

**Centre for Inner Asian Studies**

**School of International Studies**

<b>Course</b>	: Ph.D
<b>Course No.</b>	:
<b>Course Title</b>	: Society, Culture and Politics in Xinjiang
<b>Course Type</b>	: Optional
<b>Course Teacher</b>	: Dr. Mahesh Ranjan Debata
<b>Credits</b>	: 2 (Two)
<b>Contact hours</b>	: 2 hrs per week

**Course Objectives:**

The importance of Xinjiang stems from the fact that it is the largest province of People's Republic of China (PRC) and one of its most important strategic frontiers, having border with eight countries of Eurasia and South Asia. Xinjiang's majority population comprises Uyghur Muslims, who have been demanding an independent state out of China. Since the establishment of PRC in 1949, the Chinese Central government has made efforts to control this north-western borderland through assimilationist policies and stringent measures.

This course aims at introducing to Doctoral research scholars of the Centre the strategic importance of the Xinjiang region besides a detailed outline of history; society and culture; and political system and Chinese policy in Xinjiang.

**Learning Outcomes:**

This course caters to the needs of the doctoral research scholars of the Centre to understand the nuances of multidisciplinary as well as interdisciplinarity of specialised studies (Xinjiang studies) as part of International Relations and Area Studies. This will groom the research scholars to carry out their research works in these specialised and related studies by employing requisite research methodologies whenever and wherever required.

**Evaluation Methods:**

Class Assignment (Book Review/Term Paper) & End Semester Examination

**Course Content:**

1. History of Xinjiang
  - Chinese Version: Han Rule, Tang Period, Yuan, Manchu Qing, Chinese Warlords; Xinjiang since 1949; Uyghur and Western version of history
2. Society and Culture in Xinjiang
  - Ethnic Composition; Ethno-Religious Identity; Ethno-Nationalism and Ethno-culturalism; Uyghur-Han Relations; Kazakh-Han Relations.
  - Religious Practices in Xinjiang (Buddhism, Islam etc.); Indigenous Culture, Customs and Traditions: Muqam, Mashrep etc.

### 3. Political System in Xinjiang

- Chinese Policy in Xinjiang; Military-Civilian Administration; Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC); Great Western Development Programme; Belt and Road Initiative (BRI); Language and Cultural Policies; Re-education; Religious Policy

#### **Readings:**

Beller-Hann et al. (2007), *Situating the Uyghurs between China and Central Asia*, UK & USA: Ashgate.

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

Dawamat, T. (1993), *Xinjiang- My Beloved Home*, Beijing: China Today Press.

Debata, Mahesh Ranjan & Guang, Tian (2010), "Identity and Mobilization in Transnational Societies: A Case Study of Uyghur Diasporic Nationalism", *China and Eurasian Forum Quarterly*, 8 (4), 59-78.

Debata, Mahesh Ranjan (2007), *China's Minorities: Ethnic-Religious Separatism in Xinjiang*, New Delhi: Pentagon.

Debata, Mahesh Ranjan (2015), "Xinjiang in Central Asia's Regional Security Structure", *International Studies*, 52 (1-4), pp. 53-65.

Debata, Mahesh Ranjan (2022), Belt and Road Initiative (BRI): Central Asia, the Middle East and South Asia, in Mojtaba Mahdavi and Tugrul Keskin (eds.), *Rethinking china, Middle East and Asia in a "Multiplex World"*, Leiden: Brill, 2022: 80-95.

Debata, Mahesh Ranjan (April 2022), "China's Assimilationist Policies in Xinjiang: From Mao Zedong to Xi Jinping", *International Studies*.

Dillon, Michael (2004), *Xinjiang-China's Muslim Far Northwest*, London and New York: Routledge Curzon.

Dwyer, A. M. (2005), "The Xinjiang Conflict: Uyghur Identity, Language Policy, and Political Discourse", *Policy Studies 15*, Washington: East West Centre.

Forbes, A. D. (1986), *Warlords and Muslims in Chinese Central Asia: A Political History of Sinkiang, 1911-1949*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Gladney, Dru C. (1996), *Muslim Chinese: Ethnic Nationalism in the People's Republic* (Council on East Asian Studies, Harvard University: Harvard).

Heberer, Thomas (1989), *China and its National Minorities: Autonomy or Assimilation*, Armonk (New York): M. E. Sharpe.

Iredale, Robyn Bilik, Naran and Guo, Fei (eds.) (2003), *China's Minorities on the Move: Selected Case Studies*, London & New York: M. E. Sharpe.

Lattimore, Owen (1950), *Pivot of Asia, Sinkiang and the Inner Asian Frontiers of China and Russia*, Boston: Little Brown Publishers.

Millward, James A. (2006), *Eurasian Crossroads: A History of Xinjiang*, USA: Columbia University Press.

Overmyer, Daniel L. (ed.), *Religion in China Today*, The China Quarterly Special Issue, New Series, no. 3, Cambridge and NY: Cambridge University Press.

Rossabi, Morris (2022), *China and the Uyghurs: A Concise Introduction*, London: Rowman and Littlefield.

Starr, F. S. (ed.) (2003), *Xinjiang: China's Muslim Frontier*, London and New York: M. E. Sharpe.

The World Uyghur Congress Webpage (<https://www.uyghurcongress.org/en/>)

Toops, Stanley (May 2004), "Demographics and Development in Xinjiang after 1949", *Working Papers 1*, Washington: East West Centre.

Turkel, Nury (2022), *No Escape: A Uyghur's Story of Oppression, Genocide and China's Digital Dictatorship*, Ontario (USA): Harlequin Audio and Blackstone Publishing.

Warikoo, K. (ed.) (2016), *Xinjiang- China's Northwest Frontier*, London & NY: Routledge.

Wayne, Martin I. (2009), *China's War on Terrorism: Counter-Insurgency, Politics and Internal Security*, NY & London: Routledge.

White Paper (2005), "Regional Autonomy for Ethnic Minorities in China", Beijing: Information Office of the State Council, PRC.

White Paper (2018), "China's Policies and Practices on Protecting Freedom of Religious Belief", Beijing: Information Office of the State Council, PRC.

White Paper (May 2003), "History, Development of Xinjiang", Beijing: Information Office of the State Council, People's Republic of China.

White Paper (September 1999), "National Minorities Policy and its Practice in China", Beijing: Information Office of the State Council, PRC.