

Spring 2010 *Social Studies Topics in East Asian Studies 301 Lecture 2:*  
**Northwestern China: Xinjiang, Gansu, and Qinghai**

**Instructor:** David Dettmann  
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**Email:** [dwdettma@wisc.edu](mailto:dwdettma@wisc.edu)

**Time:** MWF 9:55-10:45

**Office hours:** After class Monday or Friday,  
11:00-12:00 or by appointment

**Place:** Room 101 Agricultural Engineering  
(on Henry Mall)

**Course description:**

This course is a survey of the region of what are now the Northwest three provinces of the People's Republic of China. The region is incredibly diverse, due to its long-held position as a conduit of cultures. It occupied an important place on the legendary Silk Road. Because of its connections, it is a place where influential cultures were traded and borrowed. Religions and languages were spread along this road, which was mediated by Chinese, Mongol, Turkic, Tungusic, Tibetan, Persian and other Indo-European speakers.

The goal of this course is to introduce students to this diversity. Lectures, readings, and other assignments will be geared towards this goal, looking into the region's vast and fascinating history. Emphasis will be placed on challenging some basic traditional views on the region.

The first half of the course will be structured on an approximate historical timeline. Major developments will be treated independently, like the development of Buddhism and Islam. The second half of the course will arrive at modern China, where we will survey the basic issues that pertain to life in today's Gansu, Qinghai, and Xinjiang Provinces. Understanding the complicated history and diverse cultures of the region will help to put today's issues into a fairer context.

**Required Text** (available at Rainbow bookstore—on Gilman Street off State, across the street from Fugu):

Starr, S. Frederick (Ed.), *Xinjiang: China's Muslim Borderland*. New York: M.E. Sharpe, 2004.

Recommended:

*A History of Inner Asia* by Svat Soucek (2000)

*Familiar Strangers: A History of Muslims in Northwest China* by Jonathan Lipman, 1997.

In addition to the above, selected texts will be available on *Learn@UW*.

## Grading:

### (20%) Participation:

- **10%** comes from Friday class discussion: all students **must** be present for the discussion. You're allowed to miss 2 discussion classes without penalty. If there is an emergency, you must notify me prior the class period. Missing the 3rd discussion class, you will lose 1% of your participation grade, and another 1% each time you miss the discussion afterwards.
- **10%** comes from the Learn@UW discussion forum: you will post your response papers on learn @UW, **and** comment on 5 other people's response papers throughout the semester. Each comment should be thoughtful and constructive, and the length should be 1-2 paragraphs.

### (18%) Response Papers:

- You will write **six** 1-2 page response papers throughout the semester. The response papers will be worth **3%** each. Your responses should discuss the benefits or shortcomings of the week's readings. Think and write critically.

### (17%) Quizzes:

- **7%** - Map quizzes (2% for the first take-home map quiz, due **Jan. 27th**, 5% for in-class quiz later this semester **Feb. 12th**)
- **10%** - 2 quizzes, 5% each: very brief quizzes **Feb. 24th** and **April 16th**

### (20%) Midterm Exam:

- IDs and short answers. Blue book exam on **March 26th**.

### (5%) Students' presentations on research topic:

- Students will be giving a presentation on their research topic and research questions. You can also explain your topic and what you think you will find. The idea is to get some feedback from the class on how to best tackle your paper. More information to come.

### (20%) Research Paper:

- You will write an 8-10 page paper on a topic (above) to be cleared by me. More information to come.
- **5%** - Final presentation of the research paper
- **15%** - Final research paper

**Extra Credit: (2%)** 1-2 pages Response paper to a book or movie related to our course's content (options to be announced—will be due before April 30, 2010)

Points Possible	Letter Grade
92-100	A
88-91	AB
82-87	B
78-81	BC
72-77	C
62-71	D
0-61	F

Please let me know if you have need special accommodation.

#### Schedule:

Read the week's readings prior to lecture. Fridays are for active discussion!

#### Week 1 – Introduction to Northwest China.

20 Jan – Introduction to the diverse Northwest. What is China, who is Chinese? Syllabus.

22 Jan – Introduction to key locations on maps. A look at China's chronology.

**Assignment:** take-home map quiz. **Due Wednesday, Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>.**

#### Week 2 – Ethnicity in China

##### Readings:

- “The Frontier Ground and Peoples of Northwest China” (chapter 1 of *Familiar Strangers* by Jonathan Lipman, pp. 3-23.)

- “Kazaks of China: The Physical and Cultural Setting” (chapter 1 of *China's Last Nomads* by Benson and Svanberg, pp. 11-29)

- Introduction and Chapter 1 of Dru Gladney's *Ethnic Identity in China*, pp. 1-24)

25 Jan – Creating “minority” nationalities: Ideas of Stalin, Sun Yat-sen, Mao Zedong.

27 Jan – Modern national identities of the Northwest

29 Jan – **discussion on the ideas of Gladney and Lipman**

#### Week 3 – the Ancient lands: Xiongnu, Turks, Xianbei, Wusun, Rouruan, Yuezhi and others

##### Readings:

- examples from T. Burrow's *A Translation of the Kharosthi Documents from Chinese Turkestan* (1940)

- *The Origin of the Yuezhi: Origin, Migration and the conquest of Northern Bactria* by Craig G.R. Benjamin

- Brief overview of nomadic groups of the NW in *Monks and Merchants*

- “The Nomads of the Fifth Century: The Tuoba Xianbei” in *Silk Road Studies VII*, pp. 33-44.

- 01 Feb – Guest lecture: Multiculturalism and Mobility
- 03 Feb – Nomadic groups of the Northwest
- 05 Feb – **discussion (response paper 1 due)**

#### **Week 4 – The Silk Road (Map quiz Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>)**

##### **Readings:**

- James Millward's chapter in Mackerras' 2009 book "Positioning Xinjiang in Eurasian and Chinese History", pp. 55-74.
- Colin Mackerras "The Uighurs" in *The Cambridge History of Inner Asia*, 1990, pp. 317-342.
- other readings TBA **check *Learn@UW***

- 08 Feb – Western Region and Tang China
- 10 Feb – Sogdians and Uighurs
- 12 Feb – **discussion, Map quiz**

#### **Week 5 – Buddhism**

##### **Readings:**

- National Geographic story on Xinjiang's Buddhist caves
- other readings TBA **check *Learn@UW***

- 15 Feb – Overview of Buddhism
- 17 Feb – Dunhuang and ancient Buddhist sites in Xinjiang
- 19 Feb – **discussion (response paper 2 due)**

#### **Week 6 – Khitan, Tanguts, Jurchens and Karakhanids (Quiz on Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>)**

##### **Readings:**

- Chapter 2 in Starr's *Xinjiang*.
- other readings TBA **check *Learn@UW***

- 22 Feb – Buddhism in NW, continued
- 24 Feb – **Quiz #1**
- 26 Feb –

#### **Week 7 – Islam**

##### **Readings:**

- "The Karakhanids and early Islam" in *Cambridge History of Inner Asia*, pp. 343-370.
- *Wisdom of Royal Glory*
- selections from Marshall Broomhall's *Islam in China*
- other readings TBA **check *Learn@UW***

- 01 Mar – Overview of Islam
- 03 Mar – Sufism and Naqshbandiya
- 05 Mar – **discussion (response paper 3 due)**

#### **Week 8 – Mongol and Tibetan power**

**Readings:**

On Islam in Gansu/Qinghai (selections from Lipman)  
Selection from Goldstien's *The Snow Lion and the Dragon*.  
- other readings TBA check *Learn@UW*

08 Mar – Chagatay Khanate and its successors  
10 Mar – Rise of Yellow Hat Buddhism  
12 Mar – **discussion**

**Week 9 –Qing Period: Zhungar Mongols, Khojas in Xinjiang, Uprisings in Gansu**

**Readings:**

On Islam in Gansu/Qinghai (selections from Lipman)  
Isenbike Togan's *Islam in a Changing Society: The Khwajas of Eastern Turkistan*  
- other readings TBA check *Learn@UW*

15 Mar – “Muslim rebellion”  
17 Mar – Fall of Qing power  
19 Mar –**discussion (response paper 4 due)**

**Week 10 – Fall of the Qing, re-ordering the NW during the ROC, then PRC**

**Readings:**

- Chapter 3 in Starr's *Xinjiang*  
- other readings TBA check *Learn@UW*

22 Mar – The Great Game  
24 Mar –  
26 Mar – Midterm exam

**\*\*\* SPRING RECESS March 27-April 04 \*\*\***

**Week 11 – Modern Nationality Policies**

**Readings:**

- Introduction from Steven Harrell's *Cultural Encounters on China's Ethnic Frontiers*  
- Chapter 2 of Gladney's *Ethnic Identity in China*  
- other readings TBA check *Learn@UW*

05 Apr – More on modern groups  
07 Apr – Nationality politics  
09 Apr –**discussion (response paper 5 due)**

**Week 12 – Minority issues in the Northwest: Education, employment, restrictions and affirmative action (Quiz #2 April 16<sup>th</sup>)**

**Readings:**

- selections from Starr's *Xinjiang*

12 Apr – education in the NW  
14 Apr – Minority issues  
16 Apr –discussion, Quiz #2

**Week 13– Modern issues of the Northwest: Development, terrorism? oil, tourism**

**Readings:**

Chapters 14 and 15 of Raphael Israeli's *Islam in China*  
Selections from Starr's *Xinjiang*

19 Apr – Modern Issues  
21 Apr – Modern Issues  
23 Apr –discussion (response paper 6 due)

**Week 14 (Apr 26-30) Student presentations on research topics**

**Week 15 (May 03-07) Student presentations on research topics**

**12 May (our scheduled Final Exam day) Final Paper DUE at noon.**

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