Oberlin College
History 281: Ethnicity and Nation in Modern China
MWF 9:00-9:50  King 123

David E. Kelley
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Hours: MW 12-1 Rice 312, and by appointment
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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 ethnicity as a historical phenomenon and its relation to nation-building; Turkic and Muslim populations and regions; Tibet's historic relation to China; the spread of Han population and cultural practices into "minority areas"; and border-land populations’ transnational connections with Southeast and Central Asia.

Format and Requirements:
This course is primarily a discussion course with occasional films, individual and group discussions on research topics and the like. Active learning includes your preparation and participation in the learning activities of the class. 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 reading assignments 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 a short reflection of around 500 words on some aspect of the book or essays we will be discussing; you are also invited to comment there on what others in the class have written. 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 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 a critical review of a book or a selection of related readings (5-8 pp.) and a research project on a topic related to the subject of the class. The research project will include an oral presentation, submission of a draft essay, which will be critiqued, and submission of a revised essay due as a final project for the course.
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Your work will be evaluated according to the following weightings:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Board comments</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading Critique</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draft Essay</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Essay</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Please note the 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.

All assignments must be completed to receive credit for the course.

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


The Honor Code: All Oberlin students are on their honor to do their own academic work in this course and other courses. [From “The Revised Honor Code and Honor System] “The default assumption covering all academic exercises is that students are required to do their own work without help from others not explicitly authorized by the instructor. Students may, however, use sources of assistance routinely offered to all students, such as reference librarians and writing tutors.” The Honor Code document can be found at <http://new.oberlin.edu/students/policies/2011-2012/11-Policies-Honor.pdf>.

If you are eligible for and need academic adjustments or accommodations because of a disability, please speak to me early in the semester, or contact the Office of Disability Services at <http://new.oberlin.edu/office/disability-services/>. 
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Class Meetings:

Feb. 1: **Introduction to the course**

*Ethnicity in China*

Feb. 3: Mapping China’s Ethnicities—presentation and discussion

Feb. 5: Pamela Kyle Crossley, “Thinking About Ethnicity in Early Modern China,” *Late Imperial China* 11.1 (June 1990): 1-34


Feb. 12: Discussion

*Classifying Ethnicity*


Feb. 19: Discussion

*Han: Identity, Ethnicity, Norm*


Feb. 26: Discussion
The Southwest: The Exotic and the Feminine


**Mar. 2:** Discussion: Major Themes So Far


**Mar. 4:** Discussion: read Schein, *Minority Rules*, 68-168 for Monday


**Mar. 9:** **No Class:** use the time to complete the reading

**Mar. 11:** Final discussion of Schein

**Mar. 14:** Film: Beyond the Clouds

**Mar. 16:** Discussion of possible research topics

**Mar. 18:** **No class**

**Reading Critique Essay due Mar. 18 by end of day.**

**Mar. 19-27:** **Spring Recess**

**Muslims and Subalternity**

**Mar. 28:** Dru C. Gladney. *Dislocating China: Reflections on Muslims, Minorities, and Other Subaltern Subjects*, xi-149

**Mar. 30:** Gladney discussion

**Apr. 1:** **Friday—Individual meetings to discuss research topics**

**Apr. 4:** Gladney, *Dislocating China*, 150-259, 360-367

**Apr. 6:** **No Class:** Complete Gladney. Research proposal due Friday—make appointment with reference librarian subsequent to proposal

**Apr. 8:** Gladney, discussion concluded
Strategic Regions: Xinjiang and Tibet

Apr. 11: S. Frederick Starr. "Introduction." In Xinjiang: China's Muslim Borderland, edited by S. Frederick Starr, 3-26


Outline for presentation due

Apr. 18: Presentations
Apr. 20: Presentations
Apr. 22: Presentations

Apr. 25: Presentations
Apr. 27: Presentations
Apr. 29: Presentations

May 2: Presentations
May 4: Presentations
May 6: Final Discussion

Draft of essay due: May 6 by 9:00 pm

Final Essay due: Thursday, May 12, 2016 by 11:00 am (time and date determined by final exam time: no late submissions allowed)