

Introduction to Tibetan culture and civilization

Dr. Chen, Bo

Course description

What is “Tibetan” culture / civilization? How has it been viewed as the “other”? This course will explore these and other questions through an intense, in-depth, and broad exploration.

Course Objectives

This course aims to develop critical thinking about “Tibet,” how it has been studied, imagined, and viewed by anthropologists and others. Students will expand their knowledge of Tibetan civilization both practically and theoretically. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- describe Tibetan cultures and civilizations
- summarize the origins, natures, and transformations of Tibetan cultures and civilization
- understand how different groups have imagined and represented Tibet
- understand Tibet through a critical anthropological lens

Grading Procedures

Class attendance (10%).

Participation in presentation and discussion (30%).

Final paper (60%).

Week 1:

Introduction: “Nation-state” and minorities in China

1. Duara, Prasenjit.1995. "Introduction," (suggested) and "Linear History and the Nation-State" in *Rescuing History From the Nation: Questioning Narratives of Modern China*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.pp.3-50.

2. Fei Hsiao Tung, "Ethnic Identification in China", in Fei Hsiao Tung, 1981, *Toward a People's Anthropology*, Beijing: New World Press. Pp.60-77.

Week 2

Traditions: Kinship

Reading:

1. Benjiao, 2001. Chapter 1 and 2. in *Socio-economic and cultural factors underlying the contemporary revival of fraternal polyandry in Tibet*.

Week 3

Religions and cosmology

1. Stein, R.A. "Tradition-the nameless religion" & "The Bon Religion." *Tibetan Civilization*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1972. pp. 191-248.
2. Tucci, Gusioppi. 1970. Chapter 5, Monkhood, monastery life, religious calendar and festivals. *The Religions of Tibet*. Berkeley: University of California Press. Pp. 110-162.
3. Donald S. Lopez, Jr., 1999. "Religions of Tibet in Practice," in *Asian Religions in Practice*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Pp.123-153.

Suggested reading:

4. G. Samuel. 1993. *Civilized Shamans: Buddhism in Tibetan Society*. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press.

Life style

Readings:

5. Gtsan-smyon He-ru-ka. 1977. First part and second part. *The Life of Milarepa*. New York: Dutton. (Book reserved)
6. Dalai Lama XIV. 1990. Part 1 and 2. *Freedom in exile: the autobiography of the Dalai Lama*. New York, NY: Harper Collins.

Suggested reading:

7. Chögyam Trungpa. 1966. Part 1. *Born in Tibet*. London, Allen & Unwin, 1966.

Week 4 Sino-Tibet relationship in general

Connections, affinities and differences between Han and Tibetan

Linguistic check;

Kinship

Religion

Political ties

Week 5 Sino-Tibet relationship through history

Han cosmology

Sui-Tang Period

1. Pan Yihong. 1997. Chapter 7, "Competition between Tang and Tibet before the An Lushan Rebellion"; pp.231-261. Chapter 10, "Tang, Tibet and Nanzhao in the Post-An Lushan Period"; pp.322-346. (and Chapter 11, "Characteristics of Foreign Policy during the Sui-Tang Period", suggested) In *Son of heaven and heavenly Qaghan: Sui-Tang China and its neighbors*. Bellingham, Wash.: Center for East Asian Studies, Western Washington University.

Song

2. Rossabi, Morris. "Introduction," and "Tibetan relations with Sung China and with the Mongols" Morris Rossabi, Ed., *China Among Equals: The Middle Kingdom and its Neighbors, 10-14th Centuries*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1983. (pp. 1-13; pp.173-203)

Yuan Dynasty

Ming Dynasty

3. Tsepon W. D. Shakabpa. 1967. Part 4, 5, and 6. pp. 61-99. *Tibet, A Political History*. (reserved) New Haven, Yale University Press.
4. Wang Furen and Suo Wenqing. 1984. Cha. VIII and IX, Highlights of Tibetan history. [translated by Xu Jian]. Beijing: New World Press: Distributed by China Publication Centre (Guoji Shudian). Pp. 57-65; 66-71.

Qing Dynasty & Tibet

• Tribute Relations

• 1904: British Influence

5. Hevia, James. Ch. 2 "A Multitude of Lords: The Qing Empire, Manchu Rulership, and Interdomainal Relations," in *Cherishing Men from Afar: Qing Guest Ritual and the Macartney Embassy of 1793*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1995. (27 pp.)
6. Wang, Xiangyun. "The Qing Court's Tibet Connection: Lcang skya Rol pa'i rdo rje and the Qianlong Emperor," *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 60, no. 1 (June 2000), pp. 125-63.

Republic of China & Tibet

P.R.China period: from Gav-shag to TAR

• The Modern Federal Tax and its changes through history

Readings:

7. Goldstein, Melvyn. 1997. Part 2, "Interlude: De Facto Independence", Cha. 3, "Chinese Communist Rule: The Mao Era" , *The Snow Lion and the Dragon: China, Tibet, and the Dalai Lama*. Berkeley: Univ. of CA Press. Pp.37-61.
8. Li, Tiezheng. 1956[c1954]. Part V, "Tibet under the Republican Regime", and "Conclusion" *The historical status of Tibet*. New York, King's Crown Press, Columbia University. Pp. 148-155, 190-197; pp.211-218.

9. Dalai Lama XIV. 1990. Part 3-7. pp.49-143. *Freedom in exile: the autobiography of the Dalai Lama*. New York, NY: HarperCollins.

P.R.China period: from Gav-shag to TAR

• The Modern Federal Tax and its changes through history

10. Goldstein, Melvyn. 1997. Part 4, “The Post-Mao Era”, part. 5, “The Future”, *The Snow Lion and the Dragon: China, Tibet, and the Dalai Lama*. Berkeley: Univ. of CA Press. Pp.62-132.

11. A. Tom. Grunfeld. 1996. chapter 9. “Tibet After 1959.” *The making of modern Tibet*. Armonk, N.Y.: M.E. Sharpe. Pp.166-189.

Week 6

The Western Invention of “Tibet”, "Shambala", "Shangri-La".

Readings:

1. Huber, Toni. 2001. Shangri-la in Exile: Representations of Tibetan Identity and Transnational Culture. In *Imagining Tibet: Perceptions, Projections, and Fantasies*, eds. T. Dodin and H. Räther, 357-372. Boston: Wisdom.
2. McGuckin, Eric. 1996. Serious Fun in Shangri-la: Tourism, Gender, and Interethnic Relations in a Tibetan Refugee Settlement. In *Anthropology for a Small Planet*, ed. M. Anthony. Naugatuck: Brandywine Press. Pp.92-109.
3. Norbu, Jamyang. 2001. Behind the Lost Horizon: Demystifying Tibet. In *Imagining Tibet: Perceptions, Projections, and Fantasies*, eds. T. Dodin and H. Räther, 373-378. Boston: Wisdom.
4. Sperling, Elliot. 2001. “Orientalism” and Aspects of Violence in the Tibetan Tradition. In *Imagining Tibet: Perceptions, Projections, and Fantasies*, eds. T. Dodin and H. Räther, 317-330. Boston: Wisdom.

Paper due