

Oberlin College
History 281: Ethnicity and Nation in Modern China
M 2:30-4:20 Peters 305

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While often seen as a long-unified state and culture, this course explores China as a diverse and multiethnic society shaped by tensions between the hegemonic drive of the state's nation building and the multiplicity of human experiences, histories and ideological and social realities. Topics include Turkic and Muslim populations; Tibet's historic relation to China; the spread of Han population and cultural practices into "minority areas"; and transnational connections with Southeast and Central Asia.

Format and Requirements:

This course is a colloquium that meets once a week for approximately two hours. The most important feature of a colloquium is close reading and thoughtful, carefully argued discussion. Therefore, notes should be taken on the readings and reviewed before class so that you have already thought over issues of fact, interpretation and analysis. This also means that the week's reading assignment should not be left until the night before class.

Effective learning requires a strategy of active study, thinking and interchange. To encourage reflective reading, no later than by Saturday afternoon of each week you are expected to write out on the Discussion Board section of the course's Blackboard website – our computerized discussion software – a short reflection of around 500 words on the book or essays we will have read; you are also invited to comment there on what others in the class have written. I will post questions on the reading that you may choose to respond to. You may also use the forum to raise questions on which you would like help from me or from fellow students. You should read the forum before class, to find out what everyone else in the class is thinking. All this preparatory work should help make our discussions more productive.

You are also expected to participate regularly in class discussions – an activity that our preparation outside of class on the computer forum is intended to make more inviting.

Besides completing the reading and participating in the computer forum and class discussions), students will be responsible for two short papers, spaced approximately evenly throughout the semester. A topic will be assigned for each paper that will require 5-8 pages of analysis of issues arising from the reading and class discussions.

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Your work will be evaluated according to the following weightings:

Weekly computer forum comments	25%
Quality (not quantity) of participation in class	25%
Papers	50%

Please take careful note of these proportions. They reflect my conviction that the week-to-week process of participating in the course through reading, thinking and contributing to everyone else's learning in discussion is as important to your learning as the papers you will write. In the past students who assumed that the papers were their only responsibility for the course were surprised at the end of the semester.

All assignments must be completed to receive credit for the course. Because we only meet for twelve substantive sessions and because participation in discussions is so central to our common project, excessive absences will adversely affect your grade. (No absences are expected; more than one is excessive.) If a situation arises where more than one absence is unavoidable, come talk to me about it; I try to be a reasonable person.

Books available for purchase: (other readings will be on the course web site)

Gladney, Dru C. *Dislocating China: Reflections on Muslims, Minorities, and Other Subaltern Subjects*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004.

Schein, Louisa. *Minority Rules: The Miao and the Feminine in China's Cultural Politics*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2000.

Starr, S. Frederick, ed. *Xinjiang: China's Muslim Borderland, Studies of Central Asia and the Caucasus*. Armonk, N.Y.: M.E. Sharpe Inc., 2004.

Class Meetings:

Feb. 4:

Introduction to course

Feb. 11:

Blum, Susan D. "Margins and Centers: A Decade of Publishing on China's Ethnic Minorities." *Journal of Asian Studies* 61, no. 4 (2002): 1287-1310

Baranovitch, Nimrod. "Between Alterity and Identity: New Voices of Minority People in China." *Modern China* 27, no. 3 (2001): 359-401

Dru C. Gladney, "Representing Nationality in China: Refiguring Majority/Minority Identities." *Journal of Asian Studies* 53, no. 1 (1994): 92-123

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Feb. 18:

Gladney, Dru C. *Dislocating China: Reflections on Muslims, Minorities, and Other Subaltern Subjects*, xi-149

Feb. 25:

Gladney, *Dislocating China*, 150-335, 360-367

Mar. 3:

Schein, Louisa. *Minority Rules: The Miao and the Feminine in China's Cultural Politics*, xi-166

Mar. 10:

Schein, *Minority Rules*, 170-288

Mar. 17: **First essay due.** Summative discussion

Mar. 24: **Spring Recess**

Mar. 31:

Starr, S. Frederick. "Introduction." In *Xinjiang: China's Muslim Borderland*, edited by S. Frederick Starr, 3-26

Perdue, Peter C., and James A. Millward. "Political and Cultural History of the Xinjiang Region." In *Xinjiang: China's Muslim Borderland*, edited by S. Frederick Starr, 27-62

Millward, James A., and Nabijan Tursun. "Political History and Strategies of Control, 1884-1978." In *Xinjiang: China's Muslim Borderland*, edited by S. Frederick Starr, 63-100

Gladney, Dru C. "The Chinese Program of Development and Control, 1978-2001." In *Xinjiang: China's Muslim Borderland*, edited by S. Frederick Starr, 101-119

Apr. 7:

Benson, Linda. "Education and Social Mobility among Minority Populations in Xinjiang." In *Xinjiang: China's Muslim Borderland*, edited by S. Frederick Starr, 190-215

Roberts, Sean R. "A 'Land of Borderlands': Implications of Xinjiang's Trans-Border Interactions." In *Xinjiang: China's Muslim Borderland*, edited by S. Frederick Starr, 216-240

Rudelson, Justin, and William Jankowiak. "Acculturation and Resistance: Xinjiang Identities in Flux." In *Xinjiang: China's Muslim Borderland*, edited by S. Frederick Starr, 299-319

Apr. 14:

Fuller, Graham E., and Jonathan N. Lipman. "Islam in Xinjiang." In *Xinjiang: China's Muslim Borderland*, edited by S. Frederick Starr, 320-352

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Bovingdon, Gardner, and Nabijan Tursun. "Contested Histories." In *Xinjiang: China's Muslim Borderland*, edited by S. Frederick Starr, 353-374

Gladney, Dru C. "Responses to Chinese Rule: Patterns of Cooperation and Opposition." In *Xinjiang: China's Muslim Borderland*, edited by S. Frederick Starr, 375-398

Apr. 21:

Huang, Yasheng. "China's Cadre Transfer Policy toward Tibet in the 1980s." *Modern China* 21, no. 2 (1995): 184-204

Karmel, Solomon M. "Ethnic Tension and the Struggle for Order: China's Policies in Tibet." *Pacific Affairs* 68, no. 4 (1995): 485-508

Smith, Warren W. "The Nationalities Policy of the Chinese Communist Party and the Socialist Transformation of Tibet." In *Resistance and Reform in Tibet*, edited by Robert Barnett and Shirin Akiner, 51-75

Apr. 28:

Readings to be decided.

May 5:

Second essay due. Final discussion.