

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

Tuesdays 11:30 AM-2:30 PM

Instructor: Carl Young

Office Hours: Wednesdays 3:30 PM-5:30 PM
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. Millward, *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, **Tuesday, Dec. 5.**

The two article analyses will be based around the readings for each class. During the semester, students will choose 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.** The 1st article analysis will be based around articles from Sept. 27 to Oct. 24. **The last chance to hand in the 1st article analysis is Oct. 24.** The 2nd article analysis will be based on articles between Oct. 31 and Dec. 5. **The last chance to hand in a 2nd article analysis is Dec. 5.** 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 **Tuesday, Oct. 31.**

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 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 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 –Sept. to Dec. 2017

Readings with a ‘**’ are eligible for the article analysis assignments

Sept. 12—Introduction

Sept. 19—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

Sept. 27—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

Oct. 3—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

Fall Reading Week—Oct. 9-13---No class

Oct. 17 —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)

Oct. 24—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

******Last chance to hand in 1st Article Analysis—Oct. 24******

Oct. 31—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)

******Book Review due—Oct. 31******

Nov. 7—Tang China and the Silk Road (II)

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

** Angela Schottenhammer, “China’s Gate to the Indian Ocean: Iranian and Arab Long-Distance Traders”, *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*, Vol. 76, Nos. 1 & 2 (2016), p. 135-179 (available on OWL)

** 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)

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

Nov. 14 — 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 (2nd 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

Nov. 21--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)

Frances Wood, *The Silk Road: Two Thousand Years in the Heart of Asia*, p. 111-129

Nov. 28—Turning from Land to Sea after the Mongols

** Geoff Wade, “Engaging the South: Ming China and Southeast Asia in the Fifteenth Century”, *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient*, Vol. 51, no. 4 (2008), p. 578-638

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)

Dec. 5—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—Dec. 5******

******Last chance to hand in 2nd Article Analysis—Dec. 5******