

History 2618F
China in the World
Fall 2023-24

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This is a draft syllabus. Please see the course site on OWL for a final version.

Course Description:

Explores the interaction between China and the rest of the world from the Mongol conquest of the 13th century to the Republic of China in the mid-20th century, to understand how China has been globally integrated through conquest, the exchange of goods and ideas, and the migration of peoples.

Course Syllabus:

China in the World explores the history of interaction between China and the rest of the world. The course begins with the Mongol empire in the 13th century, global trade and exploration during the Ming dynasty, Manchu conquests during 16th century, and Western imperialism and colonialism during the 19th and early 20th century. The objectives of the course are to examine how China has been globally integrated with the rest of the world over the course of many centuries, to develop critical thinking skills, and to use history to understand how China and the West might have constructive dialogue in the present.

The course emphasizes communication in the historical sense, as well as in the present, and in the classroom. To promote discussion students will be assigned to small groups (four to six per group) for weekly group-based instructional activities. In addition, there will be two group-based assignments. The course also emphasizes knowledge production, examining how knowledge about China and the World was produced in the past, as well as in the present, and in the classroom. Due to the nature of the course, it is essential that students make every effort to attend every class.

Course Materials:

Timothy Brook, *Great State: China and the World*, Harper Collins, 2020. (For purchase).

Supplementary materials online or on OWL.

Methods of Evaluation:

- 1) **Weekly Quizzes: 25%.** A short quiz at the beginning of each class (excluding Weeks 1 and 12) to test the student's comprehension of weekly readings. **There are no make-up quizzes,** however, the lowest two weekly scores will be dropped from the final calculation.
- 2) **Essay Critique: 15%.** Each group will receive a pre-written essay relating to one of the course topics. The group will examine the essay in detail, identifying its weaknesses as well as strengths. Students will be graded on their individual contribution to the critique. **Due Date: October 17.**
- 3) **Media Assignment (group project): 15%.** Each group will produce a five-minute video focusing on one of the weekly topics. All students in the group will receive the same grade. **Due Date: November 28.**
- 4) **Essay Assignment: 20%.** Each student will write an essay (2000 words) on an approved topic. **Due Date: December 5.**
- 5) **Final Exam: 25%.** Students must earn at least 50% on the exam in order to pass the course. **During Final Exam Period.**

Notifications:

***Late assignments will not be accepted, except on the advice of Academic Counselling.**

***Students are strongly advised against using Artificial Intelligence to generate papers, as the student will be held responsible for all errors, biases, falsifications, and plagiarism committed by the AI.**

***Students will be asked to use personal response systems ('clickers'). University guidelines on the use of clickers is available here:**

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/courseoutlines.pdf#page=5

Accommodation for missed tests/midterms:

The professor will not organize a make-up time slot on the basis of student convenience. There are two make-up slots each term – students *must* write in one of those slots.

Students with an approved absence from an in-class test will be required to write a make-up test. The make-up test will not necessarily be in the same format, be of the same duration, or cover the same material as the original test.

Online courses will have online make-up tests.

For in-person classes, make-up tests will be written at one of the Department of History make-up midterms. Dates for the make-ups will be listed on the Department of History website under [Important Dates](#).

IMPORTANT: In the event the University moves to online learning make-up tests will take place online via OWL. The date for the make-up may differ from the date listed above.

No other make-up opportunities will be provided unless further academic consideration is granted by Academic Counselling. Students who fail to write a make-up test in a designated time slot will receive a grade of zero on that assessment.

Course professors may not be available to respond to questions during the make-up test slots.

Course Schedule and Readings:

Week 1: Introduction

Brook, Introduction

Week 2: The Great Khan

Brook, Chapter 1

Marco Polo (on OWL – chapter TBA)

Week 3: The Great Plague

Brook, Chapter 3

Monica Green, “On Learning How to Teach the Black Death” (on OWL)

Week 4: Distant Lands

Brook, Chapter 4

Findlay “How Not to (Re)Write World History: Gavin Menzies and the Chinese Discovery of America”. [History Cooperative \(Online\)](#)

Week 5: Close Neighbors

Brook, Chapter 5

Week 6: The China Trade

Brook, Chapter 6, 7

Antony, *Golden Age of Piracy in China* – (On Owl)

Week 7: Missions and Missionaries

Brook, Chapter 8

“Maps of the World” (on OWL)

Week 8: Manchu Conquest

Brook, Chapter 9, 10

Week 9: Imperialism

Brook, Chapter 11

“Two Edicts from the Qianlong Emperor” (excerpt, on OWL)

Week 10: Treaty Ports

Brook, Chapter 12, 13

Week 11: The Chinese Century?

Brook, Chapter 14

Franceschini, *Global China as Method* ([Online](#) – chapter TBA)

Week 12

Film Festival

Additional Statements:

Please review the Department of History’s shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at: https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.