



Assistant Professor  
Department of Anthropology  
135 John Munroe Hall  
831-1856  
[pswhite@udel.edu](mailto:pswhite@udel.edu)

**Patricia Sloane-White** is an assistant professor in anthropology specializing in Southeast and East Asian culture and social change. She holds a doctorate from Oxford University. She has spent a total of nearly five years researching Islam, economy, and social change in Malaysia, and has published a book, *Islam, Modernity, and Entrepreneurship among the Malays* (Palgrave/Macmillan 1999), as well as journal articles and book chapters on women in Islam, the Malay Muslim middle class, Islam and business, and Islamic politics. Her current research, sponsored by the Fulbright Commission, is on "Corporate Islam" in Malaysia. She is the winner of the University of Delaware's 2008 Excellence in Teaching Award.

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

##### **MALS 667: Wives, Mistresses, & Matriarchs: Asian Women's Lives**

Using examples from China, Japan, Southeast Asia, South Asia, and the Middle East, this course examines how the lives of Asian women have been constructed by cultural, historical, and international forces and seeks to understand and challenge the culturally pervasive stereotypes that define their lives. We will examine the historical and cultural bases for the domestic and social realities Asian women face and read ethnographic accounts of how these factors affect women's daily lives and activities. We consider the ways in which Asian women reject the role of deference in their daily lives and consider the routes to resistance and empowerment they seek to construct. We examine the contemporary globalized nature of economic and social life in Asia to consider how workplace participation and feminism have transformed the status of women in Asia.