



The Beijing Center

北京中国学中心

TBC 1101 **Engaging China: Yunnan Excursion**

Please Note: This is a sample syllabus, and the course schedule is subject to change. Students will receive the updated syllabus prior to the start of first class.

Course Description

This course gives students an in-depth immersion into the history, culture, ecology, and society of the southern frontier regions of China. It examines the meaning of frontiers in the Chinese historical and present-day context.

Learning Outcome

On successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

1. Understand and describe the complex historical, social, and political structures of China's southern frontier regions.
2. Create a finished project based on original research in conversation with existing scholarship, which explores in-depth and details an aspect of China's southern border regions.
3. Be able to analyze and evaluate disparate sources and perspectives related to China's southern frontiers.
4. Remember key geographic features of the region.
5. Understand and describe the history and China's southern frontier regions.

Instructional methods

This course is a mix of lectures and seminars. Each session will begin with a briefing by the instructor on the relevant topic, followed by a discussion of questions related to the readings. Students are encouraged to formulate their own questions in response to the readings. Readings will average about 50-80 pages per class session. We will also be doing activities in class to help prepare students for their final projects.

Course Requirements

Students must attend all pre-departure lectures, all "in-situ" student presentations, lectures during travel, and post-trip lectures. Students should complete all reading assignments before coming to class and should be prepared to participate actively in class discussions. Classes consist of a combination of lectures and discussions with site visits.

- 30% Participation/Reading Responses: Preparation is essential to participation. Readings must be done before the class session. Reading responses (and the

occasional quiz) will no doubt contribute to your motivation to plow through it, but I also feel that to truly get something out of this course and to promote an atmosphere of lively discussion and debate in the class, it is imperative that you have done the day's reading and carefully considered the information in the overall context of the class and the course in general.

- 35% Presentation: Your presentation should be a coherent and cogent summary of a particular aspect of your chosen topic. The format can be done as a presentation ("Ted Talk") or as a video documentary. It should demonstrate solid research using primary sources and observations contextualized with a carefully curated selection of the most authoritative secondary scholarship.
- 35% Final Paper: Your paper will be a deeper dive into your topic, which will further contextualize your research. It should demonstrate in-depth research using primary sources and observations contextualized with a widely and carefully curated selection of the most authoritative secondary scholarship. The paper will also include appropriately formatted footnotes and a bibliography.
- DEADLINE EXTENSIONS must be requested in advance and will be granted only in exceptional cases. If you are not granted an extension in advance, your grade will be lowered by one step for every 24-hour period after the due date. Reading Response assignments lose one step (check plus becomes check, etc.) for every 24-hour period late with a maximum of three days. Homework overdue by more than 72 hours will not be accepted for credit.

Responsibilities of the Instructor

My job is to be your guide through Yunnan, to advise you on your research, and to grade your papers and responses. I will conduct class as a mixture of both lecture and discussion and work to foster an environment for discussion, debate, and questioning. I am always available to answer any questions and to work with you on your written assignments.

Responsibilities of the Student

Students will be required to attend every meeting and to be prepared to participate in discussions. Participation means that you have not only read the material and brought the readings with you but will also have thought about the readings within the broader context of the course. You will be committed to doing quality research and to contributing to a wider scholarly conversation on the topic you have chosen.

Course Readings

Readings will be distributed via a link to Dropbox.

Attendance Policy

Participation in the Excursions is mandatory. No exceptions. A student cannot enroll in TBC1100 unless they can undertake these trips. Participation during the travel includes not only attending but also contributing and asking presenters and lecturers questions. Absences must be excused prior to missing class or other meetings.

Academic Honesty Statement

All students are expected to adhere to the highest standards of academic honesty. Cheating or plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated and will result in a substantial penalty to your course grade as well as lead to further administrative sanctions. If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, check with me before you submit your work.

Please click the following link to see The Beijing Center's policy on Academic Integrity: [Academic Integrity – The Beijing Center](#)

Course Schedule

Date	Topics
Session 1	Course Introduction/Trip Orientation
Session 2	History of Yunnan: South of the Clouds
Session 3	Zomia: Frontiers, Empires, and States
Session 4	Inventing Ethnicity in Yunnan
Session 5	Gender, Sexuality, and Tourism in Yunnan
Session 6	Hello, Dali
Session 7	China's Relationship with Southeast Asia
Session 8	Yunnan in Images and Literature
Session 9	Final Preparation for Presentations
Session 10	In-Class Research Presentations
Session 11	Final Projects Due

Partial List of Course Readings

- Atwill, David G. "Blinkered Visions: Islamic Identity, Hui Ethnicity, and the Panthay Rebellion in Southwest China, 1856-1873." *The Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 62, No. 4 (Nov., 2003), pp. 1079-1108
- Bender, Mark. *The Borderlands of Asia: Culture, Place, Poetry*. (Cambria Press, 2017)
- Bingaman, Eveline. "Are there any Naxi left in Lijiang?: An Exploration of Naxi Ethnicity in the Era of Tourism," (2012)
- Bryson, Megan. "Baijie and the Bai: Gender and Ethnic Religion in Dali, Yunnan." *Asian Ethnology*, Vol. 72, No. 1 (2013), pp. 3-31
- Eccles, Jeremy. "China's new religious pilgrims flock to Yunnan, Tibet." *The Australian* (February 8, 2017)
- *Explorers and Scientists on China's Borderlands, 1880-1950*. Denise M. Glover; Stevan Harrell; Charles F. McKhann; Margaret Byrne Swain eds. (University of Washington Press, 2011)
- Eyler, Brian. *The Last Days of the Mighty Mekong*. 2019
- Giersch, C. Pat. "'A Motley Throng': Social Change on Southwest China's Early Modern Frontier, 1700-1880." *The Journal of Asian Studies*, Vol. 60, No. 1 (Feb., 2001), pp. 67-94
- Goullart, Peter. *Forgotten Kingdom: Nine Years in Yunnan, 1939-1948*. (Eland Publishing, 2018)
- Guo, Jie. "Going to the Land of Barbarians": Nation, Ethnicity, and the Female Body in Late Qing and Republican Travel Writing on the Yunnan-Burma Borderlands." *Frontiers of Literary Studies in China* (2014)
- Harrell, Stevan. *Ways of Being Ethnic in Southwest China*. (University of Washington Press, 2002)
- Hillman, Ben and Henfrey, Lee-Anne. "Macho Minority: Masculinity and Ethnicity on the Edge of Tibet." *Modern China*, Vol. 32, No. 2 (Apr., 2006), pp. 251-272
- Ma, Haiyun and Chang, Jennifer I-wei. "The Last Minarets of Yunnan: China's Hui Muslims in the Cross Hairs of Xi's New Nationalism." *Foreign Affairs*, (September 26, 2023)
- Qian, Junxi, Wei, Lei, and Zhu, Hong. "Consuming the Tourist Gaze: Imaginative Geographies and the Reproduction of Sexuality in Lugu Lake." *Geografiska Annaler. Series B, Human Geography*, Vol. 94, No. 2 (June 2012), pp. 107-124
- Schein, Louisa. "Gender and Internal Orientalism in China." *Modern China*, Vol. 23, No. 1 (Jan., 1997)
- Scott, James. *The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia*. 2009 (Selections)
- *South of the Clouds: Tales from Yunnan*. Edited by Lucien Miller. Translated by Guo Xu, Lucien Miller, and Xu Kun. (University of Washington Press, 2017)
- Yang, Bin. *Between Winds and Clouds: The Making of Yunnan* (Second Century BCE to Twentieth Century CE). Columbia University Press, 2009 (Selections)
- Yang, Bin. "Horses, Silver, and Cowries: Yunnan in Global Perspective." *Journal of World History*, Vol. 15, No. 3 (Sep., 2004), pp. 281-322
- Yang Fuquan. "Ethnic heritage in Yunnan: contradictions and challenges." in *Reconsidering Cultural Heritage in East Asia* (2016)

- Yang, Zi. "The Soft Power Limits of Chinese Theravada Buddhism." *The Diplomat* (August 15, 2017)
- Zeng, Lily. "Dai Identity in the Chinese Ecological Civilization: Negotiating Culture, Environment, and Development in Xishuangbanna, Southwest China." *Religions* (2019)
- Zhu, Jing. *Visualizing Ethnicity in the Southwest Borderlands*. 2020 (Selections)

Other Readings as Assigned