

«Central Asian Studies World Wide»
Course Syllabi for the Study of Central Eurasia
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Prof. Shoshana Keller
The Silk Road: Crossroads of Cultures (H124)
Syllabus for the course offered in Fall 2001
Hamilton College
Department of History

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THE SILK ROAD: CROSSROADS OF CULTURES Fall 2001

T-Th. 9 - 10:15 Prof. Shoshana Keller Office: Kirner-Johnson 236 phone: (315) 859-4358

An introduction to the role of cross-cultural contact as a driving force in history. The Silk Road ran from China to the Mediterranean Basin, serving as a conduit for people, goods, and ideas from the Bronze Age to 1500 CE. The course will examine issues of trade, language, religion, art and political power as Chinese, Turks, Mongols, Persians, Arabs, Greeks, Romans and nomads interacted along this vital route. Students will write two short reports, one on a primary source text and one on a historical monograph, a biographical essay, and an 8-10 page research paper. There will be a map test, pop quizzes at random intervals, and a final exam.

Grade breakdown:

Historical monograph essay 15%; Primary source essay 15%;
Biographical essay 15%;
Research paper 25%; Map test and quizzes 5%; "Alexander" project 5%
Final exam 20%

Required Books:

Christian, David. *A History of Russia, Inner Asia, and Mongolia*. Vol. 1. Oxford: Blackwell Press, 1998.

Liu, Xinru. *Silk and Religion: An Exploration of Material Life and the Thought of People, AD 600-1200*. Delhi: Oxford UP, 1998.

Morgan, David. *The Mongols*. Oxford: Blackwell Press, 1990.

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

August 27 - 31: Introduction

T. Introduction to course. Video: *China's cosmopolitan age: the Tang, 618-907*.

Th. The Route: the role of geography and climate

CD Rom exercise: intro to CD and "Journey" section (long, about 1 hour)

Reading: Christian, Introduction and Chpt. 1. Whitfield, Introduction and "The Merchant's Tale."

September 3 - 7: Defining ancient cultures

T. Nomad and settled societies

Th. Ethnicity, language, and other problems MAP TEST

Reading: Rudi Paul Lindner, "What was a Nomadic Tribe?" *Comparative Studies in Society and History* Vol. 24, No. 4(October 1982): 689-711. On electronic reserve Christian, Chpt. 6.

Sept. 10 - 14: Transportation, Trade and Religion

T. Zoroastrianism

Th. Camels and transportation technology ASSIGNMENT: historical monograph report

CD Rom exercise: "Peoples" section - earn a Key to the Cave of Wisdom at the University of Dunhuang

Reading: Bulliet, *The Camel and the Wheel* Chpts. 3 [fr. p. 67], 4, 6.

Sept. 17 - 21: Northern Barbarians and the Middle Kingdom

T. ROSH HASHANA

Th. What was trade? Why was trade? Han China and the *ho-ch'in* policy

CD Rom exercise: "Languages" section. Earn a Key to the cave.

Reading: Christian, Chpt. 8

Sept. 24 - 28: Invader from the West

T. Alexander of Macedon PAPERS DUE

Th. YOM KIPPUR

Reading: Christian, Chpt. 7 Packages on Alexander distributed in class [A. B. Bosworth, *Conquest and Empire: The Reign of Alexander the Great*. Cambridge: 1988. Robin Lane Fox, *Alexander the Great*. Penguin: 1973. Excerpts from Joseph Roisman, *Alexander the Great: Ancient and Modern Perspectives*. D.C. Heath, 1995]

October 1 - 5: How does history work?

T. Alexander and the historians [needs two sessions]

Th. Material culture "Alexander" essays due

Reading: Alexander material Liu, Introduction Christian, Chpt. 9

October 8 - 12: Buddhism on the Silk Road

T. FALL BREAK

Th. Buddhism comes to China

Reading: reading: Arthur Wright, *Buddhism in Chinese History*. Stanford UP, 1959, Chpts. 2 and 3. Liu, Chpt. 2

CD Rom exercise: "History" section. Earn a Key.

Oct. 15 - 19: From west to east

T. Manichaeism and Nestorian Christianity

Th. What is a primary source? ASSIGNMENT: primary source report

Reading: Liu, Chpt. 3 Richard Frye, excerpt from *The History of Bukhara*. [pp. vii-xiii, 3-27 and endnotes, pp. 103-123.]

Oct. 22 - 26: Mechanisms of exchange

T. Paper and printing: trade in technology

Th. Turks and the Tang Dynasty

CD Rom exercise: "Religion" section. Earn a Key.

Reading: Christian, Chpts. 10, 11 Whitfield, pp. 55-112.

Oct. 29 - November 2: In the Arabian Peninsula

T. Trade and the rise of Mecca

Th. Islam PAPERS DUE

Reading: Christian, Chpt. 12. Ira Lapidus, *A History of Islamic Societies*, 1988, Chpts. 2 and 3.
Liu, Chpts. 6, 7

November 5 - 9: Around the edges

T. Rus' and the steppe peoples

Th. From the `Umayyads to the Mongols ASSIGNMENT biographical essay

Reading: Christian, Chpts. 13 and 14 Whitfield, pp. 113-225

Nov. 12 - 16: Cause and effect in history

T. The "great man" vs. "Histoire et Longue Durée"

Th. Temuchin and the rise of the Mongols PAPERS DUE

CD Rom exercise: "Explorers" section. Earn a Key. Earn your last key and find the scroll hidden in the cave!

Reading: Gareth Jenkins, "A Note on Climactic Cycles and the Rise of Chingiss Khan." *Central Asiatic Journal* Vol. 18, No. 4(1974): pp. 217-226. Anatoly Khazanov, "Muhammed and Jenghiz Khan Compared: The Religious Factor in World Empire Building," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* Vol. 35, No. 3(1993): 461-479. on electronic reserve Morgan, Chpts. 1-3

Nov. 19 - 23:

T. MESA

Th. THANKSGIVING BREAK

Reading: none. Work on your research papers

Nov. 26 - 30: Mongol Empire

T. Methods of governing

Th. Conquests east and west *Research papers due*

Reading: Christian: Chpt. 15 Morgan: Chpts. 4-5

December 3 - 7: Last Conquerors along the Silk Road

T. Tamerlane and Babur

Th. Close of the Silk Road

Reading: Christian, Chpt. 16 Morgan: Chpts. 6-8 Liu, Chpt. 8

PRIMARY SOURCES

Travelers' accounts

Benjamin of Tudela, 12th C. *The Itinerary of Benjamin of Tudela*. [Masa'ot shel Rabi Binyamin, in English. Malibu, CA: J. Simon, 1983. Rabbi travels from Spain to Central Asia new edition 2000 Italica Press, isbn 0-934710-07-4

Dawson, Christopher. *Mission to Asia: narratives and letters of the Franciscan missionaries in Mongolia and China in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries*. New York: Sheed and Ward, 1955.

Fa-Hsien. *The Travels of Fa-Hsien (391-414 AD) or Record of the Buddhist Kingdoms*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1923. 3 copies. Chinese monk seeks Buddhist scripture in India

Hsuan-tsang (ca. 596-664). *Si-yu-ki. Buddhist Records of the Western World*. Samuel Beal, trans. Boston: S. J. Osgood, 1885. Chinese monk seeks Buddhist scripture in India

Ibn Batuta. *Travels, AD 1325-1354*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1958-1971. H. A. R. Gibb, translator. Vol. III

Komroff, Manuel. *Contemporaries of Marco Polo*, consisting of the travel records of the eastern parts of the world of William of Rubruck (1253-1255); the journal of John of Plano de Carpini (1245-1247); the journal of Friar Odoric (1318-1330)... New York, Boni & Liveright [c1928]

Li, Chih-ch'ang (1193-1278). *The Travels of an Alchemist*. A. Waley, trans. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1976. Chinese Taoist scholar travels west

The Monks of Kûblâi Khân, Emperor of China; or, The history of the life and travels of Rabban Sâwmâ, envoy and plenipotentiary of the Mongol khâns to the kings of Europe, and Markôs who as Mâr Yahbh-Allâhâ III became Patriarch. New York: AMS Press, 1973.

Ruysbroek, Willem van. *The Journey of William of Rubruck to the Eastern Parts of the World, 1253-55...* London: Haklyut Society, 1900.

Polo, Marco. *The Travels of Marco Polo*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1979.

Ancient histories

Arrian. *History of Alexander and Indica*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP, 1976-1983. on Alexander the Great

Babur, Emperor of Hindustan, 1483-1530. *The Baburnama*. Wheeler M. Thackston, trans. New York: Oxford UP, 1996. Memoirs of the founder of the Mughal Empire

Budge, E. A. Wallis. *The Chronology of Gregory Abû'l-Faraj 1225-1286. The son of Aaron, the Hebrew Physician commonly known as Bar Hebraeus*. Amsterdam: Philo Press, 1932, reprint 1976. excerpt 1: "The Arab Kings" excerpt 2: "Kings of the Mughalaye, who are the Tartaraye"

Curtius Rufus, Quintus. *The History of Alexander*. New York: Penguin Books, 1984.

Herodotus. *The Histories*. Books I, III and IV. David Grene, trans. Chicago: U of Chicago Press, 1987. or Rawlinson, 1939.

Jordanes, (6th C). *The Gothic History of Jordanes in English Version*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1915.

Juvaini, `Ata-Malik. *The History of the World Conqueror*. J. A. Boyle, trans. Manchester: Manchester UP, 1958, Vol. 1. or 1997 edition on Chingis Khan

Mackerras, Colin. *The Uighur Empire (744-840)*. Columbia: U of South Carolina Press, 1973.

Narshakhi, Abu Bakr Muhammad. *The History of Bukhara*. Cambridge, MA: Mediaeval Academy of America, 1954.

The Nikonian Chronicle. Sergei Zenkovsky, trans. Princeton: Kingston Press, 1984. Vol. I or Vol. II. History of the early Rus'

Nizam al-Mulk (1018-1092 CE). *The Book of Government or Rules for Kings*. Hubert Darke, trans. London: Routledge, 1978. Persian political philosophy and history

Rashid al-Din Tabib. *The Successors of Genghis Khan*. New York: Columbia UP, 1971.

Sima Qian/Ssu-ma Chien. *Records of the Grand Historian*. Translated by Burton Watson. New York: Columbia UP, 1969. Or revised edition 1992. Vol. II. Annals of the Former Han Dynasty

Simocatta, Theophylactus. *The History of Theophylact Simocatta*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1986. 6th century Roman dealings with barbarians.

Yuan ch'ao pi shih. The Secret History of the Mongols. based on translation of Francis Woodman Cleaves/ by Paul Kahn. San Francisco: North Point Press, 1984.

Historical surveys and monographs

Cook, J. M. *The Persian Empire*. London: 1983.

Richard Frye, *The Heritage of Central Asia: from antiquity to the Turkish expansion*. Princeton: Markus Wiener, 1996.

Gernet, Jacques. *A History of Chinese Civilization*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1972, 1982.

Grousset, Rene. *The Empire of the Steppes: A History of Central Asia*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers UP, 1970.

Harmatta, János, ed. *History of Civilizations of Central Asia*. Vol. II. UNESCO Publishing, 1994.

Lapidus, I. M. *A History of Islamic Societies*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1988.

Sinor, Denis, ed. *The Cambridge History of Early Inner Asia*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1990.

Soucek, Svat. *A History of Inner Asia*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2000.

Spear, Percival. *A History of India 2*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1970.

Thapar, Romila. *A History of India 1*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1966, 1978.

- Allsen, Thomas. *Mongol imperialism: the policies of the Grand Qan Möngke in China, Russia, and the Islamic lands, 1251-1259*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987.
- Barfield, Thomas. *The Perilous Frontier: nomadic empires and China*. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell, 1989.
- Beckwith, Christopher. *The Tibetan Empire in Central Asia*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton UP, 1987.
- Beduhn, Jason. *The Manichaean body: in discipline and ritual*. Johns Hopkins UP, 2000.
- Andrew Bell-Fialkoff, ed. *The Role of Migration in the History of the Eurasian Steppe*. St. Martin's Press, 1999.
- Boyce, Mary. *A History of Zoroastrianism*. Leiden: Brill, 1975. Vol. 1 or Vol. 2
- Carter, T. F. *The Invention of Printing in China and its Spread Westward*. New York: Ronald Press, 1955.
- Childe, V. G. *The Aryans: a study of Indo-European origins*. Port Washington, New York: Kennikat Press, 1970.
- Colledge, Malcolm A. R. *The Parthians*. NY: Prager Publishers,
- Culican, William. *The Medes and The Persians*. London: Thames and Hudson, 1965.
- Dardes, J. W. *Conquerors and Confucians: Aspects of Political Change in Late Yüan China*. New York: Columbia UP, 1973.
- Endicott-West, Elizabeth. *Mongolian Rule in China: local administration in the Yüan Dynasty*. Cambridge, MA: Council on East Asian Studies, Harvard, 1989.
- Engels, Donald W. *Alexander the Great and the Logistics of the Macedonian Army*. Berkeley: U of California Press, 1978.
- Frye, Richard. *Bukhara: the medieval achievement*. Costa Mesa, CA: Mazda Publishers, 1996.
- Grousset, Rene. *Conqueror of the World*. New York: Orion Press, 1966.
- Halperin, Charles. *Russia and the Golden Horde*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1985.
- Hartog, Leo de. *Russia and the Mongol Yoke: the history of the Russian principalities and the Golden Horde, 1221-1502*. London: I. B. Tauris, 1996.
- Heather, Peter. *Goths and Romans 332-489*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1991.
- Heather, Peter. *The Goths*. Oxford: Blackwell Press, 1996.
- Ibrahim, Mahmood. *Merchant Capital and Islam*. Austin, TX: U. of Texas Press, 1990.
- Jagchid, Sechin and Van Jay Symons. *Peace, War and Trade Along the Great Wall*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana UP, 1989.
- Lamb, Harold. *Babur the Tiger: First of the Great Moguls*. Garden City, NY: 1961.
- Larner, John. *Marco Polo and the Discovery of the World*. New Haven: Yale UP, 1999.
- Lewis, Bernard. *The Assassins: a radical sect in Islam*. New York: Basic Books, 1968.

Lieu, Samuel N. C. *Manichaeism in the Later Roman Empire and Medieval China*. Manchester: Manchester UP, 1985.

Martin, H. Desmond. *The Rise of Chingis Khan and his Conquest of North China*. New York: Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 1977.

Manz, Beatrice Forbes. *The Rise and Rule of Tamerlane*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989.

Miller, Margaret C. *Athens and Persia in the fifth century BC: a study in cultural receptivity*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1997.

Ostrowski, Donald. *Muscovy and the Mongols: cross-cultural influences on the steppe frontier*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1998.

Prawdin, Michael. *The Mongol Empire: its rise and legacy*. New York: Free Press, 1967.

Ratchnevsky, Paul. *Genghis Khan: His Life and Legacy*. Oxford: Blackwell, 1991.

Rice, Tamara Talbot. *The Scythians*. London: Thames and Hudson, 1957.

Rice, Tamara Talbot. *The Seljuks in Asia Minor*. London: Thames and Hudson, 1961.

Risso, Patricia. *Merchants and Faith: Muslim Commerce and Culture in the Indian Ocean*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1995.

Rossabi, Morris. *Khubilai Khan: his life and times*. Berkeley: U of California Press, 1988.

Schafer, E. H. *The Golden Peaches of Samarkand, a Study of T'ang Exotics*. Berkeley: U of California Press, 1963.

Sidky, H. *The Greek Kingdom of Bactria: from Alexander to Eucratides the Great*. University Press of America, 2000.

Stoneman, Richard. *Palmyra and its Empire: Zenobia's Revolt Against Rome*. Ann Arbor: U of Michigan press, 1994.

Sulimirski, Tadeusz. *The Sarmatians*. New York: Praeger Publishers, 1970.

Tsien, Tsuen-hsuei. *Written on Bamboo and Silk: The Beginnings of Chinese Books and Inscriptions*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1962.

Wriggins, Sally Hovey, trans. *Xuanzang - A Buddhist Pilgrim on the Silk Road*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1996.

Yu, Y. S. *Trade and Expansion in Han China*. Berkeley: U of California Press, 1967.

Other teaching resources

Video series: *The Silk Road*. Central Park Media, 1990. DS 712 .S54 vols. 1 - 6. OK, but features too much cheesy New Age music by Kitaro. Ep. 4 is unusable because the sound was mixed so badly you can't understand the dialogue.

Video: *China's cosmopolitan age: the Tang, 618-907*. producer/director, Chung-wen Shih. c1992. DS749.3 C64 1992 Very nicely done, introduces main concepts with a lot of Chinese history.

CD-Rom: *The Silk Road*. DNA MultiMedia, 1996. Produced by Marek Gronowski. Good mix of solid information and fun

al-Tabari (838-923). *The History of al-Tabari (ta'rikh al-rusul wa'l muluk, History of Prophets and Kings)*. Martin Hinds, trans. Vol. 23, "The Zenith of the Marwanid House." Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 1989. On the Muslim conquest of Central Asia; very difficult

Basilov, Vladimir N., ed. *Nomads of Eurasia*. Los Angeles: Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, 1989. Mary F. Zirin, trans. Fabulous pictures.

Creel, H. G. "The Role of the Horse in Chinese history," *American Historical Review* Vol. 70, No. 3(Apr. 1965): 647-672.

Simkin, C.G.F. *The Traditional Trade of Asia*. London: Oxford UP, 1968.

Sinor, Denis. "Horse and Pasture in Inner Asian History," *Oriens Extremis* Vol. 19, No. 102(Apr. 1972): 171-183.

Waldron, Arthur. *The Great Wall of China: From History to Myth*. Cambridge UP, 1990. Chpt. 2, "Early Chinese Walls," and Chpt. 3, "Strategic Origins of Chinese Walls," pp. 13-51.