# Teach Mob – Visiting Professors

## Academic year 2015/2016

### 2nd term

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<th>COURSE TITLE</th>
<th>History of Contemporary China</th>
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<td>History and Institutions of Asia</td>
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<td>Department of Cultures, Politics and Societies</td>
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**Course summary**

This course approaches the history of contemporary China (1839-1992) from a social history perspective, offering students the opportunity to navigate the complexity of China’s recent past under the guidance of a Chinese historian.

The course opens with an overview of the “century of humiliation” (1842-1949) and its enduring relevance as policymakers and ordinary citizens grapple with an elusive quest for a quintessentially “Chinese” modernity for the People’s Republic of China.

A critical overview of the “Hundred days reforms” (1898) and the short-lived Republic of China (1912-1949) are provided, by ways of introduction to the genesis and evolution of the People’s Republic of China from the funding years, through High Maoism to Deng’s “Reform and opening up” phase.

The course will constantly alert students to the necessity of studying contemporary China’s history as dynamically intertwined with the international history of the Cold War, and especially the history of USSR-PRC relations.

**Learning objectives**

At the end of the course students are expected to be conversant in the key dynamics of contemporary China’s history, 1839-1992. They are expected to be confident in providing a critical overview of the main events shaping China recent history, and in placing such events in the wider context of the history of international relations during the Cold War.

In particular, students are expected to have acquired an understanding of both high-politics history and social history, with an appreciation of the impact of government policies on the livelihood of the Chinese people through the “century of humiliation” and under the People’s Republic of China.

**Other activities besides the course: i.e. seminars and conferences addressed to PhD students and research fellows, dissemination conferences**

In 2014 Prof. Liu Wei – recipient of Teachmob funding in the 2014-15 academic year – is intensively engaged with the 5th edition of the TOChina Seminars, in partnership with Prof. Daniele Cologna from the University degli Studi dell’Insubria. Seminars are held weekly across May and June and they are designed to highlight the relevance of China’s contemporary history for an Italian audience through an analysis of Chinese migration patterns and the Chinese diaspora/communities in Italy. In
light of the strong interest in this project, it is expected that the next scholar holding this course should engage with the 6th edition of TOChina seminars on the same topic in 2015/2016.

**Visiting Professor Profile**
The selected scholar should have outstanding knowledge of modern and contemporary Chinese history and Mandarin language. He or she should have acquired sufficient seniority in teaching, with a minimum of 15 years of experience. The selected scholar should have a strong record of engagement with international classes and at least 5 years of experience teaching Italian graduate students. The ideal candidate should also have acquired tangible experience in running international teaching programs.

**Contact person at the Department**
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