History 355: History of Modern China
Instructor: Jonathan Skaff

Paper Assignment 2

Due: Wed., May 1
- Hard copy due in class with the grading sheet on the reverse attached
- Electronic Copy submitted to the D2L Dropbox (Use Microsoft DOC or DOCX, WordPerfect, PostScript, PDF, HTML, RTF or Plain text format).
Length: 4 to 6 pages, double-spaced in 12-point font

Topic:

Write a paper evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the memoir, *Wild Swans*, as a primary source on China’s history from 1909 to 1978. Consider positives and negatives related to 1) the author’s personal biases, 2) social background, 3) sources of information (does she rely on direct observations or second-hand accounts?), 4) geographical focus (are some parts of China covered better than others?), 5) chronological coverage (are some periods treated better than others?), and 6) any other factors you deem to be relevant.

There are no right or wrong answers to this paper topic. The content grade of your paper will be based upon on how well you formulate a thesis and defend it with evidence from *Wild Swans*, other assigned readings and class lectures.

Evaluation of Papers:

80% of the grade will be based on content. Grades of A will be awarded to papers that provide: 1) a thesis that is defended with specific evidence drawn from *Wild Swans*, 2) solid understanding of Modern China derived from lectures and assigned readings, 3) well-crafted writing that clearly transmits ideas, and 4) sharp analysis and argumentation.

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%)
   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 (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)
ital. italics
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