

Islam's Orient:

Islam, Nationalism, and Ethnic Violence in China HIST 597C/CMLIT 597C/RLST 597C

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6-9 p.m. Tuesdays --008 [LIFE SCI](#)

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Office Hours: Th 1 - 2
(and by appointment)

Course Description:

Despite the fact that China has a Muslim population larger than Iraq, Saudi Arabia, or Malaysia, Muslim Chinese culture and society is often dismissed as peripheral to the concerns of both the Islamic World and China. Through lecture, readings, films, and discussion, this course will survey and analyze the diverse religious, ethnic and political identities found among China's Muslim communities. Focusing on those ethnic groups who practice Islam – the Uyghur, Kazaks, and Hui – the emphasis of this seminar will be on challenging the misleading perception of China as a cultural and ethnically homogenous society, on the one hand, and the Middle Eastern notion of those Muslims who live outside Dar-al-Islam as less Muslim on the other. The complex inter-ethnic and transnational relations of the Muslim groups living inside China have resulted in the emergence of an ethno-religious identity that challenges the most common modern categories of classification: nation, ethnicity or religion. With an eye to the central role the Muslim Chinese have exerted in the construction of the Chinese and Inner Asian nation-states, this seminar will examine the religious beliefs, persistent resistance to assimilation, and their evolving ethnic identities.

Class requirements:

Participation (30%): As there is no central textbook for this course the lectures and discussion will attempt to provide an on-going narrative which proceeds both chronologically as well as thematically. It is vital that you attend, participate and take good notes. Students will be asked to sign up for 2 sessions to lead discussion on the merits of the readings assigned for that week. In addition, each student should come to every class prepared to ask and respond to open-ended questions around which the discussion of the readings should be organized.

Reaction Papers (30%): We will read six books over the course of the class with shorter articles assigned on those weeks there is no book reading. With the belief that learning to write succinctly and pointedly is a desirable skill, a short 2-page paper discussing that seminar's assigned reading will be due every week at the beginning of class ONLY on those days book-length readings are due.

These papers should have standard 1-inch margins and use Arial or Times New Roman fonts. The focus should be in the general format that a scholarly book review is written: 1) address the basic significance, content, and scope of book 2) point out particular strengths and/or weaknesses in the book (or articles) and 3) offer your own assessment. A model of how quality reaction papers should look is available on line at: <http://orpheus.ucsd.edu/chinesehistory/pgp/index.html>

Paper proposal (10%): A one page-proposal and bibliography discussing the theme of your final paper is due March 29 via e-mail. This should contain a paragraph (half page at most) describing the gist of your project (e.g. what question/evolution are you seeking to elucidate). As well you should list 10-12 of the books or articles that will shape your ideas.

Paper (30%): An 8-10 page paper discussing a topic of your choice is due by May 2. The topic can be either thematic/topical or more of a bibliographic review (examining the evolution and or controversies surrounding a subject) that relates to Islam in China. Each member of the class will present their findings in a 20 minute presentation during the final seminar meeting (April 26). You may use the readings from class as a basis for further research on the subject.

Required Books:

Title: **Muslim Chinese: Ethnic Nationalism in the Peoples Republic**
Author: Dru C. Gladney
Edition: 2nd Edition (1996)
Publisher: Harvard University Press
ISBN: 0674594975

Title: **Familiar Strangers: A History of Muslims in Northwest China**
Author: Jonathan Lipman
Publisher: University of Washington Press (1998)
ISBN: 0295976446

Title: **Holy War in China: The Muslim Rebellion and State in Chinese Central Asia**
Author: Hodong Kim
Publisher: Stanford University Press (2004)
ISBN: 0804748845

Title: **Beyond the Pass: Economy, Ethnicity, and Empire in Qing Central Asia, 1759-1864**
Author: James Millward
Publisher: Stanford Univ Pr (1998)
ISBN: 0804729336

Title: **Between Mecca and Beijing: Modernization and Consumption among Urban Chinese Muslims**
Author: Maris Gillette
Publisher: Stanford Univ. Press (2000)
ISBN: 0804746850

Title: **Xinjiang: China's Muslim Borderland (Studies of Central Asia and the Caucasus)**
Author: S. Frederick Starr
Publisher: M E Sharpe (2004)
ISBN: 0765613182

Required Reading:

In addition to the above monographs we will be reading a variety of articles. These will generally be available via e-reserve.

Tentative Seminar Schedule

Unit I – Introduction to Islam in China

- January 11 - **Introductory Meeting**
Reading: No Reading
- January 18* - **Conceptualizing Islam in China**
Reading: Gladney, *Muslim Chinese: Ethnic Nationalism in the People's Republic*
- January 25* - **Islam and Northwest China**
Reading: Starr, *Xinjiang: China's Muslim Borderlands*

Unit II – Imperial China and Islam

- February 1* - **Guest Speaker: James Millward**
Reading: Millward, *Beyond the Pass: Economy, Ethnicity, and Empire in Qing Central Asia*
- February 8 - **New Trends and Emerging Orthodoxy**
Reading: Lipman, "Sufism in the Chinese Courts: Islam and Qing Law in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century." In de Jong and Radtke eds., *Islamic Mysticism Contested: Thirteen Centuries of Controversies and Polemics* 253-275.
- February 15* - **Yakub Beg**
Reading: Kim, *Holy War in China: The Muslim Rebellion and State in Chinese Central Asia*
- February 22 - **Muslim Chinese: Which Hui?**
Reading: Atwill, "Blinkered Visions: Islamic Identity, Hui Ethnicity, and the Panthay Rebellion," *Journal of Asian Studies* 62(4) November 2003, 1079-1102.
- March 1* - **Betwixt and Between: Muslim Chinese of Northwest China**
Reading: Lipman, *Familiar Strangers: A History of Muslims in Northwest China*
- March 7-11: Spring Break

Unit III – Islam in 20th Century China

- March 15* - **Forging a New Identity**
Reading: Gillette, *Between Mecca and Beijing*:
- March 22 - **Making Minorities: the Muslim Chinese in PR China**
Reading: Gladney, "Educating China's Others," in *Dislocating China: Muslims, Minorities and Other Subaltern Groups*, 260-281.
- March 29 - **No Class (Paper topics & Bibliographies due)**
Reading: No Reading
- April 5* - **No Class (Schedule Conference with Prof)**
Reading: No Reading
- April 12 - **No Class (Schedule Conference with Prof)**
Reading: No Reading
- April 19 - **No Class (Schedule Conference with Prof)**
Reading: No Reading
- April 26 - **Presentations: Bibliographies and Papers due**
Reading: No Reading