarism detection system. All students will be required to submit all of their written work through this system.

To submit, follow the link for the required assignment on the iLearn CHN 157 home page and submit your assignment and bibliography. You do not need to submit the assessment marking rubric with the Turnitin submission.

Return of marked work

Marked work will be returned to students by the course coordinator, normally by email.

Assessment Tasks in General

1. All written assessments will be graded against assessment marking rubrics, which are to be considered by students as marking criteria for the task. Each Assessment task has its own specific rubric and the correct one must be attached and submitted with the assessment. Any assessment submitted without the appropriate Assessment marking rubric attached will not be marked.

2. Assessment marking rubrics in MS Word form are available for download from iLearn.

3. All written work must conform with the Chicago style of writing set out in Writing and Referencing in this guide. All written work must be formatted to a minimum of 1.5 line space.

4. Scholarly sources (academic journal articles, scholarly books etc) are the expected sources of information. While useful for basic information and subject orientation, generic websites such as blogs, Wikipedia (and similar), culture-china.com and the like, are not an acceptable primary or secondary reference source in any assessment task. Information sourced from websites must be used sparingly, using scholarly judgement and caution with regard to context and appropriateness.

Extensions and Disruption to Studies

Short Term Extensions

Requests for assignment extensions due to unavoidable and unforseen circumstances of less than three days duration (eg short term illness or misadventure) must be made to the supervisor before the due date if possible, or immediately after the disruption. Note that other assessment commitments will not be considered grounds for an extension.

Assignments that are handed in later than the due date, where no extension has been granted, or are handed in later than the extension date without being granted further extension or special consideration, will be penalised.

Late submission of the essays will result in a penalty of 5% of the total value of the essay towards unit assessment each day (including weekends). The essay will not be marked after a period of five calendar days of non-submission.

Serious Illness and Unavoidable Disruption

If your performance has been affected for a period of 3 days or more as a result of serious
unavoidable disruption or illness, you are advised to inform the unit convenor and tutor of the problem at the earliest possible opportunity. You must supply documentary evidence of the extended disruption and submit an application for consideration of Disruption to Studies. (see ask.mq.edu.au).

No assessment work will be accepted for marking unless you have submitted an application for consideration of Disruption to Studies with adequate and appropriate supporting evidence and have been granted special consideration. Please note that requests for special consideration for long term or serious reasons are not granted automatically, and are reserved for unforeseen and serious circumstances such as prolonged & chronic illness, hospitalisation or bereavement in your immediate family which have affected your performance over the course of the semester; or in cases of unavoidable disruption or misadventure during the formal examination period. If you believe that you qualify for special consideration, please contact the teaching staff as soon as is practically possible and lodge the application.

Disruption to Studies process
http://ask.mq.edu.au/kb.php?record=ce7c4e38-4f82-c4d7-95b1-4e2ee8fd075f

Required and Recommended Texts


Current Affairs Collection: Students will collate their own collection of current affairs articles on a weekly basis for their tutorial discussion group.

Library Databases: The library databases offer access to thousands of academic journal articles on all relevant subject areas. Make a point of searching these databases for scholarly articles for sources of information for assignments.

Recommended Reading: The textbook is required reading for the lectures and tutorials, and it contains a lot of other interesting material. However, there is a huge amount of material available on contemporary China, some introductory, some specialised, which are also recommended. The atlases are far more than collections of maps: they contain a large amount of important and useful information on many aspects of contemporary China. If you are really ‘into China’ you will want to know more about China in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in particular, and a general knowledge of Chinese history over the past two thousand years.


Michael Dillon, Contemporary China – An Introduction, Routledge, 2009


Background Reading


Atlases


Australia-China Relations


Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. *China Fact Sheet*. Contains facts and figures on major Australia-China imports and exports, bilateral trade and investment etc. On the DFAT website: http://www.dfat.gov.au,


Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, *China Embraces the Market*. A study of China and the WTO. On DFAT website.
Unit Requirements and Expectations

Students will be expected to:

1. Review lecture materials in lectures or iLecture prior to tutorial classes.
2. Review assigned tutorial class readings prior to tutorial classes.
3. Actively participate in tutorial classes by interacting with tutors and fellow students by discussing and answering questions based on the lecture materials and tutorial readings.
4. Complete written assignments on time and to the prescribed standards.
5. Act with complete academic honesty [link]
6. Have a functional level of language competence. This is a language-intensive course, which includes heavy reading, considerable writing and classroom interaction. A good grasp of English grammar and syntax is essential. Students for whom English is a second language are strongly advised to ensure that their level of English proficiency is adequate before taking this course. Even for native speakers, academic reading and writing is not always simple or straightforward. Macquarie University provides a range of Academic Student Support Services. Details of these services can be accessed at: [link]

Writing A Research Proposal

(After [link])

The process of developing the proposal can be a valuable exercise, one which can help you determine your focus, clarify what is involved in your research project and plan its development. A developed proposal is an important way in which you can demonstrate your understanding of research and communicate your ‘research thinking’ to others.

These guidelines are provided to help you draw out your ideas. They state the requirements of a sound proposal.
Topic and problematic

The research topic formulates a problem that is worthy of research. The topic should:

• be stated clearly and succinctly in one or two sentences.
• be determined after consultation with your tutor if required

The topic is usually framed as a ‘problem’ or question in need of an answer. The topic statement will invite your reader to ask why it is significant and ‘worth doing’. A good research proposal identifies in the research topic a ‘problematic’ to be investigated.

Framing the question is not always easy, and you need to ask yourself whether your proposed ‘problem’ or ‘research question’ is really the question to be asked and answered. The framing of the problematic is crucial in setting up the research, though it is a common for researchers to revise and reformulate this as the research progresses.

An important issue is how you theorise or conceptualise the topic—what needs to come through is your understanding of the problematic you are exploring.

Background and context

Your research topic needs to be located in its context and background. In sketching this background, you need to show how and why does the topic come to be important and why is it worth researching?

This means:

• contextualising the research problem—how does it arise?
• outlining its significance—what will be the outcomes, and for whom?
• referring to key issues that are associated with the topic

Background can be provided in several ways. Your theoretical interests or concerns may have generated the research, and its justification is to be found in a theoretical developments or related literature. Where professional practice is the focus, you may want to describe and analyse the context of policy or organisational changes.

In any case, you should summarise the influences which come into play to shape your research. The analysis should lead you to interrogate your own assumptions about why the problem is significant. You need to ask what interests are driving the research, from whose point of view the problem is ‘significant’?

Conceptual framework and related literature

A conceptual framework elaborates the research problematic in relation to relevant literature. It should deal with such matters as:
• existing research and its relevance for your topic
• relevant theoretical perspective or perspectives
• key ideas or constructs in your approach
• possible lines of inquiry you might pursue

Your proposal needs to show how the proposed research relates to a body of related studies, or literature. The orthodox way to do this is to write a brief version of the literature review on a traditional science model. This is not always possible, especially if there is little related past research. Another is to outline the kinds of theoretical sources that will inform your research—the available research perspectives.

Though not all proposals need to include an elaborated conceptual framework, a well-developed proposal will do so. This can take up so-called ‘conceptual issues’ which express your understanding of the topic and the problems in researching it.

**Writing Essays and Referencing**

Based on 'Writing Essays in History', prepared by Bridget Deane, Department of Modern History June 2007.

Writing an essay is not just about writing a narrative, biography or chronology of an event, person or period of time: It requires the construction of an argument in answer to the question posed or the problem being investigated. During research for your paper you will find that the evidence may suggest several answers to the question or problem. You will therefore form your own opinion through evaluation and analysis of sources and this will be the basis of the argument put forward in your answer.

It is because of the emphasis on evaluation and analysis in academic writing, that it is essential to acknowledge sources used in your work through the use of a referencing system. In this unit, footnotes are required, using the Chicago referencing style (see also http://www.lib.monash.edu.au/tutorials/citing/chicago.html for more information)

All students are expected to conform to this system in this unit guide, unless directed by the supervisor in accordance with the required style of an academic journal or publisher.

*Why reference?*

It shows the person marking your work the sources that you have been accessing. It establishes that your argument is one formed by knowledge of a range of authors’ opinions - use of this knowledge will make your argument stronger. It allows the reader to quickly identify and verify the sources you have used. Most importantly, it is how you recognise your intellectual debt to others.

*When to footnote*

It is essential to footnote when you are making use of someone else's words, information or
ideas as evidence for your argument. Failure to acknowledge this in your own work amounts to plagiarism, i.e., presenting another person’s work as if it were your own. It is simply not acceptable to plagiarise, and any piece of work found to contain it will be failed automatically. For more information on Macquarie University's policy on Academic Honesty Policy

Using sources in your essays

If you use another person's ideas or information in your essay then you need to acknowledge this use through referencing. Such material may be included in the following ways:

Direct Quotation Using the author's exact words. They must be placed in quotation marks, with a footnote number at the end of the quotation.

Paraphrase (indirect quotation) Rewriting someone else's ideas in your own words. The footnote number is placed at the end of the sentence.

Summary (indirect quotation) Reference to an author's ideas or argument. Again, the footnote number is placed at the end of the sentence.

Quotations of more than forty words should be indented using single spacing, without quotation marks:

Other sources that need to be referenced:

Images, figures, tables, graphs, maps and diagrams, frame enlargements from films. Information from lectures - the lecturer's words, notes taken during the lecture, information from slides and overheads.

What does not need to be referenced:

Common knowledge - information that is general and well known, that is, in the public domain. For example, the Second World War ended in 1945. Your own ideas, arguments and visual materials.

If in doubt about whether to reference or not, ask the unit convenor for advice.

Preparing footnotes

Footnotes appear at the bottom of each relevant page of your essay, whereas endnotes are located at the end of the document.

Sometimes because of lack of space at the bottom of a page, Word will move footnotes over to the next page. Do not worry if this happens.

Titles of books, journals, etc, must be written in italics.

Punctuation and the use of capitals are important in footnotes, so pay attention to this in the examples below.

How to create a footnote using Microsoft Word

Go to the Insert menu and select Footnote (or in the 2003 version click Reference). Choose footnote. Make sure the numbering is continuous and applies to the whole document.

Additional material in footnotes
You are discouraged from the placing of additional material in footnotes, as this indicates lack of editing and an attempt to get round the word limit. An exception is the inclusion of a translation of material included in the main text.

**Footnotes**

Different sources require different formats when creating footnotes as the examples below will show, but generally you need to include the following information for an initial citation of a source:

- Name of author
- Title of the source
- Name of the city and publisher of the source
- Date of publication
- Page number(s)

**For an initial citation of:**

**Books**


*Note* that publication details are placed in brackets

**Books with two authors**


*Note* that multiple pages are indicated with *pp.*

**Books with three or more authors**


**Multivolume work**


**Translation**


**Foreign Language Books**

Standard conventions must be followed, although foreign language words must be *italicised*.

5 Qiao Liang and Wang Xiangshui, *Chaoxian Zhan. Dui Quanqiu Hua Shidai Zhanzheng Yu*
Zhanfa De Xiangding (Unrestricted Warfare. Thoughts on Warfare and Strategy in the Globalised Era). (Jiefangjun Wenyi Chubanshe (Liberation Army Arts Publishing House), Beijing, 1999). p.34

Note that the publisher's name in Chinese is italicised, but the English translation of it remains un-italicised. Both are correctly observing convention.

Chapter in an edited book


Journal articles (online access of printed journals)


Note: you must cite the author, article title and journal title in full, and not just the URL from where you accessed the article.

Electronic Journal articles

Electronic journals and other material sourced from the Internet usually do not have page numbers. Include the appropriate section or paragraph instead. eg Introduction


Book reviews


Citing a source read in another source


Unpublished manuscript material

11 John David Booth, Papers, 1984-1990, MLMSS7332, State Library of NSW, Sydney

Information from a lecture

12 Jane Smith, "Women Politicians of the Twentieth Century" (Lecture given at Macquarie University, NSW, March 7, 2005).

13 Jane Smith, "Women Politicians of the Twentieth Century" (Lecture slide, Macquarie University, NSW, March 7, 2005).

https://unitguides.mq.edu.au/unit_offerings/68726/unit_guide/print
Theses and dissertations

14 Elizabeth Eggleston, "Emma Peel - Feminist Icon or Swinging 60s Chick?" (BA (Hons) thesis, Bournemouth University, 2002), p.12.

Internet sources

References for internet sources must give the author and/or title of the material and the URL (website address) to enable the reader to find the source easily. Provide the date on which you accessed the source online.


Audio-visual sources

16 Steven Spielberg, Schindler's List, (Universal Pictures, 1993)

If you are engaged in intensive film analysis it will be of great assistance to the reader of your work if you specify the chapter or minute mark.

Newspapers and magazines


Note If you access the newspaper or magazine online you must include the URL address.

For unsigned articles:


Images, figures, maps, etc

Every image, figure or map used should be provided with a caption naming the source of the illustration and title:

From a book:

Map: The Religious Complexion of Europe in the Period c. 1555-8


For works of art include the name of the artist and title of the work and source:

Herbert Badham, The Swimming Enclosure, 1941. Source: State Library of NSW, Sydney

Note that these sources do not need to be included in your bibliography.
Second and later references

After the first, full reference of a source you can then use an abbreviated version in your footnotes or endnotes:

17 Ryan, p.45.

*OR*

When referring to a source more than once you may use *ibid* in your footnotes when the work is the same as the one *immediately* above it:

17 *Ibid*.

*OR*

When referring to a source already cited, you may use *Op. Cit.* in your footnotes.

17 *Ibid*.
18 Jones, p2

*If*

There is more than one publication by the same author, use a year to indicate separate publications in second and later references:

17 *Ibid*.
18 Jones 1990, p2
20 Jones 1991, pp41-42

*Books with two authors*

2 Bayly and Harper, p3

*Books with three or more authors*
Bibliography

At the end of your essay list all the books, articles and other sources in alphabetical order of author's family name. You can divide the bibliography into sections, i.e. primary and secondary sources.

Be aware of naming conventions for Chinese names. The family name is traditionally the first name written eg MAO Zedong, unless it has been reversed in the English language convention, particularly in Western academic publishing eg Zedong MAO.

Note that a bibliography is required in addition to footnotes. Formats used for bibliographical entries are different from those used for references.

Books


Books with two authors


Three or more authors


Multivolume work


Translation


Foreign Language Books

Note the Chinese family name convention.

Note that for the bibliographical entries for chapters, journal articles and electronic journal articles you need to include the full page range of the text. For footnotes just the page number is cited.

Chapter in an edited book


Journal articles


Electronic journal articles


Note: you must cite the author, article title and journal title in full, and not just the URL.

Book reviews


Source read in another source


Unpublished manuscript material

John David Booth, Papers, 1984-1990, MLMSS7332, State Library of NSW, Sydney

Information from a lecture

Thesis and dissertations

Eggleston, Elizabeth. "Emma Peel - Feminist Icon or Swinging 60s Chick?" BA (Hons) thesis, Bournemouth University, 2002.

Internet source

"Australians at War: First World War 1914-1918." Australian War Memorial.

Audio-visual sources

Spielberg, Steven. Schindler's List. Universal Pictures, 1993

Newspapers and magazines


For unsigned articles put the name of the newspaper first:


Further information on referencing and compiling bibliographies

For further information on referencing and compiling bibliographies, including sources not mentioned here, the following books will be useful:


Style Manual for Authors, Editors and Printers (Canberra: AGPS,1994)


Chicago-Style Citation Quick Guide available online at
http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html
Writing a Research Paper

An excellent guide from Purdue University

http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/658/03/

There are many more guides available online.

Academic Study Skills Workshops

The university Study Skills Support Unit offers a range of workshops to help you develop your academic skills. These are strongly recommended to all new students. http://www.mq.edu.au/studyskillssupport/

Research Assistance

This unit is research intensive and will require you to make the full use of university research resources of the library. Sign up for a 'library tour' in the first few weeks of uni start and discover the multiple sources of print books and journals, newspapers and electronic journal databases available through the library.