

**«Central Asian Studies World Wide»**  
**Course Syllabi for the Study of Central Eurasia**  
[www.fas.harvard.edu/~casww/CASWW\\_Syllabi.html](http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~casww/CASWW_Syllabi.html)

**Prof. Christopher P. Atwood**  
**Mongol Conquest (Central Eurasian Studies 368)**  
**Syllabus for the course offered in Fall 2001**  
**Indiana University**  
**Dept. of Central Eurasian Studies**

Additional course materials available at:  
[http://www.indiana.edu/~ceus/mongol\\_conquest.htm](http://www.indiana.edu/~ceus/mongol_conquest.htm)

Prof. Christopher P. Atwood  
Department of Central Eurasian Studies  
Indiana University  
Goodbody Hall 321  
1011 East 3rd St.  
Bloomington, IN 47405-7005  
U.S.A.  
[catwood@indiana.edu](mailto:catwood@indiana.edu)

**U368 Mongol Conquest (0748)****Syllabus****Fall, 2001**

Professor: Christopher P. Atwood

Time: 11:15-12:05, MWF

Office Hours: 11:15-12:15 T, 1:00-1:50W

855-4059; email:catwood

Place: Library 1051

Office: Goodbody Hall 321

This course deals with the empire built by the Mongols in the 13<sup>th</sup> century—the largest land empire in the world. All readings will be from translated primary sources of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, written by the Mongols themselves and also by Persian, Chinese, Eastern Christians, Europeans, and other peoples that fought, surrendered to, or traded with the Mongol conquerors. The course will explore the Mongols, the most spectacular example of the nomadic conquerors who played such a large role in all Eurasian history, and survey how their empire affected themselves and the peoples they conquered. By using primary sources, the course will also provide a survey of civilizations in Eurasia in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries, and give a hands-on example of how historians build historical knowledge from varied sources.

Exams and Course Requirements: There will be the following graded assignments: two map quizzes, a chronology quiz, a genealogy quiz, a midterm and a final. There will also be a weekly one-two page review of the reading which be graded on a pass-fail basis. The reading reports and class attendance will be 25%; the four quizzes, 5% each; and the midterm 20% and the final 35%. There is no term paper.

**Graduate Requirements:**

Graduate students have additional required reading, which will be discussed during four extra sessions of the class (time and place TBA). Undergraduates are welcome also to do this reading and attend the discussion sessions. Graduates will have no choice on the questions for the midterms and finals. In addition graduates will write a 15-20 page research paper, due on Dec. 6. Topics will be chosen by the student in consultation with the professor. Graduate grade percentages are: reading reports/class participation, 15%; four quizzes, total 10%; midterm 20%; final 25%; paper 30%.

**Class organization:**

Monday and Wednesday sessions will be primarily lecture, in which I will give you a background of ideas and concepts that help make sense of the topic for the week, as well as additional important information not given in the readings. Friday is a discussion session, in which we will look at the specific readings for the week and analyze them in terms of the arguments they put forth to make sense of the Mongol conquests. For this reason, it is imperative that you do the reading before Friday. The one-two page reviews of the reading will be due at the beginning of class at each discussion session.

Note: All students are each given two (only!) free passes on the reading reviews.

**Readings:**

Three books (Cleaves, trans., *Secret History of the Mongols*, Dawson, ed., *Mission to Asia*; Latham, trans., *Travels of Marco Polo*) are available for purchase at TIS and the IU bookstore. Juvaini's *History of the World Conqueror* is out of print and is on sale in a xeroxed reprint also at TIS and the IU bookstore.

Two required out of print books are available in xeroxed reprint from the Central Eurasian Studies department office (Goodbody Hall 157):

1. Waley, *Travels of an Alchemist* (price \$3.00)
2. Budge, *Monks of Kublai Khan* (price \$4.50)

The final group of required readings is available in a packet the Central Eurasian Studies department office (Goodbody Hall 157) for \$18.00. It includes:

1. Zhao Gong, "A Complete Record of the Mong Tatars"

2. Su Tianjue, *Sketches of Eminent Ministers of the Yuan Dynasty*, biography of Muqali
3. Selection from ibn Ath\_r, translation from *History of the Mongols*
4. Mongolian documents on religious immunities and beliefs
5. Peng and Xu, "A Sketch of the Black Tatars"
6. Su Tianjue, *Sketches*, biographies of Zhang Rou and Yelü Chucai
6. Zhang, "Notes on a Journey North of the Ranges"
7. Su Tianjue, *Sketches*, biographies of Liu Bingzhong on
8. Rashid-ud-Din, translation from *Jami'u't-Tawarikh, The Compendium of Chronicles*
9. Rashid-ud-Din, selections from *History of the Mongols*
10. *Travels of Ibn Battuta*, in Iran and Iraq
11. Rashid-ud-Din, translations from the *Successors of Genghis Khan*
12. *Travels of Ibn Battuta* in the Jochid and Chaghatayid realms

Website: The class has a website which contains the syllabus, the lecture outlines and other materials. The outlines are intended to be used to prepare for class, and to ease note-taking, not a substitute for class!

URL:

[http://www.indiana.edu/~ceus/mongol\\_conquest.htm](http://www.indiana.edu/~ceus/mongol_conquest.htm)

IMPORTANT NOTE: There are MANY editions of Marco Polo in stores and the library. The one I am using for my page numbers is that translated by Ronald Latham and published by Penguin Press in paperback. Note also that while most editions of this book number the pages consecutively through the translator's introduction, so that Marco Polo's own story starts on p. 33, some editions have the introduction numbered separately, so that the story itself starts on p. 3. If your book is one of these editions, you will need to subtract 30 from every page number in the syllabus.

Week 1, August 27-31

Introduction; Cycles and waves of history, Eurasian geography

*Mission to Asia*, pp. 4-32 (John of Plano Carpini), pp. 93-106 (William of Rubruck); Juvaini, *History of the World Conqueror*, pp. 19-44; Marco Polo's *Travels*, pp. 92-103.\*

\*See the note on the pagination of Marco Polo on the second page of the syllabus.

Week 2, Sept. 3-7

More Eurasian geography; tribes and states, nomadism

*Secret History*, paragraphs §1-§129

Week 3, Sept. 10-14

Mongol social structure; clan genealogy and history

*Secret History*, §§130-201.

**First map quiz:** in class, Sept. 12

Week 4, Sept. 17-21

Emerging Steppe states.

*Secret History*, §§ 202-253; Juvaini, pp. 44-53, 61-77; Zhao, "A Complete Record of the Mong Tatars"; Su Tianjue, *Sketches*, "Biography of Muqali," pp. 1-11

Week 5, Sept. 24-28

Unification of the Mongols; conquest of the Jin in North China.

Ibn Ath\_r, pp. 29-32; Juvaini, pp. 3-19, 77-178; *Secret History*, §§ 254-268.

Week 6, Oct. 1-5

Destruction of the Sultanate of Khorazm and the Xia (Tangut) dynasty of Northwest China.

*Travels of an Alchemist*, pp. 43-160; Documents on Religious Immunities and Beliefs

Graduate meeting, on Rashid-ud-Din, *Jami'u't-Tawarikh*, on the Mongol tribes and Chinggis Khan, *Yuan shi*, chapter 1 and de Rachewiltz, "The Hsi Yu Lu"

**Second map quiz:** in class, Oct. 3

Week 7, Oct. 8-12

The Mongol religious policy

Juvaini, pp. 178-239; *Secret History*, §§ 269-282; Peng and Xu, "A Sketch of the Black Tatars.,"; Su Tianjue, *Sketches*, "Biographies of Zhang Rou and Yelü Chucai," pp. 13-40.

Written paper topics due for graduates (must see me before this date): in class, Oct. 12

Week 8, Oct. 15-19.

Ogedei Qa'an; plunder and gifts, the succession question; building institutions in China

Juvaini, pp. 239-276; *Mission to Asia*, pp. 3-86

**Midterm:** in class, Oct. 19

Week 9, Oct. 22-26

Güyüg and Mngke Qa'an; succession question, charismatic election and bloody tanistry

*Mission to Asia*, pp. 89-220; Juvaini, pp. 547-595.

Discussion for week 8 reading, and reading reviews DUE MONDAY, Oct. 22

\*See the note on the pagination of Marco Polo on the second page of the syllabus.

Week 10, Oct. 29-Nov. 2

Mngke and his conquests; Administration, taxation, bureaucracy, prebends, corruption

Juvaini, pp. 595-640, 703-725, 482-546

Graduate meeting, on *History of the Yuan*, chapters 2 and 3, and "History of the Nation of the Archers," 285-337.

**Chronology Quiz:** in class, October 29

Week 11, Nov. 5-9

Qubilai Qa'an and the break-up of the empire

Zhang, "Notes on a Journey North of the Ranges"; Su Tianjue, *Sketches*, pp. 41-139.

Week 12, Nov. 12-16

Qubilai's Yüan Dynasty: Mongol rulers and Chinese forms

Marco Polo's *Travels*, 33-45, 80-162, 163-259.\*

Graduate meeting: *History of the Yuan*, chapters 4-5; Hsiao, *Military Establishment of the Yuan Dynasty*, pp. 67-124.

Week 13, Nov. 19

The Il-qanate: Mongol/Persian dyarchy (beginning)

**Genealogy Quiz:** in class, November 19

Thanksgiving Break: Budge, *Monks of Kublai Khan*, 119-306; reading review DUE MONDAY, Nov. 26

Week 14, Nov. 26-30

The Il-qanate: Mongol/Persian dyarchy (conclusion), and the Golden Horde (beginning)

Marco Polo's *Travels*, pp. 46-80, 319-329; Rashid-ud-Din, translation in *Jami'u't-Tawarikh*, 12-19, 471-514 and selections in *History of the Mongols*, pp. 122-164; *Travels of Ibn Battuta*, 288-347.

Week 15, Dec. 3-7

The Golden Horde and Central Asia; Islamization, Turkicization; themes in Mongol history

Rashid-ud-Din translation in *Successors of Genghis Khan*, 96-156, 17-28, Marco Polo's *Travels*, pp. 329-345, 313-319; Ibn Battuta, 470-574.

Graduate meeting: Rashid-ud-Din, translation in *Jami'u't-Tawarikh*, Section 17 ("History of Ghazan Khan"), "History of the Nation of the Archers," 337-383.

Graduate Student papers due: Dec.4 in class

**Final:** 10:15-12:15, Wednesday, December 12.