Fall 2011 Social Studies Topics in East Asian Studies 301: Islam in China: Muslim Identities, Past and Present

Instructor: David Dettmann  
Email: dwdettma@wisc.edu

Time: MW 3:00-4:15  
Office hours: TBA

Place: TBA  
Office is 332 Ingraham Hall

Course description:

This course will introduce students to the varied histories and cultures of China’s roughly 20 million practicing Muslims, with a special focus on the two largest groups, the Chinese-speaking Hui and the Turkic-speaking Uyghurs. This course will provide an overview of Islam and the historical spread of the religion in the lands where Muslims are most densely concentrated in today’s People’s Republic: Xinjiang, Gansu, Ningxia, Qinghai, Shaanxi and Yunnan. The course will also address issues related to the creation and promotion of ethnic identity in modern China.

We will also look at how international events like the “war on terror” have influenced the religious and political lives of Muslims in Xinjiang and elsewhere in China, and how local life is changing with recent development schemes in the Northwest. We will also analyze the violence in Guangdong and Xinjiang in June and July of 2009, and critically consider biases from the east and from the west in discussing China, minorities, and Islam.

The goal of the course is to present a basic introduction to China’s Muslim communities, but also to ultimately understand and appreciate the complexities of China’s Muslim regions.

Required Texts (available at Rainbow Bookstore—on Gilman Street off State St., across the street from Fugu):


Many shorter readings are available on Learn@UW each week. Be sure to check Learn@UW.

Recommended texts on the next page…
Recommended Texts:


Grading:

**Class participation.** Come to class, actively participate in discussion of lectures and readings. 10 + 15 = 25%

**2 brief quizzes** on places on the map and basic terms Sept. 26 and Nov. 14. 7.5 + 7.5 = 15%

**Class presentations and discussion.** Students will take turns leading discussion on the week’s readings each Wednesday. For week 9 (Oct. 31st and Nov. 2nd) I’d like you to give a brief presentation (15 minutes or so) about a non-required book that you’ve read pertaining to Islam in China. Also give me a 1-3 page write up of your reaction to the book. On Nov. 30th you bring in news stories pertaining to Muslims in China to share. Finally, you will give an informal presentation on your research paper on Dec. 5th 10 + 5 + 5 = 20%

**Research paper.** A paper on a topic that interests you, relating somehow to Muslims in China. (consult with me before starting with your topic. 12-15 pages, double-spaced, 1” margins) Due December 14th. 40%

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Please let me know the first week if you have need special accommodation.
Course schedule and reading assignments:

Make sure to check Learn@UW for additional chapters or articles for each week’s readings. There I will also post assigned readings in your required textbooks. Read each day’s readings prior to lecture. Come ready to discuss.

**Week 1 – Introductions**

07 Sept – Introduction to the course. Geography of the region, Chinese minority minzu Reading: Denny, Chapter 3

**Week 2 – General Introduction to Islam**

12 Sept – The Islamic world and the spread of Islam. Splits among the Muslim communities and different ways of understanding Islam Reading: Denny, Chapter 5
14 Sept – Muslim minority nationalities, autonomous regions, prefectures, counties. Introduction to the Hui Reading: Lipman, Intro and Chapter 1

**Week 3 – Islam comes to China**

19 Sept – Islam comes to the Middle Kingdom – Tang to the Qarakhanids, Mongols to the Ming Reading: Selections from Broomhall’s *Islam in China: a Neglected Problem* (Learn@UW)
21 Sept – Reading: Lipman Chapter 2. Map/term identification quiz on Monday

**Week 4 – “Old teachings” and “new teachings” - Sufism**

26 Sept – QUIZ 1. Places on a map and a few identifications. Otherwise topics for this day relate to Sufism and its road to China Reading: Denny Chapter 11 (Learn@UW)
28 Sept – “Han Kitab” and Gedimu. Reading: Lipman Chapter 3.

**Week 5 – “Becoming Chinese”: fusing Islam and Chinese identity**

03 Oct – Reading: Selections from Chinese Gleams of Sufi Light (Learn@UW), Luckert’s Mythology and Folklore of the Hui
05 Oct – Reading: Lipman Chapter 4

**Week 6 – Turbulent years for the Qing, Muslim uprisings**

10 Oct – Turbulence in the Northwest Reading: Lipman Chapter 5 and conclusion.
12 Oct – Turbulence in the Southwest: the Panthay Rebellion Reading: Atwill’s Blinkered Visions (Learn@UW)

**Week 7 – New China and Islam, Islam in the PRC**

17 Oct – the Long March Readings: Selections from Edgar Snow’s *Red Star Over China*, Chiang Kai-shek’s speeches on national unity (Learn@UW)
19 Oct – Communism and Islam, Modern Chinese society Reading: Selections from The Imam’s Story (Learn@UW)

**Week 8 – Intro to Xinjiang, pre-Islamic Xinjiang, and modern Uyghurs**

24 Oct – Xinjiang’s landscape, Mummies Reading: Science article on the Tarim Mummies, Turks and Tajiks (Learn@UW)
26 Oct – Turki/Mongol/Khitay/Chinese and the ethnogenesis of the modern Uyghur. Intro to Turkic Muslims of NW China, Xinjiang Reading: Chapter 1 of Bovingdon

**Week 9 – Muslim Xinjiang, Qing Xinjiang**

31 Oct – the rise of the sufi khojas, khojas and the Dzungars Reading: Togan’s Islam in a Changing Society, the Wisdom of Royal Glory, “Manchus and Khojas”, Rise of Yaqub Beg (Learn@UW)
02 Nov – Student presentations on self-selected readings

**Week 10 – Warlords and Muslims**

07 Nov (Eid al-Adha, aka Kurban Heyit, aka Festival of Sacrifice) – Education reform and obstruction, Jadidism and the Chinese systems, 1st ETR and Tunganistan Reading: Bovingdon Chapter 2
09 Nov – Three Regions Government, resistance in Xinjiang Reading: 1954 National Geographic “How the Kazakhs Fled to Freedom”

**Week 11 – Xinjiang under communist rule**

14 Nov – QUIZ 2. Liberation and the creation of the XPCC Reading Chapter 3 Bovingdon
16 Nov – New identities? Cultural Revolution and Deng’s reforms Reading: Oasis Identities Chapter 4 (Learn@UW)

**Week 12 – Modern Xinjiang, Uyghur nationalism**

21 Nov – Education, Religion, and continued resistance Reading: Chapter 4 Bovingdon
23 Nov – Waiting for Uighurstan: Modern Uyghur émigré movements, Rebiya Kadeer. Reading Chapter 5 Bovingdon

**Week 13 – from 9/11 to 7/5, crackdown on “extremism”**

28 Nov – Violence in Summer 2009, Guangdong and Xinjiang. Reading: Conclusion and Epilogue of Bovingdon

**Week 14 – Presentations**
05 Dec – Presentations/discussions on your research papers
07 Dec – student presentations and/or “Fun” topic TBA

Week 15 – Presentations

12 Dec – “fun” topic TBA
14 Dec – Conclusions, RESEARCH PAPERS DUE

Final Exam Time TBA room TBA

Some readings that may be of interest:


Chu, Wen-Djang.


Eri, Arfiya. ""No One Can Take Away Who We Are"." *Columbia East Asia Review*, 2008: 76-79.


Luckert, Karl W. and Cuiyi Wei (see Wei entry)


—. *Concord and Conflict: The Hui Communities of Yunnan Society*. Lund, 1996
