

**«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)

**Jonathan Skaff**  
**China and the Outside World (History 492)**  
**Syllabus for the course offered in Spring 2002**  
**Shippensburg University**  
**Dept. of History**

On-line syllabus with links to course materials:  
<http://www.ship.edu/~jkskaf/China-OutsideSyll.html>

Jonathan Skaff  
Department of History/Philosophy  
Dauphin Humanities 221  
Shippensburg University  
Shippensburg, PA 17257  
U.S.A.  
[jkskaf@ship.edu](mailto:jkskaf@ship.edu)

## HIS 492: China and the Outside World

### I. Course Description

This course investigates China's relations with the outside world during its premodern history. Since China is somewhat isolated from the rest of Eurasia by mountains, deserts, and oceans, historians have tended to assume that Chinese civilization is mostly the product of indigenous developments. This course will challenge this assumption by looking at how China and people outside of its borders have influenced each other.

Approximately half of every class will be devoted to lectures and audio-visual materials. The other half of the class will involve discussion, so it is imperative that students do assigned reading when scheduled. All writing assignments are expected to be well argued and written. Grammar, spelling, etc. will be 20% of the grade on each paper.

### II. Undergraduate Student Requirements and Grading

1. Complete assigned readings and participate in class discussion. (15%)
2. Write 2 short papers. (Choose 2 of the 3 assigned papers. Students also have the option of doing all 3 papers and taking the 2 best grades.) (50%)
3. Final Paper (35%)

### III. Graduate Student Requirements and Grading

1. Complete assigned readings and participate in class discussion (15%).
2. Write 3 short papers (50%).
3. Final Paper (35%).

### IV. Policies

1. For each class session, students will receive a grade for that day based on their participation. To receive an "A," students need to demonstrate mastery of readings by making thoughtful and insightful comments. To receive a "B," students will have to show that they have completed reading assignments. Students who attend class and listen to the discussion, but do not comment will receive a "C." Students who are absent or sleep through the discussion will receive an "F." For those who are uncomfortable with public speaking, see me for alternative assignments.
2. I take attendance at the beginning of each session. You will not be excused from attending class unless you can document a serious illness, family emergency, varsity athletic event, or religious observance. Those who were sick must give me a doctor's note. Since Etter Health Center does not issue written excuses, those who have been to Etter should give me a note or e-mail reminding me to call the health center for confirmation of the illness. For a family emergency, I require a note or phone call from a parent or guardian. Athletes should provide a note from your coach. The university's policy on religious observances is that at the beginning of the semester students should present me with a list of dates when they will not be attending class.
3. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. According to the *Undergraduate Catalogue*, plagiarism is the "unacknowledged use of another writer's own words or specific facts or propositions or materials

in your own writing." When you write a paper always enclose another author's words within quotation marks and cite the source. Cases of plagiarism will be dealt with according to the policies described in the catalogue. Flagrant cases will result in a grade of "F" for the course.

4. I assign the following numerical scores to letter grades used in the Shippensburg University grading system:

A 93-100

A- 90-92

B+ 87-89

B 83-86

B- 80-82

C+ 77-79

C 70-76

D 60-69

F Below 60

## V. Books

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

Hansen, Valerie. *The Open Empire*. New York: Norton, 2000.

Rossabi, Morris. *Khubilai Khan: His Life and Times*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1988.

Waley-Cohen, Joanna. *The Sextants of Beijing: Global Currents in Chinese History*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2000.

## VI. Handouts

Barfield, Thomas. *The Perilous Frontier: Nomadic Empires and China*. Oxford, U.K. and Cambridge, MA: Blackwell, 1989: 32-84.

Crossley, Pamela. "Review Article: The Rulerships of China." *The American Historical Review* 97 (1992): 1468-83.

Crossley, Pamela. "Thinking about Ethnicity in Early Modern China." *Late Imperial China* 1 (1990): 1-34.

Dien, Albert E. "The Role of the Military in the Western Wei/Northern Chou State." In *State and Society in Early Medieval China*, 331-67. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1990.

Hansen, Valerie. "The Path of Buddhism into China: The View from Turfan." *Asia Major* 11, no. 2 (1998): 37-66.

Israeli, Raphael. "Muslims in China: Islam's Incompatibility with the Chinese Order." In *Islam in Asia, Volume II: Southeast and East Asia*, edited by Raphael Israeli and Anthony H. Johns, 275-304. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1974.

Lipman, Jonathan N. "Ethnic Violence in Modern China: Hans and Huis in Gansu, 1781-1929." In *Violence in China: Essays in Culture and Counterculture*, edited by and , 65-86. Albany: State University of New York Press, 1990.

Liu, James T. C. "Polo and Cultural Change: From T'ang to Sung China." *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 45 (1985): 203-24.

Lo, Jung-pang. "The Emergence of China as a Sea Power During the Late Sung and Early Yüan Periods." *Far Eastern Quarterly* 14, no. 4 (1955): 489-503.

Lo, Jung-pang. "The Decline of the Early Ming Navy." *Oriens Extremus* 7 (1958-9): 149-68. *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 45 (1985): 203-24.

Pan, Yihong. "Marriage Alliances and Chinese Princesses in International Politics from Han through T'ang." *Asia Major* 10 (1997): 95-131.

Sinor, Denis. "Horse and Pasture in Inner Asian History." *Oriens Extremus* (1972): 171-84.

Skaff, Jonathan. "Barbarians at the Gates? The Tang Frontier Military and the An Lushan Rebellion." *War and Society* 18, no. 2 (2000): 23-35.

Skaff, Jonathan. "The Sasanian and Arab-Sasanian Silver Coins from Turfan: Their Relationship to International Trade and the Local Economy." *Asia Major* 11 (1998): 67-115.

Spence, Jonathan D. *The Search for Modern China*. New York: Norton, 1999: 26-73.

## VII. Schedule

1/10: Introductions/East Asian Geography/Romanization

1/22: Chinese Imperial State System/Pastoral Nomadism

Readings: Hansen pp. 3-10, 55-112, Sinor (handout)

1/29: Han Dynasty (202 BCE-220 CE)-Xiongnu (Hsiung-nu) relations

Readings: Hansen pp. 112-49, Barfield (handout)

2/5: China Divided I: 220-589

Readings: Hansen pp. 175-85, Dien (handout)

### Paper 1 Assigned

2/12: Sui (589-618) and Tang (618-907) Cosmopolitanism

Readings: Hansen pp. 191-238, Skaff, "Barbarians" (handout), Pan (handout)

2/19: Silk Road Trade

Readings: Hansen pp. 170-75, Foltz 9-15, Skaff, "Coins" (handout)

### Paper 1 Due

2/26: Silk Road Religion I: Buddhism

Readings: Hansen pp. 153-70, 185-9, Foltz pp. 1-87, Hansen (handout)

### Paper 2 Assigned

3/5: *Spring Break: No Class*

3/12: China Divided II: Song (960-1279)/Khitan (916-1125)/Tangut (990-1227)/Jurchen (1115-1234)

Readings: Hansen pp. 261-333, Liu (handout)

3/19: China Conquered I: Mongols (1279-1368)

Readings: Rossabi pp. 1-205

### Paper 2 Due

3/26: Ming (1368-1644) and Sea Relations

Readings: Hansen pp. 369-414, Lo (2 handouts)

### Paper 3 Assigned

4/2: China Conquered II: Manchus (1644-1911)

Readings: Spence (handout), Crossley (2 handouts)

4/9: Encounter with the West I: The Jesuits

Readings: Waley-Cohen 55-128

**Paper 3 Due**

4/16: Silk Road Religion II: Islam

Readings: Foltz 89-144, Israeli (handout), Lipman (handout)

4/23: Encounter with the West II: Imperialism and its Impact

Readings: Waley-Cohen 129-246, 283-5

**Final Paper Assigned**

5/4: **Final Paper Due at Noon**