

**CURE 4157: Special Topics in Religious Traditions:
ISLAM IN CHINA
Second Term, 2023-24**

Professor: James FRANKEL (jamesfrankel@cuhk.edu.hk)
Teaching Assistant: TBA
Lecture: Wednesdays, 2:30-4:15 p.m., LHC G06
Tutorials: Wednesdays, 4:30-5:15 p.m., LHC G06

Course Description:

This course takes a chronological and thematic view of the development and diversity of Islam and Muslims in China. We begin with key discursive and theoretical concepts: “simultaneity”; ethno-religious minorities; diaspora, and multiculturalism. Next, we trace the origins of Islam in China, using both historical and mythological sources, followed by a survey its development through the latter Chinese dynasties. Viewing both insider and outsider perspectives, we will examine Chinese Muslim identity construction. We will look at points of contact, conflict, and mutual influence between Muslim and other communities in China.

Students will encounter the tremendous diversity of Islam and Muslims in China in terms of ethnicity, geographic distribution, lifestyle, social position, and religious expressions. The course will include an examination of non-Chinese Muslim ethnic minorities. However, the main focus will be on Sino-Muslims (ethnic/Chinese-speaking), commonly known in the People’s Republic of China as Hui. Finally, we will examine the role played by China’s Muslims in present-day China and contemporary geopolitics, including relations between China and the Islamic world.

I. Learning Outcomes:

- 1) Acquiring basic knowledge and understanding of the history, texts, doctrines, rituals and other practices of Islam in China;
- 2) Reading and analyzing primary source material including selections from historical, legal, theological, mystical, and philosophical texts from the Chinese Islamic tradition;
- 3) Reading and analyzing secondary source material, including selections from historical, anthropological, sociological, and political studies of Islam in China;
- 4) Making academic presentations appropriate to the field of Religious Studies related to Islam in China;
- 5) Writing scholarly materials in genres appropriate to the field of Religious Studies related to Islam in China, including research papers;
- 6) Cultivation of cultural sensitivity to globalization and local multiculturalism.

II. Course Content:

Basic text:

Frankel, James D. *Islam in China*. London: I.B. Tauris, 2021.

Additional readings for respondents to the weekly presentation are provided on Blackboard.

Term Schedule:

1. 10/1 **Course Introduction and Overview**
Frankel, *Islam in China*, "Introduction", pp.1-6
2. 17/1 **Civilizations, Minorities, Diaspora & Multiculturalism**
Khaled Abou El Fadl, "Striking a Balance: Islamic Legal Discourse on Muslim Minorities," pp. 47-63 in *Muslims on the Americanization Path?* Haddad and Esposito, eds.
Ma, Rosey W. "Hui Diaspora," in: Ember, M., Ember, C.R., Skoggard, I., eds. *Encyclopedia of Diasporas*. Boston: Springer, 2005.
3. 24/1 **Early Islamic Political & Cultural Expansion**
Donner, Fred M. "Muhammad and the Caliphate: Political History of the Islamic Empire up to the Mongol Conquest," in Esposito, John L., ed., *The Oxford History of Islam*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999.
FIRST TUTORIAL MEETING
4. 31/1 **Muslim Origins in China**
Frankel, *Islam in China*, Ch.1, pp.7-26
5. 7/2 **Muslim Transplantation in Early China**
Frankel, *Islam in China*, Ch.2, pp.27-46
6. 14/2 **LUNAR NEW YEAR (NO CLASS)**
7. 21/2 **Muslim Entrenchment in Medieval China**
Frankel, *Islam in China*, Ch.3, pp.47-46
8. 28/2 **Muslim Renaissance and Resistance in Late imperial China**
Frankel, *Islam in China*, Ch.4, pp.65-84
FIRST GROUP PRESENTATION
9. 7/3 **READING WEEK (NO CLASS)**
10. 14/3 **Muslim Nation-building in Post-Imperial China**
Frankel, *Islam in China*, Ch.5, pp.85-102
11. 21/3 **Muslims and the State in Communist China**
Frankel, *Islam in China*, Ch.6, pp.103-122
12. 28/3 **Muslim Diversity in Contemporary China**
Frankel, *Islam in China*, Ch.7, pp.123-144

13. 4/4 **Muslim Women in China**
 Armijo, Jacqueline. "A Unique Heritage of Leadership: Muslim Women in China." *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, vol. 10, no. 1, 2009, pp. 37–45. *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/43134188>. Accessed 27 Oct. 2023.
14. 11/4 **Chinese Muslims, Global Islam, and the Global Power of China**
 Frankel, *Islam in China*, Ch.8, pp.145-162
15. 18/4 **Islam in Hong Kong**
 Ma, Isa. "A Brief Overview of Islam in Hong Kong." *Medium.Com*, 20 Dec. 2019, medium.com/@mapeicong/a-brief-overview-of-islam-in-hong-kong-da8813feb0aa. Accessed 27 Oct. 2023.

III. Assignments and Assessments

Grade Descriptors:

A Outstanding performance on all learning outcomes.

A- Generally outstanding performance on all (or almost all) learning outcomes.

B Substantial performance on all learning outcomes, OR high performance on some learning outcomes which compensates for less satisfactory performance on others, resulting in overall substantial performance.

C Satisfactory performance on the majority of learning outcomes, possibly with a few weaknesses.

D Barely satisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes

F Unsatisfactory performance on a number of learning outcomes, OR failure to meet specified assessment requirements.

Grade Components:

1. 10% Class participation
2. 15% Field Report
3. 30% Group Presentation
4. 45% Term paper (1,500-2000 words in English), **due 29 April 2024, 5 pm**

IV. Course Requirements:

Class Participation:

The success of this course depends on the collaboration of professor, tutor and students. Students are also expected to participate in class discussions, with thoughtful questions and responses. Students are required to attend lectures and tutorials, unless they have a justifiable reason (medical or some other emergency) for being absent. Unexcused

absences will be counted against the final grade (good attendance will likewise be rewarded); students who miss more than 25% of the total number of class meetings cannot pass the course.

Field Trip: There will be a class field trip to visit Islamic sites in Guangzhou, China during the Reading Week (exact dates TBA).

Field Report: All students are expected to participate. Students will write a brief (approx. 2 pp.) field report, based on data collected during the field trip to Guangzhou.

Tutorials:

Tutorial sessions, led by the teaching assistant, will meet as scheduled beginning in Week 4 of the semester (2/2). Students are expected to attend and participate in all tutorials. Part of the tutorial will be a review of topics and concepts covered in previous lectures. Later, tutorials will also include group presentations.

Group Presentations:

Students will work together in groups of 4-5 people. Each group will make a presentation, 30-35 minutes long, on an assigned subject – a key term/concept. The group should refer to topics and concepts discussed in lectures and tutorials in their presentations. The presentation may include PowerPoint, other audio-visual aids, and/or a written handout. Presentations will be assessed based on their organization, clarity, content, and originality of their analysis.

Paper Guidelines:

Students will write a final paper on a topic of their choice. All papers are to be based on original research, with all sources cited appropriately (using either footnotes or MLA parenthetical citation, with a Works Cited page). Each paper to be approximately 1,800-2,000 words in English, typed and double-spaced. Grammar, punctuation, style, and content will be factored in the grading of the essay, so be sure to proofread before submitting the paper. Papers should be sent by e-mail, attached as a MS Word Doc (Times New Roman, 12 pt. font) with your name on the file. E-mail to Prof. FRANKEL and your tutor, along with the **VeriGuide receipt**. The paper must be submitted by **29 April 2024, 5 pm**. Unless a deadline extension is granted with prior permission from the professor, late submissions will be penalized one mark for each day the paper is late.

Academic Honesty:

The Chinese University of Hong Kong places very high importance on honesty in academic work submitted by students and adopts a policy of zero tolerance on cheating and plagiarism. Any related offence will lead to disciplinary action including termination of studies at the University. All student assignments must be submitted to VeriGuide (<https://veriguide2.cse.cuhk.edu.hk/cuhk/>). The system will issue a receipt, which should be signed and submitted to the professor together with the assignment.

Instructor's Contact Information:

Professor Frankel's office is located at KKB 228. Appointments are welcome and should be made via email at: jamesfrankel@cuhk.edu.hk