

ANT 3930 (Class Number 10684)

The Silk Road

2319 Turlington Hall
Mon., Wed. and Fri. 11:45 a.m.-12:35 p.m.

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Office hours: Wednesdays and Fridays: 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Course Description

In history, the Silk Road was the greatest overland trading route with China on one end, and Rome on the other. Before cross-ocean maritime trading became practical, the Silk Road was the most significant conduit in the world for far reaching cultural and material exchange. Even though the original Silk Road as a trading route declined after flourishing for over a thousand years, the geopolitical and economic importance of the area connected by the Silk Road have never dwindled and will never diminish. The exceptionally diverse and rich cultures along the Silk Road provides endless opportunities for enriching and deepening anthropological understanding about humanity.

In this course, through lectures, readings, and films, you will gain a fundamental knowledge about the peoples and cultures along the Silk Road in a comprehensive and systematic way. You will learn how the distance trade emerged in the late third century BCE; how China, Europe, and nations in between were affected by the trading and the cultural cross-fertilization; how Buddhism and Islam influenced peoples along the Silk Road; what some of the peoples look like today, how they live, work, and worship, as well as what histories and artistic glories they have created. The learning materials are weighed more heavily on China, the initiator of the Silk Road. Yet you will also learn about the histories, religions, customs, arts, as well as ethnic and international conflicts of some the more important European and Central Asian nations along the Silk Road. In addition, you will be introduced to the current hot topic of the “Belt and Road Initiative” and present plight of the Uyghurs ethnic minority in Xinjiang.

Texts

Dauther, Jay

2009 Down a Narrow Road. Cambridge MA: Harvard University Asia Center.

Elverskog, Johan

2013 Buddhism and Islam on the Silk Road. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania press.

Jacobs, Justin M.
 2017 Xinjiang and the Modern Chinese State. Seattle: University of Washington Press.
 Liu, Xibnru
 2010 The Silk Road in World History. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
 Whitfield, Susan
 2015 Life along the Silk Road, 2nd ed. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Terms

Throughout the semester, you are required to finish each reading assignment on schedule, attend class meetings on time and take an active part in class discussion, take two exams, and write two papers.

It is essential that you finish the reading assignment BEFORE each class session, since this will not only affect your understanding of the lectures, but also help your performance in class discussion.

The two examinations will be equally weighted. The last examination is not cumulative. Rather, it only covers materials that are not covered by the first examination.

The two papers, excluding cover page and references cited, should be about 8 double-spaced pages each with 12-point font in length.

I will keep track of your attendance and you are expected to take an active part in class discussion. Your class performance is measured by your attendance and participation in class discussion.

Percentage of the elements that contribute to your course grade are distributed as follows:

| | |
|--------|-----------------|
| Exams | 50% (25% each); |
| Papers | 50% (25% each); |

Those who keep a record of full attendance (namely, never miss any session) will receive a bonus of 5 points. Those who speak in class (asking questions, answering questions, offering comments, etc.) will receive a bonus of 2 points. Those who miss 20% of the sessions without legitimate reasons will receive a penalty of 5 points. Those who miss 50% of the classes without legitimate reasons will automatically receive E (failure) as course grade.

After adding the bonus points and deducting the penalty points, the final score will be converted to your course grade on the following scale:

| | | | | | | | |
|-------|----|-------|----|-------|----|-------|----|
| ≥95 | A | 90-94 | A- | 85-89 | B+ | 80-84 | B |
| 75-79 | B- | 70-74 | C+ | 65-69 | C | 60-64 | C- |
| 55-59 | D+ | 50-54 | D | 45-49 | D- | ≤44 | E |

All the tasks must be finished on schedule. Extensions and make-ups may be offered only in exceptional cases with a legitimate reason. The judgment of any reason’s legitimacy is solely based on the Instructor’s understanding and interpretation of the relevant university regulations.

Disability Accommodations

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter, which must be presented to the

instructor when requesting accommodations. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Important Dates

Fri., Feb. 01 First paper due.
Fri., Mar. 01 First examination.
Mon., Apr. 01 Second paper due.
Wed., Apr. 24 Last examination.

Reading and Film Schedule

Mon., Jan. 07 Introduction and Course overview
Readings: This syllabus.
Wed., Jan. 09
Film: The Glories of Ancient Chang'an
Fri., Jan. 11 China Looks West; Rome Looks East
Readings: Liu 2010, pp. 1-41.
Mon., Jan. 14 The Kushan Empire and Buddhism; A Golden Age Emerges
Readings: Liu 2010, pp. 42-86.
Wed., Jan. 16
Film: The Art Gallery in the Desert
Fri., Jan. 18 Transforming the Eurasian Silk Market; the Twilight of the Silk Road
Readings: Liu 2010, pp. 87-126.
Mon., Jan. 21
Martin Luther King Jr. Day (No class)
Wed., Jan. 23
Film: Across the Taklamakan Desert
Fri., Jan. 25 Life along the Silk Road: Introduction and the Merchant's Tale
Readings: Whitfield 2015, pp. 1-37.
Mon., Jan. 28 Tales of the Soldier and the Horseman
Readings: Whitfield 2015, pp. 38-72.
Wed., Jan. 30
Film: A Heat Wave Called Turfan
Fri., Feb. 01 Tales of the Princess and the Courtesan
Readings: Whitfield 2015, pp. 73-103.
Mon., Feb. 04 Tales of the Pilgrim and the Writer
Readings: Whitfield 2015, pp. 104-137.
Wed., Feb. 06
Film: Where Horses Fly Like the Wind
Fri., Feb. 08 Tales of the Official and the Nun
Readings: Whitfield 2015, pp. 138-168.
Mon., Feb. 11 Tales of the Widow and the Artist
Readings: Whitfield 2015, pp. 169-201.
Wed., Feb. 13
Film: Two Roads to the Pamirs

Fri., Feb. 15 Buddhism and Islam on the Silk Road: Introduction and Contact

Readings: Elverskog 2010, pp. 1-55.

Mon., Feb. 18 Buddhism and Islam on the Silk Road: Understanding

Readings: Everskog 2010, pp. 56-116.

Wed., Feb. 20

Film: The Travels of Xuang Zang in India

Fri., Feb. 22 Buddhism and Islam on the Silk Road: Idolatry

Readings: Everskog 2010, pp. 117-174.

Mon., Feb. 25 Buddhism and Islam on the Silk Road: Jihad

Readings: Everskog 2010, pp. 175-226.

Wed., Feb. 27

Film: The Glory of Samarkand

Fri., Mar. 01

First examination

Spring Break

Mon., Mar. 11 Buddhism and Islam on the Silk Road: Halal and Conclusion

Readings: Everskog 2010, pp. 227-264.

Wed., Mar. 13

Film: Central Asia, Russia - From Wasteland to Motherland

Fri., Mar. 15 Introduction and Imperial Repertoires in Republican Xingjiang

Readings: Jacobs 2016, pp. 3-48.

Mon., Mar. 18 Collapse of Empires and the Nationalist Threat

Readings: Jacobs 2016, pp. 49-88.

Wed., Mar. 20

Film: South Caucasus - The Flame and the Cross

Fri., Mar. 22 Rise of the Ethnopoliticians

Readings: Jacobs 2016, pp. 89-126.

Mon., Mar. 25 The Birth Pangs of Chinese Affirmative Action

Readings: Jacobs 2016, pp. 127-168.

Wed., Mar. 27

Film: Yemen and Saudi Arabia - The Progeny of the Queen of Sheba

Fri., Mar. 29 The Xinjiang Government in Exile and conclusion

Readings: Jacobs 2016, pp. 169-239.

Mon., Apr. 01 Introduction; Blessed Home: Residence and Identity in a Uyghur Neighborhood;
Yining's *Mehelle* as Suburban Periphery

Readings: Dautcher 2009, pp. 1-47.

Wed., Apr. 03

Film: Beyond Baghdad

Fri., Apr. 05 Desettling the Land: The Destruction of Uyghur Chthonic Identity; Gleaming
Eyes, Evil Eyes: Cradle and Cure in Uyghur Child Rearing

Readings: Dautcher 2009, pp. 48-91.

- Mon., Apr. 08 At Play in the *Mehelle*: The Language and Lore of Uyghur Childhood; Marriage, Mistresses, and Masculinity: Gender and Adult Social Life
 Readings: Dautcher 2009, pp. 92-142.
- Wed., Apr. 10
 Film: All Roads Lead to Rome
- Fri., Apr. 12 The Pretty *Olturash*: Masculinity and Moral Order in Adult Play; “Women have hair, men have nicknames”: Uyghur Nicknaming Practices
 Readings: Dautcher 2009, pp. 143-201.
- Mon., Apr. 15 Merchants and Markets in the *Mehelle*; Yining’s Border Trade: Trader-Tourism and Uyghur Sojourning
 Readings: Dautcher 2009, pp. 203-253.
- Wed., Apr. 17
 Film: The New Silk Road: Ambition and Opportunity
- Fri., Apr. 19 The False *Hajim* and the Bad *Meshrep*: Piety and Politics in Uyghur Islam; The Hungry Guest: Rhetoric, Reverence, and Reversal in a Uyghur Ramadan; Eppilogue
 Reading: Dautcher 2009, pp. 255-309.
- Mon., Apr. 22 Most recent reports from Xinjiang
 Readings: Collected newspaper clippings.
- Wed., Apr. 24
Last examination
 End of course.