

**History 4603G –Silk Roads and Spice Routes: Ancient and Medieval  
Asia and World Contacts**

Thursdays 1:30-4:30

Instructor: Carl Young  
Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:30-3:30  
Or by appointment

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**Course Description**

This course will investigate the economic, political, religious, cultural, and technological impact of long distance land and sea trade between Asia and other world regions in ancient and medieval times up to around 1500.

Contacts between different world regions are not a new phenomenon. They have occurred since pre-historic times. Although these early contacts cannot be called globalisation, they connected regions that were a long distance from one another, in spite of obstacles of time and transportation technology. Most of the contacts between Asia and other world regions involved trade in luxuries such as precious metals, silk, and spices both by land and by sea. Along with trade goods, ideas and technologies were also exchanged, a lot of which continue to exercise an influence up to the present day.

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- be aware of the ancient origins of exchanges between Asia and other world regions
- understand the interaction of long-distance interregional trade with cultural, religious, and technological exchange and the historical impact of these interactions
- Analyze primary and secondary sources on select topics involving contacts between Asia and other world regions in ancient and medieval times through both oral discussion and written work
- Present findings and views from readings through oral presentations
- Synthesise primary and secondary sources to produce a research paper

**Required Texts**

James A. Milliward, *The Silk Road: A Very Short Introduction*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013)

Frances Wood, *The Silk Road: Two Thousand Years in the Heart of Asia*, (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2002)

Xinru Liu, *The Silk Roads: A Brief History with Documents*, (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2012)

Richard Foltz, *Religions of the Silk Road: Pre-modern Patterns of Globalization (2nd edition)*, (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2010)

Lynda Norene Shaffer, *Maritime Southeast Asia to 1500*, (Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1996)

Selected articles and book excerpts to be posted on the class OWL site

### **Course Evaluation**

1 Term Paper (15-20 pages)	40%
2 Article Analyses (10% each; 3-5 pages each)	20%
1 Book Review (5-7 pages)	20%
Oral Presentation	5%
Participation	<u>15%</u>
	100%

The term paper will be a research paper on a topic of your choice in the history of contacts within Asia and out to other world regions in ancient and medieval times. Suggested topics will be handed out early in the beginning of the semester. The suggested length of the papers will be approximately 15-20 pages. The paper will due on the last day of class, **Thursday, March 31**.

The two article analyses will be based around the readings for each class. During the semester, students will choose any **2** of the articles indicated with a “\*\*” on the reading list and write a 3-5 page paper each on the articles. These papers are **due on the day of the relevant seminar in which the particular reading is assigned. This assignment will not normally be accepted late.** This assignment is more than merely a summary. The main purpose of the paper is to bring forth the main issues of the article or series of documents, discuss how the author(s) bring forth their point of view, and also analyze the effectiveness of the readings in conveying information and opinion, as well as their contribution to the topic under discussion in the particular seminar.

The book review will be based on **one** of the five books assigned for the course. As with the article analyses, this is more than a summary of the book. Like the article analyses, the review will bring out the main themes and ideas of the book, the author’s point of view and how the book helps to better understand the themes covered in the course. The book review will be 5-7 pages and will be due on **Thursday, Feb. 25**.

Students will also be required to do **1** oral presentation in the course of the semester. These will be based on the articles and documents assigned as readings for the seminar. A sign-up sheet will be passed around in the beginning of the semester. This will involve a brief 10-15 minute presentation on the reading in question, which will include a brief summary of the reading and the launching of questions for discussion

This is a seminar course and the success of the seminar depends a lot on keeping up with the readings, attendance in class, and participation in discussion. It is for this reason that

15% of the course mark depends on seminar participation. Roll will be taken in each class and students will be given marks for participation in the discussions. Students will be marked on a scale of 1 to 5 for each class and at the end of the semester, the marks will be added together to give an overall participation mark.

If you should have any questions pertaining to the structure or content of the course, please do not hesitate to contact me during my office hours, or by phone or e-mail to make an appointment.

### **Lateness and Absence Policy**

The term papers and book review will be accepted late. However, there will be a penalty of 2% a day that will be applied for every day the assignments are late, including weekends and holidays. In case of family emergency or illness, penalties can be removed from assignments by undergoing the process laid out in the next paragraph relating to academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds. The article/document analyses will normally not be accepted late. If you have missed class, try and get notes from another member of the class.

Students are reminded that academic accommodation on medical grounds can in most instances **only** be granted if supported by a **University of Western Ontario Student Medical Certificate**. This form can be accessed at the following website: [https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_document.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_document.pdf) or be picked up at the Academic Counselling Office in the student's home faculty. (For Social Science students 2105 SSC.) Further details on this policy can be found at the following website: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>

If you do hand in your assignment late, please hand it in to the wooden drop-off box outside the History Department office at Lawson Hall. The staff will pick up the assignment and stamp it with a date and time and put it in my mailbox. This provides greater security and clarity for the handing in of the assignment. Please avoid shoving the paper under my office door if at all possible, because it could get lost.

### **Academic Dishonesty**

It is expected that proper footnoting and referencing will be used for all the papers of this course. Plagiarism is a serious offence and can bring forth severe academic penalties. Please refer to the University calendar and to the department website for more details. More detailed information is provided at the end of this course outline.

## **Schedule of Readings—History 4605G –January to April 2016**

Readings with a “\*\*” are eligible for the article analysis assignments

### **Jan. 7—Introduction**

#### **Jan. 14—Not Just Silk, Not Just a Road**

James A. Millward, *The Silk Road: A Very Short Introduction*, p. 1-110

Frances Wood, *The Silk Road: Two Thousand Years in the Heart of Asia*, p. 9-35

Xinru Liu, *The Silk Roads: A Brief History in Documents*, p. 1-33

#### **Jan. 21—Ancient Worlds: Greeks, Romans and Han Chinese and the Silk Road**

Frances Wood, *The Silk Road: Two Thousand Years in the Heart of Asia*, p. 36-47

\*\* Fergus Millar, “Looking East from the Classical World: Colonialism, Culture, and Trade from Alexander the Great to Shapur I”, *The International History Review*, Vol. XX, No.3 (Sept. 1998), p. 507-531 (available on OWL)

\*\* Matthew P. Fitzpatrick, “Provincializing Rome: The Indian Ocean Trade Network and Roman Imperialism”, *Journal of World History*, Vol. 22, No. 1 (March 2011), p. 27-54 (available on OWL)

Xinru Liu, *The Silk Roads: A Brief History in Documents*, p. 37-83

#### **Jan. 28—Middle Men: Central Asians, Persians, and Southeast Asians and Trade by Land and Sea**

Frances Wood, *The Silk Road: Two Thousand Years in the Heart of Asia*, p. 48-74

\*\* Xinru Liu, “Migration and Settlement of the Yuezhi-Kushan: Interaction and Interdependence of Nomadic and Sedentary Societies”, *Journal of World History*, Vol 12, No. 2 (2001), p. 261-292 (available on OWL)

\*\* Jenny Rose, “The Sogdians: Prime Movers between Boundaries”, *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*, Vol. 30, No. 3 (2010), p. 410-419 (available on OWL)

\*\* Touraj Daryaee, “The Persian Gulf Trade in Late Antiquity”, *Journal of World History*, Vol. 14, No. 1 (2003), p. 1-16 (available on OWL)

Lynda Norene Shaffer, *Maritime Southeast Asia to 1500*, p. 1-36

#### **Feb. 4 —Religion and the Silk Road (I)**

Richard Foltz, *Religions of the Silk Road: Pre-modern Patterns of Globalization*, p. 1-104

Frances Wood, *The Silk Road: Two Thousand Years in the Heart of Asia*, p. 88-110

\*\* Tansun Sen, “Buddhism in the Maritime Crossings” in Dorothy C. Wong and Gustav Heldt, *China and Beyond in the Mediaeval Period: Cultural and Inter-Regional Connections*, (New Delhi: Manohar Publishers, 2014), p. 39-63 (available on OWL)

#### **Feb. 11—Religion and the Silk Road (II)**

\*\* Johan Elverskog, *Buddhism and Islam on the Silk Road*, (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, 2010) p. 9-55 (available on OWL)

\*\* Xinru Liu, “A Silk Road Legacy: The Spread of Buddhism and Islam”, *Journal of World History*, Vol. 22, no. 1, p. 55-81 (available on OWL)

\*\* Xinru Liu, *Silk and Religion: An Exploration of Material Life and the Thought of People, AD 600-1200* (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1996), p. 113-129 (available on OWL)

Xinru Liu, *The Silk Roads: A Brief History in Documents*, p. 84-119

Feb. 15-19—Reading Week—No class

\*\*\*\*\***Book Review due—Feb. 25**\*\*\*\*\*

#### **Feb. 25—Tang China and the Silk Road (I)**

Frances Wood, *The Silk Road: Two Thousand Years in the Heart of Asia*, p. 75-87

\*\* Mark Edward Lewis, *China’s Cosmopolitan Empire: The Tang Dynasty*, (Cambridge, MA.: Harvard University Press, 2009), p. 145-178 (available on OWL)

\*\* Valerie Hansen, *The Silk Road: A New History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012), p. 141-166 (available on OWL)

### **March 3—Tang China and the Silk Road (II)**

Xinru Liu, *The Silk Roads: A Brief History in Documents*, p.120-151

\*\* Charlotte von Verschuer, *Across the Perilous Sea: Japanese Trade with China and Korea from the Seventh to the Sixteenth Centuries*, (Ithaca, NY: Cornell East Asia Series, 2006), p. 1-22 (available on OWL)

\*\* Angela Schottenhammer, “Transfer of *Xiangyao* from Iran and Arabia to China—A Reinvestigation of Entries in the *Youyang zazu*” in Ralph Kauz (ed.), *Aspects of the Maritime Silk Road: From the Persian Gulf to the East China Sea*, (Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2012), p. 117-149 (available on OWL)

Lynda Norene Shaffer, *Maritime Southeast Asia to 1500*, p. 37-74

### **March 10 — The Mongol Empire and the Silk Road (I)**

\*\* Christopher I. Beckwith, *Empires of the Silk Road: A History of Central Eurasia from the Bronze Age to the Present*, (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2009), p. 183-203 (available on OWL)

\*\* David Morgan, *The Mongols (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)*, (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2007), p. 74-98 (available on OWL)

\*\* Peter Jackson, *The Mongols and the West*, (Harlow, UK: Pearson Education Limited, 2005), p. 290-328 (available on OWL)

Xinru Liu, *The Silk Roads: A Brief History in Documents*, p. 152-169

### **March 17--The Mongol Empire and the Silk Road (II)**

\*\* Morris Rossabi, *Khubilai Khan: His Life and Times*, (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1988), p. 76-114 (available on OWL)

Lynda Norene Shaffer, *Maritime Southeast Asia to 1500*, p. 75-98

Richard Foltz, *Religions of the Silk Road: Pre-modern Patterns of Globalization*, p.105-126

\*\* Jonathan Spence, *The Chan's Great Continent: China in Western Minds*, (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1998), p. 1-18 (available on OWL)

### **March 24—Turning from Land to Sea after the Mongols**

\*\* Timothy Brook, *The Troubled Empire: China in the Yuan and Ming Dynasties*, (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2010), p. 213-237 (available on OWL)

\*\* Roderich Ptak, “China and Portugal at Sea: The Early Ming Trading system and the *Estado da India* Compared” in Roderich Ptak (ed.), *China and the Asian Seas*, (Aldershot, UK: Ashgate Publishing, 1998), p. 21-38 (available on OWL)

Lynda Norene Shaffer, *Maritime Southeast Asia to 1500*, p. 99-104

\*\* Howard Federspiel, *Sultans, Shamans, and Saints: Islam and Muslims in Southeast Asia*, (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2007), p. 22-59 (available on OWL)

### **March 31—The Legacy of the Silk Road**

James A. Millward, *The Silk Road: A Very Short Introduction*, p. 110-121

Richard Foltz, *Religions of the Silk Road: Pre-modern Patterns of Globalization*, p. 127-139

\*\* Minghao Zhao, “ ‘March Westwards’ and a New Look at China’s Grand Strategy”, *Mediterranean Quarterly*, Vol. 26, No. 1 (March 2015), p. 97-116 (available on OWL)

\*\*\*\*\***Term Paper due—March 31**\*\*\*\*\*

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### **Prerequisites and Antirequisites:**

Unless you have either the requisites for this course, as described in the Academic Calendar description of the course, or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites. The Academic Calendar description of each course also indicates which classes are considered antirequisites, i.e., to cover such similar material that students are not permitted to receive academic credit for both courses.

### **Academic Offences:**

Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitute a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of Publication and page number. Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and



indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writer's ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source; these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction, your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases, in their suspension from the University.

## **Medical Issues:**

The University recognizes that a student's ability to meet his/her academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Please go to [https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical\\_accommodations\\_link\\_for\\_OOR.pdf](https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf) to read about the University's policy on medical accommodation. This site provides links to the necessary forms. In the event of illness, you should contact Academic Counselling as soon as possible. The Academic Counsellors will determine, in consultation with the student, whether or not accommodation should be requested. They will subsequently contact the instructors in the relevant courses about the accommodation. Once the instructor has made a decision about whether to grant an accommodation, the student should contact his/her instructors to determine a new due date for tests, assignments, and exams.

### **SUPPORT SERVICES:**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to [Mental Health@Western](mailto:MentalHealth@Western), <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

*Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.*

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact, Morgan Sheriff, Undergraduate Program Advisor, Department of History, 519-661-2111 x84999 or [msherif5@uwo.ca](mailto:msherif5@uwo.ca)