

**Multiethnic Culture and Chinese Society**  
**Instructor: GUO Aimin**  
**(Tentative)**

**Course Description:**

China is growing into an influential nation of the world with 1.3 billion people from 56 ethnic groups. Where did these people come from? What is the relationship between these ethnic groups? And what is the impact of Chinese multiethnic reality on Chinese society? The course will introduce the history of major Chinese ethnic groups and their transformation in modern period. The course will focus on the relationship between and among major ethnic groups in contemporary China, especially the relationship between Han Chinese, Tibetan, Mongolian, Uygur and Hui People (Chinese Muslim). Through class discussions, students are encouraged to critically think about concepts of nationalism, race, and ethnicity in the era of nation-state and their roles in the evolvement of the Chinese nation. The aim of the course is to introduce the changes and continuities in Chinese ethnic relationship between traditional and modern China and help students understand the dynamics of Chinese society.

**Books:**

Conrad Schirokauer and Miranda Brown, *A Brief History of Chinese Civilization* (Paperback) , Wadsworth Publishing; 2 edition (March 10, 2005)

Gardner Bovingdon, *The Uyghurs: Strangers in Their Own Land*, Columbia University Press, 2010.

Ashild Kolas and Monika P. Thowsen, *On the Margins of Tibet: Cultural Survival on the Sino-Tibetan Frontier*, University of Washington Press (July 2006)

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. Verso; Revised edition (May 1991) .

**Course Requirements and Evaluations:**

Class attendance and discussion	10%
Two Response Papers	20%
Mid-term Exam (essay)	30%
Final Exam (essay)	30%

**Make-ups and Other Course Rules**

Paper must be submitted before the beginning of class on the due day. Make-ups are only possible for students who received the instructor's permission in advance of the due date. An examination may be made up only if a student can present to the instructor sufficient evidence of their inability

to attend the exam at its scheduled time.

**Class Schedule (Tentative):**

**Week 1: Course General Introduction**

Nation, Ethnic Groups and Globalization

**Week 2: The Roots of Chinese Civilization:**

Shang and Western Zhou Dynasty

The Spring and Warring States Period

**Week 3: The Forming of Han Chinese**

The Unification of Qin and

The Han Chinese formed

**Week 4: Northern People Came Down**

Northern People in the Heart Land

**Week 5: Field Trip in Beijing**

Niu Jie

**Week 6 : Mongolians and Manchues Ruled China**

Midterm (paper due)

**Week 7: From Empire to Republic**

Transformation of Ethnic Relations in Modern period

**Week 8: 56 Official Recognized Ethnic Groups and Ethnic Autonomous Regions**

Tibet and Xinjiang

**Week 9: Field Trip in Beijing**

Wang Jing

**Week 10: Ethnic Relations in Today's China:**

Economic Development and Culture Preservation

**Week 11: Globalization and Oversea Chinese**

**Week 12: Globalization and Foreigners in China**

**Final (paper Due)**