


«Central Asian Studies World Wide»
Course Syllabi for the Study of Central Eurasia
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Dru C. Gladney
The Silk Road: Pre- and Post-Modern Travel Narrative (Asian Studies 620)
Syllabus for the course offered in Spring 2001
University of Hawaii
Asian Studies Department

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Asian Studies 620
"The Silk Road: Pre- and Post-Modern Travel Narrative"

Dru C. Gladney
Professor, Asian Studies, SHAPS

Time: Tuesdays, 2:30-5:00

Place: Moore 203

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

Spring 2001

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This course will examine contemporary theories of travel narrative from the perspective of the Silk Road across Eurasia. The course will consider the relevance of this growing body of theory for understanding social and political processes in the old and new states of Asia. Considering the Eurocentric nature of most theories of travel and the Silk Road, this course will ask: Are these theories useful for the Asian context? Do they help or hinder understanding of recent and current travel narrative in Asia? Are there different styles of travel and travel narrative in Asia and Europe? What is the role of religion, ritual, and representation in constructing the nature of the Silk Road? What is the general history of the Silk Road and why is it important in linking constructions of the pre- and post-modern histories of East and West?

Participation: As an advanced reading/discussion seminar course, students are required to complete all readings before coming to class, and two students will be assigned to discuss/debate the merits (or shortcomings) of the articles, chapters or book assigned (20%).

Short Paper: A short paper/critique will be assigned on a "classic" Silk Road travel narrative, to be decided upon after consultation with the professor. Due the 6th week of class (5-7 pages) (15%)

Research Paper - Rough Draft: A longer research paper will be required on a subject to be determined with the instructor, due in rough draft form in 12th week of class (15%, with proposal due earlier, worth 5%). Proposal is due Week 4.

Research Paper - Final Draft: A longer research paper will be required on a subject to be determined with the instructor, due last week of class (50%).

Final Examination/Readings Journal: A readings journal is due on the day of the final (10%) (1 page per seminar reading)

Required Books (additional articles to be made available):

Foltz, Richard C. Religions of the Silk Road. New York: St Martin's Press, 1999.

Franck, Irene M. and David M. Brownstone 1986. The silk road : a history. New York, NY: Facts on File Inc., CALL #: DS786 .F73. Selected chapters.

Whitfield, Susan. 1999. Life Along the Silk Road. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Wriggins, Sally Hovey. Xuanzang : a Buddhist pilgrim on the Silk Road. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1996. CALL #: BQ8149 .H787 W75

Hopkirk, Peter. 1994. The Great Game: The Struggle for Empire in Central Asia. New York and Tokyo: Kodansha International. ISBN #1-56836-022-3

Gladney, Dru C. 1996, Muslim Chinese: Ethnic Nationalism in the People's Republic. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. ISBN # 674-59497-5.

Clifford, James. 1997. Routes: Travel and Translation in the Late Twentieth Century. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Selections to be handed out.

Course Schedule:

Week 1. The Post- and Pre-Modern travel narrative

Clifford, James. 1997. Routes: Travel and Translation in the Late Twentieth Century. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Chaps 1.

Whitfield, Susan. 1999. Life Along the Silk Road. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapter 1: Introduction.

Week 2. Reflections and preservations of travel narratives

Foltz, Richard C. Religions of the Silk Road. New York: St Martin's Press, 1999. Chapter 1

Whitfield, Susan. 1999. Life Along the Silk Road. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapter 3: The Soldier's Tale.

Assignment: 5-7 page paper, on a "classic" Silk Road narrative. To be handed in on the sixth week of class and discussed in class. Typed, Double-spaced. 15% of grade.

Week 3. History(s) of the Silk Road(s)

Franck, Irene M. and David M. Brownstone 1986. The silk road : a history. New York, NY : Facts on File Inc., 1st half of book

Whitfield, Susan. 1999. Life Along the Silk Road. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapter 4: The Horseman's Tale. Chapter 5: The Princess's Tale.

Week 4. History(s) continued

Franck, Irene M. and David M. Brownstone 1986. The silk road : a history. New York, NY : Facts on File Inc., 2nd half of book

Whitfield, Susan. 1999. Life Along the Silk Road. Berkeley: University of California Press. Chapter 6: The Monk's Tale. Chapter 7: The Courtesan's Tale.

Foltz, Richard C. Religions of the Silk Road. New York: St Martin's Press, 1999.
Chapter 3.

Assignment: Research proposal for a study (library/historical, or field/present) related to some aspect of the past and/or present Silk Road. 1 page, typed. Due in class (students are strongly urged to meet with instructor individually). (5% of grade)

Week 5. History, Historiography, and the Western Imagination

Whitfield, Susan. 1999. Life Along the Silk Road. Berkeley: University of California Press.
Chapters 8-11.

Student presentations on this topic

Week 6. The Early Religious Expansions: Buddhism

Wriggins, Sally Hovey. Xuanzang : a Buddhist pilgrim on the Silk Road.
Boulder, Colo. : Westview Press, 1996.

Foltz, Richard C. Religions of the Silk Road. New York: St Martin's Press, 1999.
Chapter 3

Assignment: Short Paper due

Week 7. The Early Religious Expansions: Nestorianism and Manicheanism

Foltz, Richard C. Religions of the Silk Road. New York: St Martin's Press, 1999.
Chapter 4

Whitfield, Susan. 1999. Life Along the Silk Road. Berkeley: University of California
Press. Chapter 2: The Merchant's Tale.

Student presentations/readings on this topic

Week 8. The Later Religious Expansions: Islam

Foltz, Richard C. Religions of the Silk Road. New York: St Martin's Press, 1999.
Chapter 5

Gladney, Dru C. 1996, Muslim Chinese: Ethnic Nationalism in the People's
Republic. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Chapters 1,2,7

Student presentations/readings on this topic

Week 9. The Later Religious Expansions: Islam

Gladney, Dru C. 1996, Muslim Chinese: Ethnic Nationalism in the People's
Republic. Cambridge: Harvard University Press. Chapters 3,4,6

Student presentations/readings on this topic

Week 10: (Spring Break)

Week 11. Ideological Expansions: Imperialism, Nationalism, and Communism

Hopkirk, Peter. 1994. The Great Game: The Struggle for Empire in Central Asia.
New York and Tokyo: Kodansha International. Chap. 1-22

Student presentations/readings on this topic

Week 12. Ideological Expansions: The end of Imperialism and the rise of Nationalism

Hopkirk, Peter. 1994. The Great Game: The Struggle for Empire in Central Asia.
New York and Tokyo: Kodansha International. Chap. 23-37

Student presentations/readings on this topic

Assignment: Research Paper rough draft due

Weeks 13. Ideological Expansions: Capitalism and Secularism

Readings to be handed out in class

Week 14. Cyber Silk Roads? The future of travel narrative in the Diaspora

Whitfield, Susan. 1999. Life Along the Silk Road. Berkeley: University of California Press.
Chapter 12: Epilogue.

Weeks 15. Student Presentations/Papers

Student research project presentations

NOTE: WRITTEN PAPERS DUE!!

Weeks 16: Wrap-up

Readings Journal/Final: Due on day of Final Exam