Prof. Christopher P. Atwood
Modern Inner Mongolia (Central Eurasian Studies 569)
Syllabus for the course offered in Spring 2001
Indiana University
Dept. of Central Eurasian Studies

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Instructor: Professor Christopher P. Atwood          Phone: 855-4059; email: catwood
Time: Days and Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00-2:15.        Place: Ballantine Hall 316
Office Hours: 11:15-12:05 T, 1:00-1:50 W and by arrangement     Office: Goodbody Hall 321

Description:
What region in the world has the largest population of ethnic Mongols? What region in Chinese was the first testing ground for the Chinese Communist minority policy? What region in China has had the most lasting impact from the Japanese occupation during World War II? What region of the world produces the largest part of the world’s cashmere and most of its rare earths? Which region in China suffered the most in the Cultural Revolution? The answer to all these questions is: Inner Mongolia.

This course explores the fascinating and often tragic history of Inner Mongolia from about 1800 to the present. We will trace the patterns of Mongolian institutions and ideas and Han Chinese immigration and settlement through the Qing, the New Policies, the Chinese Republic, the Japanese Occupation, the Chinese Civil War, and the see-sawing PRC policies. Themes dealt with in the course include Inner Mongolia as a bi-ethnic borderland, regional cultures among the Mongols, the Tibetan Buddhist-Confucian interaction and the “East Mongolian Enlightenment,” how efforts at modernization affected power balances between Mongols and Han, pan-Mongolism in Inner Mongolia, Russian and Soviet support of Mongolian nationalism, militarization and violence, the effects of land reform, collectivization, and “campaigns,” demographic changes, the place of pastoralism and nomadism in modern China, effects of economic development, commercialization, and structural reforms on ethnic relations and pastoralism, Han Chinese immigrant culture, and prospects for the future.

Throughout the class, students will be encouraged to use the case of Inner Mongolia to rethink important issues of ethnic relations, state-building, and globalization in both Inner Asian and Chinese contexts.

Readings:
Unfortunately, no comprehensive volume on the history of Inner Mongolia currently exists. The readings we do will be primarily of two types, anthropological and literary, each of which genre in its own way allows a view of particular social contexts in the history of Inner Mongolia.

How to get access to the readings:
A copy of all books assigned have been placed on reserve at the undergraduate reading room in the Main Library. One xeroxed copy of all material will also be placed with April Younger at the CEUS office; students may run copies of that through the office copier at their own expense. As far as I know all the readings are at present out of print, although copies may be available through on-line search services.

Grades
Grades base on the following percentages: Midterm, 20%, Paper 30%, Final 40%, Map Quiz 10%

Week 1: January 9, 11
Introduction, Geography, Demography
Vreeland, Mongol Community and Kinship Structure, 1-193.

Week 2: January 16, 18
Inner Mongolian society under the Qing/Ch’ing dynasty
**Week 3:** January 23, 25  
Buddhism in Qing society  
Discussion of readings, January 25  
**Map Quiz in Class, Jan. 23**

**Week 4:** January 30, February 1  
Chinese culture and people in Inner Mongolia  
Hangin, *Köke Sudur*, pp. 1-188  
Discussion of readings, February 1

**Week 5:** February 6, 8  
Qing Empire, 1800-1901: foreign and domestic challenges  
February 8, discussion of readings

**Week 6:** February 13, 15  
The New Policies; issues of state-building  
Onon, *Mongolian Heroes of the Twentieth Century*, pp. 42-104  
February 13, bibliography for paper due

**Week 7:** February 20, 22  
1911 Revolution; issues of nationalism  
Feb. 22, discussion of readings

**Week 8:** February 27, March 1  
Young Mongols and the Nationalist Revolution  
Zen-Sun, “Results of Culture Contact,” Kuo Tao-fu, “Modern Mongolia”  
**Midterm: March 1**

**Week 9:** March 6, 8  
Japanese Rule  
March 8, discussion of readings

---Spring Break---

**Week 10:** March 20, 22  
East Mongolian Revolution and Land reform in Communist Inner Mongolia  

**Week 11:** March 27, 29  
Inner Mongolia, 1949–1957  
March 29, Discussion of readings
Week 12: April 3, 5
Collectivization and the Great Leap Forward,
Burton and Salaff, *Cowboys and Cultivators* (begin)

Week 13: April 10, 12
Cultural Revolution and the New Nei-Ren-Dang case
Burton and Salaff, *Cowboys and Cultivators* (finish)
April 10, Discussion of the readings

Week 14: April 17, 19
Inner Mongolia from 1979 to the Present: Economic policy and the countryside
April 12, Film “An American Cowboy in Mongolia”
Dee Mack Williams, “Barbed Walls of China,” “Grassland Enclosures,” “Grazing the Body,” “Alcohol Indulgence,” “Patchwork, Pastoralists, and Perception,” “Boundaries of Knowledge.”
April 19, Discussion of film and readings

Week 15: April 24, 26
Inner Mongolia from 1979 to the Present: Ethnicity, educational policy, and the urban Mongols
Hangin, “Batumöngke’s ‘Qamar Lodon,’” “The Knot”; Bing Wang, *One School/Two Systems*
April 26, Discussion of readings

Paper Due in class, April 24

Final Examination: 12:30-2:30 Thursday, May 3, at Ballantine 316.
Bibliography


