

**History 355: History of Modern China**  
Professor Jonathan Skaff

### **Paper Assignment 3**

**Due:** Monday, November 29

Hard copy due in class with the grading sheet on the reverse attached

Electronic Copy submitted to the D2L Dropbox in doc, docx, or rtf file format.

**Length:** 4 to 8 pages, double-spaced in 12-point font

**Topic:**

Keeping in mind that China has a long history of rebellion and civil war, what was the cause of the extreme social violence and chaos of the Cultural Revolution in Sichuan Province? Why did some people become aggressive while others did not? Should the problems be attributed to *traditional elements of culture existing since the imperial period, policies instituted under the People's Republic of China in the 1950s, orders of Chairman Mao in the 1960s* or a combination of factors? Using assigned readings and class notes as sources, write a paper that argues persuasively about the reasons for the violence and chaos. There are no easy answers. Concentrate on arguing for the factors that you feel are most important, and explaining why other considerations are not as relevant.

Chang's *Wild Swans* is a valuable **primary source** on her family's direct experiences, and the struggles within the CCP and Red Guards in Sichuan Province. For the historical context, the essay should be based on research in class lectures, Spence's **textbook** *The Search for Modern China*, and other readings from earlier in the semester. Keep in mind that **secondary sources**, such as *The Search for Modern China* and class lectures, are more reliable on the broader context of the Cultural Revolution than Chang's *Wild Swans* because her account of the inner workings of politics in Beijing is based on hearsay and is not reliable.

The paper should include citations and a bibliography. Additional research in library sources is allowed, but not necessary. **NO INTERNET SITES ARE ALLOWED UNLESS LEHMAN LIBRARY PROVIDES DATABASE LINKS TO THEM.** Cite all sources in proper Chicago A or B format. Non-history majors may use MLA.

**Evaluation of Papers:**

80% of the grade will be based on content. Grades of A will be awarded to papers that demonstrate a clear thesis, effective analysis, persuasive argumentation, and an excellent knowledge of the class lectures and readings.

The other 20% will be based upon grammar and word usage (4%), spelling, capitalization and punctuation (4%), organization (4%), readability (4%), and citations and bibliography (4%).

## Grading sheet (attach to paper)

### I. Content (80%)

Understanding of historical context:                                    \_\_\_Excellent \_\_\_Good \_\_\_Fair \_\_\_Poor

Defense of thesis with evidence:                                    \_\_\_Excellent \_\_\_Good \_\_\_Fair \_\_\_Poor

A=72-80, B=64-71, C=56-63, D=48-55, F=47 or lower                                    \_\_\_\_\_

### II. Writing mechanics (20%)

A=4, B=3.5, C=3, D=2.5, F=2 or lower

Grammar and word usage (4%)                                    \_\_\_\_\_

Spelling, capitalization, and punctuation (4%)                                    \_\_\_\_\_

Organization (4%)                                    \_\_\_\_\_

Readability (4%)                                    \_\_\_\_\_

Citations and bibliography (Chicago A or B, or MLA, 4%)                                    \_\_\_\_\_

**Total**                                    \_\_\_\_\_

### Correction Symbols Used in Grading Paper

agr	wrong agreement (noun-verb or noun-noun)
awk	awkward sentence
cit	citation needed
frag	sentence fragment (usually a sentence that lacks a verb)
org	organization problems
redun	redundant (using different words to say the same thing more than once)
rep	repetitious use of the same word
run-on	run-on sentence
sp	wrong spelling
trans	poor transition (between sentences or paragraphs)
tn	wrong verb tense
unc	unclear phrase, sentence, or paragraph
wf	wrong grammatical form of word
ww	wrong word usage
¶	new paragraph needed