Ethnicity and Gender in China and Tibet (Anthropology 362)
Fall 2005
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Description:
Chinese and Tibetan peoples have interacted for centuries, but it is only in the last half of the twentieth century that the "Tibet question" in China has risen to global attention. This course looks at modern Sino-Tibetan relations through the lens of ethnicity and gender as a way to understand the contentious process through which the Chinese nation-state and national identity have been constructed. Through readings, films, discussions and lectures, we will explore the diversity of Tibetan and Han Chinese ethnic identities, gender ideologies, and family organization just prior to, during and after the Communist revolutionary period. This perspective will shed light on the incorporation of Tibetans as a "minority nationality" in the Chinese "multinational state", the role of such minorities in constructing Han Chinese majority identity, and the differing impact of state policies on men and women in the context of rapid economic reform and globalization in the PRC.

Prerequisites: Anthropology 211. Conference.

Summary of Requirements:
- Discussion leadership
- 4 film commentaries (due by Friday of week after film screened).
  - 1 of these MUST be for week four film Stranger; Must discuss the film in terms of nationalism and imagined community (due Monday, Sept. 26, 5 pm)
  - All 4 must be turned in by the end of the 7th week, or others to improve won't be accepted.
- Take-home midterm exam (due Friday, Oct. 14, 5 pm)
- Final paper proposal and annotated bibliography (Friday Nov. 11, 5 pm)
- Optional 2-3 page print ad or website analysis (due Friday Dec. 2, 5 pm)
- 10 page final paper: (due Wed., Dec. 14, 5 pm).

Course Organization:
This course is your chance to delve into a particularly controversial topic in current world politics. Classes will revolve around student-led discussions, presentations, and film viewings. There will be a take-home midterm exam, 4 film commentaries, an optional 2-3 page print ad or website analysis, and a final 10 pg. paper. I will expect your avid participation--including regular attendance, prompt completion of assignments, and active involvement in discussions whenever possible. In fact, class participation and attendance will comprise a significant portion of your grade. Beginning week 2 class members will take turns posting discussion questions on the class email list and helping to lead class discussions.

Reading and writing assignments are meant to encourage close, critical engagement with the history and cultural politics of the Sino-Tibetan relationship, as well as your thoughtful reflection on the issues they raise in the context of the anthropological
perspective on gender, ethnicity and nationalism presented in class. The reading load is moderate to heavy and it is assigned per week. On average, you should expect to put in two to three hours of work outside of class for every hour of in-class time.

Weekly supplemental readings are provided for your use. These readings are ones that are especially relevant or provide differing viewpoints; they offer points of departure for deepening your understanding of particular issues.

Required readings are marked on the syllabus for where they can be found. Multiple copies of all texts are available on reserve in the library, and many books are available in the bookstore. In addition, a large number of required readings are available on-line, through e-reserves and on the web. E-reserves can be accessed at: http://ereserves.library.reed.edu/eres/courseindex.aspx?page=instr Just go to the log-in page at this address, type in the course password (I will give that to you in class), and search for the reading you need by title. Please print out all on-line readings! Reading is much more engaged when it is on paper. All readings available on-line are easily accessed via links on the web syllabus (see URL above). All readings on e-reserve are also available in hard copy form in the reserve folder for that text. Please let me know if you have any trouble obtaining the readings. To facilitate discussion, you should bring all readings for the day to class.

Copies of the following books (listed in the order they are assigned in the course) are available at the bookstore; 3-4 copies of each are also on reserve at the library:

-Containing substantial assigned readings (many available):

-Recommended, only a portion assigned (a few copies available):
  Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities*


**Web and Email Resources:**

**Electronic Newsletter:** For those who are particularly interested in keeping up with Tibetan affairs this semester, you may sign onto the World Tibet Network News Mailing List. This is a daily electronic newsletter which contains news and comments about Tibet from a variety of viewpoints.

**To subscribe:**
1) send an email to: listserv@lists.mcgill.ca
2) In the body of the message type:
   SUB WTN-L your name

They will send you a return email confirming your subscription.

**To cancel:**
1) send an email to: listserv@lists.mcgill.ca
2) In the body of the message type:
   SIGNOFF WTN-L

All articles (over 15,000 since 1992) published on WTN are archived on the web at: http://www.tibet.ca/wtnnews.htm

You can search the archive for articles related to any topic you're interested in.

**Chat Lists:** You can also subscribe to email chat lists about Tibet-related topics. Two such lists are

1) Tibet-L: General discussion list on all matters related to Tibet, unmoderated.
   **To subscribe:** send email to LISTSERV@LISTSERV.INDIANA.EDU with the command (paste it!):SUBSCRIBE TIBET-L

2) The Students for a Free Tibet "Yak" List: Discussion list on Tibet issues among students worldwide.
   **To subscribe:**
   1) send an email to: majordomo@cyborganic.org
   2) In the body of the message type:
       subscribe sft-yak

**General Websites (see syllabus for other sites related to weekly topics):**


Tibetan and Himalayan Digital Library. Based at the University of Virginia, has links about all aspects of Tibetan language and culture.
http://iris.lib.virginia.edu/tibet/

Students for a Free Tibet, (Has a "Tibetan Women Speak Out" page):
   www.tibet.org/SFT

Tibet Online: http://www.Tibet.org; (Has list of major Tibet sites and Online Tibet resources)

Tibet Information Network. Excellent independent news coverage on Tibet.
http://www.tibetinfo.net/

Human Rights Watch. Coverage on China and Tibet:
   http://www.hrw.org/asia/china.php

www.chinanews.org; (Chinese state site, has pages on Tibet)
China News Digest: (fairly neutral online newsletter managed by overseas Chinese volunteers in Maryland)  www.CND.org
China Education and News Network (Chinese site, in Chinese), http://www.net.edu.cn/
China Today (Chinese state-sponsored magazine): http://www.chinatoday.com/
Inside China Today (Overseas Chinese magazine, produced outside of PRC control, has links to non-PRC news re: China): http://www.insidechina.com
China Web. Chinese produced site providing excerpts of Xinhua and People's Daily newspaper articles in English, has many links on Tibetans:
http://www.china.org.cn/
Human Rights in China. Recently produced huge website under auspices of CND. Has links on Tibet, ethnic groups in China, photos and more.
http://www.humanrights-China.org/

Late Paper Policy: Deadlines are strict. Barring personal crisis, family emergency, or illness (please let me know ahead of time), all late papers will be subject to one half grade off per day late.

COURSE SCHEDULE

PART 1: NATIONALISMS AND RETHINKING HISTORIES

Week One Locating "Tibet"

Tues Aug. 30  Introductions and Goals of the Course

Week One Film assignment: Wed. Aug. 31, 7 pm, Bio 19, Lost Horizon, 1937, Frank Capra, 130 mins.

Thurs Sept 1: Locating "Tibet"

Supplemental Readings:


Week Two Film Assignment: 7 pm Sunday, Sept. 4, Bio 19 Red Flag Over Tibet, PBS *Frontline*, 1994, 56 min.

**Week Two: Imagined Communities**

Sept. 6 **Nation, Culture and Identity Theorized**


Maalki, Lisa. "National Geographic: The Rooting of Peoples and the Territorialization of National Identity Among Scholars and Refugees," in Gupta and Ferguson, eds. *Culture,

Sept. 8 Narratives of Nation

Supplemental Readings:

Week Three Making Majorities:
From Empire to Nation in China and the Invention of Nationality

Sept. 13 Empire and Nation in China

Sept. 15 Ethnicity and Nation in the PRC

Supplemental Readings:


Harrell, Stevan. Ways of Being Ethnic in Southwest China.


Week Four: Constructing a Pan-Tibetan Identity: From Empire to Nationalism in Tibet

Sept. 20 Empire and State in Tibet

Sept. 22 The Threat of Modernity: Nationalist efforts
Shakya, Tsering. 1993 Whither the Tsampa Eaters? Himal Sept-Oct: 8-11

In class Film Assignment: A Stranger in My Native Land, 1997 (33 min).

Supplemental Readings:
Bell, Sir Charles. (1946) "the political Testament of H.H. the 13th Dalai Lama," reprinted in Alex Mckay, ed. *The History of Tibet, vol III: The Modern Period*


 Stranger/Nationalism film commentary due Monday, Sept. 26, 5 pm my office

**Week Five Gendered Nationalisms**


Sept. 27 Gender, Nation and Modernity


Sept 29 Engendering Tibet


Supplemental Readings:

Parker, Andrew, ed. Nationalisms and Sexualities.


Taring, Rinchen. Daughter of Tibet. 1970


**Warning: This film contains graphic sexual violence}
Week Six One Nation Under Mao: Erasing Difference During The Radical Years

Oct. 4 The Pursuit of Gradual Assimilation: Reform and Revolt

Oct. 6 The Homogeneous and Androgynous Ideal: The Cultural Revolution and the Collective State

Handout Take-Home Midterm

Supplemental Readings:
Harris, Clare. "Ch. 4: The Chinese Image of Tibet," (pp. 120-141, half the chapter) and "Ch. 5: The Tibetan Image of the Tibet Autonomous Region," (p. 150-162, half chapter), *In the Image of Tibet: Painters of Tibet post-1959*. Reaktion Books: 1999. (33 pp).

Week Seven Film assignment (7-9 pm Sun, Oct. 9, Psych. 105): "Dao Mazei" (The Horse Thief), Xi'an Film Studio, 1987, 100 min.

**Week Seven: The Eighties Reforms: Reasserting Dangerous Difference**

Oct. 11 Reform and Opening Up

Oct. 13 Living the Reforms

**Supplemental Readings:**
The Lhasa Atlas

Take-Home Midterm due Friday, Oct. 14, 5 pm, my office

October Break Oct. 15-23
PART II: POST-MAO CULTURAL POLITICS

Week Eight: The Cultural Politics of Development

Oct. 25  Nation, Ideology and Development

Oct. 27 Living Development in Tibet: Myth and Reality

Supplemental Readings:
Tibet Information Network. Introduction, Ch. 5 and Ch. 7, China's Great Leap West : [a report], London, 2000.


Week Nine Gender and the Family in the Reform Era

Nov. 1 Marriage and Family


Nov. 3 Gender, Ethnicity and the State: "Family Planning"


http://www.tibet.com/Women/tears1.html

Supplemental Readings:
http://www.tibet.ca/wtnarchive/1993/9/16-2_1.html


Week Ten Film Assignment (7 pm, Nov. 6, Bio 19): The XVII Karmapa's return to Tsurphu, 1993 (110 min.)

Week Ten Religious Revival and Ethnic Nationalism

Nov. 8 Gender, Ethnicity, Religion and the State


Nov 10 Gender and religious revival: the case of nuns
Makley, Charlene. "The Body of a Nun: Nunhood and Gender in Contemporary Amdo," 
in Hanna Havnevik and Janet Gyatso, Eds., Women of Tibet . (31 pp)
Geyang. "An Old Nun Tells her Story," in Song of the Snow Lion: New Writing from 
Tibet, Manoa 12(2), 2000. Geyang Online (Project Muse). Choose Volume 12, 
In class film: "Satya", Ellen Bruno, 1994, 28 min

Paper proposal and Annotated Bibliography Due Friday Nov. 11, 5 pm, my office

Supplemental Readings:
Tibetan in Background Papers on Tibet--September 1992. (with introduction by 
TIN and postscript on CCP policy by John Hillary).
Goldstein, Melvyn and Matthew Kapstein, (Eds.). Buddhism in Contemporary Tibet: 
Schrempf, Mona. "Victory Banners, Social Prestige and Religious Identity: Ritualized 
Sponsorship and the Revival of Bon Monasticism in Amdo Shar-Khog," Samten 

Weeks Eleven-Twelve: Work and the Rural-Urban Divide

Nov. 15 Work, Gender and the State
Honig and Hershatter, Ch. 7 "Women and Work," in Personal Voices: Chinese Women in 

Nov. 22 Work, Gender and Education among Tibetans
Upton, Janet. "Home on the Grasslands? Tradition, Modernity, and the Negotiation of 
Identity by Tibetan Intellectuals in the PRC," in Melissa J. Brown, (Ed.),

Supplemental Readings:
Upton, Janet.

Thanksgiving Break: Nov. 24-27


Week Thirteen Refiguring Identities: Globalization, Urbanity, and Consumption

Nov. 29 Han Disenchantment and the Commodification of Minorities

Dec. 1 The Threat of Assimilation: Disenchantment and the Negotiation of Modernity among Tibetans

Selected media coverage on prostitution in Lhasa. (Handout)


Supplemental Readings:


Harris, Clare. *In the Image of Tibet: Painters of Tibet post-1959*. Reaktion Books: 1999. (especially chapters 3, 4 and 5)


Seidman, Spencer. HIV/AIDS IN CHINA AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR TIBETANS AND OTHER MINORITIES http://itsa.ucsf.edu/~seidman/HIVC2.html

Optional print ad/website analysis due Friday Dec. 2, 5 pm

**Week Fourteen: Conclusions: the Future of a Relationship**

Dec. 6 Global Futures?


Dec. 8 Tibet Futures?


Supplemental Readings:

Final Paper Due Wednesday, Dec. 14, 5 pm