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
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


VI. Handouts

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


VII. Schedule

1/10: Introductions/East Asian Geography/Romanization
Readings: Hansen pp. 3-10, 55-112, Sinor (handout)

1/22: Chinese Imperial State System/Pastoral Nomadism
Readings: Hansen pp. 112-49, Barfield (handout)

1/29: Han Dynasty (202 BCE-220 CE)-Xiongnu (Hsiung-nu) relations
Readings: Hansen pp. 175-85, Dien (handout)

2/5: China Divided I: 220-589
Readings: Hansen pp. 191-238, Skaff, "Barbarians" (handout), Pan (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**