Overview
The relationship between China and Inner Asia has been a central theme of Chinese historical narratives from ancient times and figures prominently in thinking about "China" and "Chinese history" today. This class focuses on relations between the Chinese (i.e., the Hua or the Han) and Inner Asian peoples (broadly, the Hu) from about the third century BC through the present. A broad chronological coverage permits us to trace patterns of contact – political, economic, social, cultural – between the Chinese world and the worlds of the Others around it and to evaluate its importance in historical context.

Prerequisites
There are no prerequisites for this course, and no prior knowledge is assumed. All required readings are in English. The course is open to both undergraduate and graduate students; the requirements are slightly different (see below). This course, when taken for a letter grade, meets the Core area requirement for Historical Study A.


Course structure and requirements
Meetings. Lecture meets for one hour twice weekly. A separate hour-long discussion section will meet once a week, at a time to be determined. Attendance at all meetings is expected.

Class wiki. Participation in discussion is an important part of this class. To ensure active participation and to afford students different means of participation, the course website includes a wiki tool (“Inner Asia wiki”). We will use this tool to create Wikipedia-type entries for key terms, which will count toward your class participation grade.

Assignments. For all students, there will be a map quiz, two short (700-800 words) paper assignments, a short (3-min.) video project, and a final paper. There is no midterm or final examination. The map quiz will be held at the beginning of class on 11 February. The first writing assignment will be based on Di Cosmo’s Ancient China and Its Enemies; this will be due 23 February. The second writing assignment will be based either on Waldron, The Great Wall of China, or on Elliott, The Manchu Way; this will be due 6 April. The video project, on some aspect of contemporary relations between China and Inner Asia, is due the last day of class, 27 April. The due date for final papers (15-20 pp. for undergraduates, 25-30 pages for graduates) will be 7 May. Topics for this paper will be decided in consultation with the instructor.

In addition, graduate students are asked to write reviews of any two books of their choosing that deal with the history of China-Inner Asian relations. These should be about 1000 words in length and will be due 11 March and 13 April. Please clear your selections with the instructor first.

Grading. Undergraduates: Each short paper will be worth 15% of your final grade; final paper 30%; video project 15%; map quiz 10%; and class participation 15%. Graduate students: Each short paper will be worth 10% of your final grade; each review 10%; final paper 30%; video project 15%; map quiz 5%; and class participation 10%.
Readings
The following books have been ordered and are available for purchase at the Harvard Coop.

Gray Tuttle, *Tibetan Buddhists in the Making of Modern China* (Columbia, 2006)

Other assigned reading will be available through the Harvard-Yenching Library, in both electronic and regular reserve formats. Access is via the course website. Use of e-reserves is restricted to students officially enrolled in the course.

Schedule

**Week 1  Introduction: The Great Wall and Beyond**

**Meetings**

26 Jan  Lecture 1. Reflections on the Great Wall
28 Jan  Lecture 2. Locating Inner Asia

**Readings**


**Week 2  The Chinese World Order**

**Meetings**

2 Feb  Lecture 3. The Chinese World Order
4 Feb  Lecture 4. Notions of the Frontier

**Readings**


**Week 3  Confronting the Nomad**

**Meetings**

9 Feb  Lecture 5. The Nomadic Alternative
11 Feb  Lecture 6. Xiongnu and Han  Map quiz

**Readings**

Nicola Di Cosmo, *Ancient China and Its Enemies*

**Week 4  Categories of Identity**

**Meetings**

16 Feb  Lecture 7. China Falls Apart
18 Feb  Lecture 8. *Hua and Hu, North and South*

**Readings**

Week 5  
**Tang and Inner Asian Worlds**

**Meetings**
- 23 Feb  Lecture 9. Buddhism and the Silk Road
- 25 Feb  Lecture 10. The Tang Synthesis

**Writing assignment 1 due**

**Readings**
- Susan Whitfield, *Life Along the Silk Road* (California, 1999), 113-154.

Week 6  
**The Emergence of “Conquest Dynasties”**

**Meetings**
- 2 Mar  Lecture 11. Problems of Alien Rule
- 4 Mar  Lecture 12. Khitans and Jurchens

**Readings**

Week 7  
**China Unmade and Remade**

**Meetings**
- 9 Mar  Lecture 13. Mongol Imperialism
- 11 Mar  Lecture 14. The Ming Reinvention of China

**Review 1 due (grad students only)**

**Readings**
- Arthur Waldron, *The Great Wall of China*

**SPRING BREAK**

Week 8  
**Rethinking Paradigms**

**Meetings**
- 23 Mar  Lecture 15. Trade or Tribute? Modeling Chinese Foreign Relations
- 25 Mar  Lecture 16. Gender and the Great Wall

**Readings**
Week 9  
**The Last Conquerors**

**Meetings**
- 30 Mar  Lecture 17. The Manchus in China
- 1 Apr  Lecture 18. Ethnicity and Acculturation in the Qing

**Readings**
- Mark C. Elliott, *The Manchu Way: The Eight Banners and Ethnic Identity in Late Imperial China*

Week 10  
**The Qing Order**

**Meetings**
- 6 Apr  Lecture 19. The Qing Unification of Inner Asia  
  (Writing assignment 2 due)
- 8 Apr  Lecture 20. Territoriality and Empire

**Readings**
- James A. Millward and Peter C. Perdue, “Political and Cultural History of the Xinjiang Region through the Late Nineteenth Century,” in S. Frederick Starr, ed., *Xinjiang, China’s Muslim Borderland* (ME Sharpe, 2004), 27-62.

Week 11  
**China and Inner Asia in the Modern Age**

**Meetings**
- 13 Apr  Lecture 21. Between Empire and Nation  
  (Review 2 due (grad students only))
- 15 Apr  Lecture 22. “Race” and the Paradox of the Minzu Paradigm

**Readings**

Week 12  
**National Unity vs. National Identity**

**Meetings**
- 20 Apr  Lecture 23. The Fate of Tibet
- 22 Apr  Film screening: *Urga* (“Close to Eden”), N. Mikhalkov, dir. (1992)

**Readings**
- Gray Tuttle, *Tibetan Buddhists and the Making of Modern China*

Week 13  
**Sedentary and Nomadic in the 21st Century**

**Meeting**
  (Video projects due)

**Readings**
- Jiang Rong, *Wolf Totem* (Howard Goldblatt, trans.). excerpts

Final papers due 7 May, 4 pm