

Spring 2026

HUMA 2635 Cultural Diversity in China

Course instructor: MA Jianxiong

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Time: Tuesday, 15:00-16:50

Venue: Room 2502 (lift 25-26)

Tutorial: Tuesday 17:00-17:50

Venue: Room 2502 (lift 25-26)

Office hours: 15:00-18:00 Wednesday

Office: Room 3342

Course Description:

This course examines diverse ethnic cultures and identities in China, and the ethnic relations between the political center and its margin in history as well as its contemporary changes in China. The course consists of lectures and tutorials. The lectures are designed to introduce the topics to the students. In each tutorial, we will discuss various readings. Student participation and presentations during tutorials are emphasized in order to accelerate students' intellectual development. Some media resources will be introduced in the lectures.

Major objectives:

It is necessary for our students to understand culture and society in Mainland China. The main purpose of this course is to help students to better understand the relationship between Chinese state and ethnic minorities, ethnic diversity, cultures and social institutions of ethnic minorities in China, which is elaborated as follows: (1) learn the historical and cultural context between the state center and its margin in China; (2) learn anthropological approaches to analyze ethnic relations in Chinese political culture; (3) understand the nation state building under cultural diversity in China; and (4) understand cultural diversity and the changing ethnic relations in contemporary China.

Assessment of student learning:

Continual assessment counts for 50% of the marks. Of this 50%, 20% is due to one research paper related to the topics of readings; 20% comes from one response paper about the screened documentaries, while the remaining 10% is due to tutorial discussions and course participation. The final exam counts for 50%.

Texts and main references:

Goldstein, Melvyn and Beall, Cynthia,

1990 *Nomads of Western Tibet: The Survival of a Way of Life*. Berkeley:

University of California.

February 3. Week 1. Introduction (I) the center and the margin

Dreyer, June Teufel,

1976. *China's forty millions: minority nationalities and national integration in the People's Republic of China*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1976 Pp. 1 – 4.

No Tutorial this week (In Add/Drop period).

February 10. Week 2. Ethnic minorities as *Manyi* (I)

Dreyer, June Teufel,

1976. “The Imperial Legacy”, in *China's forty millions: minority nationalities and national integration in the People's Republic of China*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Pp. 7-14.

No Tutorial this week (In Add/Drop period).

February 17. Week 3. Ethnic minorities as *Manyi* (II)

Dikötter, Frank,

1992 “Race as Culture: Historical Background” in *The Discourse of Race in Modern China*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. Pp.1-30.

Tutorial: February 17. Discussion about the research paper topics.

February 24. Week 4. Case of Ethnic Minorities and their culture

Films: 1. *Tisese: A Documentary on Three Mosuo Women*;

2. *A Lake of Romance*.

Tutorial: February 24. Documentary Screening

March 3. Week 5. Nation state building after 1911.

Rossabi, Morris,

2004. “Introduction”, in Morris Rossabi edited, *Governing China's multiethnic frontiers*. Seattle and London, Pp.3-18.

Beall, Goldstein,

1990. *Nomads of Western Tibet*. Berkeley, Los Angeles, University of California Press. Pp.1-51.

Tutorial: March 3. Film: *The Holy Month of Ramadan in Xinjiang, China*

March 10. Week 6. Nation state building after 1949.

Dreyer, June Teufel,
1976. *China's forty millions: minority nationalities and national integration in the People's Republic of China*. Cambridge. Pp. 63–137.

Beall, Goldstein
1991. *Nomads of Western Tibet*. Berkeley, Los Angeles, University of California Press. Pp.52-107.

Tutorial: March. 10.

March 17. Week 7. Minorities in Northeast China.

Film: *Ewenki's Reindeer; The Last Moose of Aoluguya*.

Goldstein Beall,
1992. *Nomads of Western Tibet*. Berkeley, Los Angeles, University of California Press. Pp.108-160.

Tutorial: March 17.

March 24. Week 8. Minorities in Northwest China (I).

Gladney, Dru C.
1996. *Muslim Chinese: ethnic nationalism in the People's Republic*. Cambridge, Mass., Council on East Asian Studies, Harvard University: Distributed by Harvard University Press, 1996. Pp. 1-63.

Tutorial: March 24.

March 31. Week 9. Minorities in Northwest China (II).

Wang, Jianmin
2002, “Ethnonyms and nationalism in Xinjiang”, in C. X. George Wei and Xiaoyuan Liu, ed., *Exploring Nationalism of China: themes and conflicts*. Pp. 173-186.

Tutorial: March 31. Due date of the research paper.

April 14. Week 10. Minorities in Southwest China (I).

Goldstein Beall,
1993. *Nomads of Western Tibet*. Berkeley, Los Angeles, University of California Press. Pp. 161-183.

Tutorial: April 14.

April 21. Week 11. Minorities in Southwest China (II).

Film: *A Student Village*. (100 Mins.)

Shanshan Du,

2002. “Husband-wife dyads in the life cycle”, in *Chopsticks only work in pairs: Gender unity and gender equality among the Lahu of Southwest China*. New York. Columbia University Press. Pp.52-76.

Tutorial: April 21.

April 28 & May 5. Week 12. Minorities and contemporary Chinese Society & Final Review

Harrell, Stevan,

1995 “Introduction: civilizing projects and the reaction to them”, in *Cultural Encounters on China’s ethnic frontiers*. Seattle: University of Washington Press. Pp. 3-36.

Tutorial: April 28. Due date of the response paper about the documentaries.

The date of the final exam is based on the university schedule.