

Oberlin College
History 281: Ethnicity and Nation in Modern China
MW 2:30-3:20 King 121

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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 that meets twice a week, with occasional additional meetings for 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 have read; 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,

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which will be critiqued, and submission of a revised essay due as a final project for the course.

Your work will be evaluated according to the following weightings:

Weekly computer forum comments.....	20%
Attendance and participation	20%
Reading Critique	15%
Presentation.....	15%
Draft Essay.....	10%
Final Essay.....	20%

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.

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

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

Lary, Diana. *Chinese Migrations: The Movement of People, Goods, and Ideas Over Four Millennia*. New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2012.

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.

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. 4: Introduction to course

Feb. 6: Susan D. Blum. "Margins and Centers: A Decade of Publishing on China's Ethnic Minorities." *Journal of Asian Studies* 61, no. 4 (2002): 1287-1310

Feb. 11: Mapping China's Ethnicities—presentation and discussion

Feb. 13: Diana Lary. *Chinese Migrations*, 1-102

Feb. 18: Lary, *Chinese Migrations*, 103-195

Feb. 20: Stevan Harrell. "Introduction." In *Negotiating Ethnicities in China and Taiwan*, edited by Melissa J. Brown, 1-17. Berkeley: Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley, Center for Chinese Studies, 1996

Feb. 25: Patricia Ebrey. "Surnames and Han Chinese Identity." In *Negotiating Ethnicities in China and Taiwan*, edited by Melissa J. Brown, 19-36. Berkeley: Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley, Center for Chinese Studies, 1996

Melissa J. Brown. "On Becoming Chinese." In *Negotiating Ethnicities in China and Taiwan*, edited by Melissa J. Brown, 37-74. Berkeley: Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley, Center for Chinese Studies, 1996.

Feb. 27: Steven Harrell. "Introduction: Civilizing Projects and the Reaction to Them." In *Cultural Encounters on China's Ethnic Frontiers*, edited by Stevan Harrell, 3-36. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1995

Norma Diamond. "Defining the Miao : Ming, Qing, and Contemporary Views." In *Cultural Encounters on China's Ethnic Frontiers*, edited by Stevan Harrell, 92-116. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1995

Mar. 4: Steven Harrell. "The History of the History of the Yi." In *Cultural Encounters on China's Ethnic Frontiers*, edited by Stevan Harrell, 63-91. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1995

Steven Harrell. "The History of the History of the Yi, Part II." *Modern China* 29, no. 3 (2003): 362-96.

Mar. 6: Discussion: Major Themes So Far

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Mar. 11: Louisa Schein. *Minority Rules: The Miao and the Feminine in China's Cultural Politics*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2000, 1-67

Mar. 13: Schein, *Minority Rules*, 68-168

Mar. 18: Schien, *Minority Rules*, 169-288

Mar. 20: Discussion of possible research topics.

Reading Critique Essay due Mar. 22 by end of day.

Mar. 23-31: Spring Recess

Apr. 1: Dru C. Gladney. *Dislocating China: Reflections on Muslims, Minorities, and Other Subaltern Subjects*, xi-149

Apr. 3: Gladney discussion continued

Apr. 5: Friday—Individual meetings to discuss research topics

Apr. 8: Gladney, *Dislocating China*, 150-259, 360-367

Apr. 10: Gladney, discussion continued

Research proposal due Wednesday—make appointment with reference librarian subsequent to proposal

Apr. 15: S. Frederick Starr. "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

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

Apr. 17: Individual discussions

Apr. 22: Hillman, Ben, and Lee-Anne Henfry. "Macho Minority: Masculinity and Ethnicity on the Edge of Tibet." *Modern China* 32, no. 2 (2006): 251-62.

Apr. 24 Hu, Xiaojiang, and Miguel A. Salazar. "Ethnicity, Rurality and Status: Hukou and the Institutional and Cultural Determinants of Social Status in Tibet." *The China Journal* 60 (2008): 1-21.

Outline for presentation due

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Apr. 29: Presentations

May 1: Presentations

May 3: Presentations

May 6: Presentations

May 8: Presentations

May 10: Final Discussion

Draft of essay due: May 13 by 9:00 pm

Final Essay due: Saturday May 18, 2013 by 9:00 pm (time and date determined by final exam time: no late submissions allowed)