From shattering nineteenth-century rebellions that fragmented the old empire to its emergence as a twenty-first-century superpower, few places have experienced tumult and triumph in the same massive measures as modern China. To understand China today, one must come to terms with this turbulent history. Our course surveys China's major cultural, political, social, and economic transformations, from the failed reforms of the last dynasty and the revolutionary responses in 1911 and 1949, to the remarkable market reforms of recent decades and China's ongoing effort to define its position in the world.