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ARTS2458

Along the Silk Road: Conquerors, Traders and Explorers

Summer // 2018

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Ayxem Eli	a.eli@unsw.edu.au		MB242	+61 (2) 9385 9059

Tutors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Lyndon Arden-Wong	l.arden-wong@unsw.edu.au			

School Contact Information

School of Humanities and Languages

Location: School Office, Morven Brown Building, Level 2, 258

Opening Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am - 4:45pm

Phone: +61 2 9385 1681

Fax: +61 2 9385 8705

Email: hal@unsw.edu.au

Attendance Requirements

Students are expected to be regular and punctual in attendance at all classes in the courses in which they are enrolled.

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences guidelines on attendance and absence can be viewed at: <https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

From time to time, the Course Authority may vary the attendance requirements of a course. It is the students' responsibility to ensure that they are familiar with the specific attendance requirements stipulated in the course outline for each course in which they are enrolled.

Students are expected to be regular and punctual in attendance at all classes in the courses in which they are enrolled. Students who seek to be excused from attendance or for absence must apply to the Course Authority in writing. In such situations, the following rules relating to attendances and absences apply.

A student who attends less than eighty per cent of the classes within a course may be refused final assessment. The final assessment in this course is identified under "*Course Assessment*".

In the case of illness or of absence for some other unavoidable cause students may be excused for non-

attendance at classes for a period of not more than one month (i.e., 33%) or, on the recommendation of the Dean of the appropriate faculty, for a longer period.

Explanations of absences from classes or requests for permission to be absent from forthcoming classes should be addressed to the Course Authority in writing and, where applicable, should be accompanied by appropriate documentation (e.g. medical certificate). After submitting appropriate supporting documentation to the Course Authority to explain his/her absence, a student may be required to undertake supplementary class(es) or task(s) as prescribed by the Course Authority. If examinations or other forms of assessment have been missed, then the student should apply for [Special Consideration](#).

Students who falsify their attendance or falsify attendance on behalf of another student will be dealt with under the Student Misconduct Policy.

Essential Information

Class Clash

Students who are enrolled in an Arts and Social Sciences program (single or dual) and have an unavoidable timetable clash can apply for permissible timetable clash by completing an online application form. The online form can be found at: <https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/ttclash/index.php>

Students must meet the rules and conditions in order to apply for permissible clash. The rules and conditions can be accessed online in full at: https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/media/FASSFile/Permissible_Clash_Rules.pdf

Students who are enrolled in a non-Arts and Social Sciences program must seek advice from their home faculty on permissible clash approval.

Special Consideration for Illness and Misadventure

Students can apply for Special Consideration if illness or misadventure interferes with their assessment performance or attendance.

Applications are accepted in the following circumstances only:

- Where academic work has been hampered to a substantial degree by illness or other cause. Except in unusual circumstances, a problem involving only 3 consecutive days or a total of 5 days within the teaching period of a semester is not considered sufficient grounds for an application.
- The circumstances must be unexpected and beyond your control. Students are expected to give priority to their university study commitments, and any absence must clearly be for circumstances beyond your control. Work commitments are not normally considered a justification.
- An absence from an assessment activity held within class contact hours or from an examination must be supported by a medical certificate or other document that clearly indicates that you were unable to be present. A student absent from an examination, or who attends an examination and wants to request special consideration, is normally required to provide a medical certificate dated the same day as the examination.
- An application for Special Consideration must be provided within 3 working days of the assessment to which it refers. In exceptional circumstances an application may be accepted

outside the 3-day limit.

Students cannot claim consideration for conditions or circumstances that are the consequences of their own actions or inactions.

Applications are normally not considered if:

- The condition or event is not related to performance or is considered to be not serious
- More than 3 days have elapsed since the assessment for which consideration is sought
- Any key information is missing
- Supporting documentation does not meet requirements
- The assessment task is worth less than 20% of the total course assessment, unless the student can provide a medical certificate that covers three consecutive days.

Applications for Special Consideration must be made via Online Services in myUNSW. Log into myUNSW and go to My Student Profile tab > My Student Services channel > Online Services > Special Consideration.

Applications on the grounds of illness must be filled in by a medical practitioner. Further information is available at: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/guide>

If a student is granted an extension under Special Consideration, failure to meet the stipulated deadline will result in a penalty. The penalty will be invoked one minute past the approved extension time. See section "Submission of Assessment Tasks", under '*Late Submission of Assignments*' for penalties of late submission.

Formal Examination

Students will be informed by the course coordinators if a final exam is to be scheduled in the formal examination period for Summer Term (2-6 February 2018 and 9-12 February 2018). Students are expected to give their studies priority and this includes making themselves available for the entire examination period. Travel commitments made prior to the publication of the final examination timetable are not a valid reason for alternate assessment.

For information about examination dates, location and procedures at UNSW, visit: <https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/academiclife/assessment/examinations/examinations.html>

Grades

All results are reviewed at the end of each semester and may be adjusted to ensure equitable marking across the School.

The proportion of marks lying in each grading range is determined not by any formula or quota system, but by the way that students respond to assessment tasks and how well they meet the learning outcomes of the course. Nevertheless, since higher grades imply performance that is well above average, the number of distinctions and high distinctions awarded in a typical course is relatively small. At the other extreme, on average 6.1% of students do not meet minimum standards and a little more

(8.6%) in first year courses. For more information on the grading categories see:
<https://my.unsw.edu.au/student/academiclife/assessment/GuideToUNSWGrades.html>

Grievances and Review of Assessment Results

Grievances

All students should be treated fairly in the course of their studies at UNSW. Students who feel they have not been dealt with fairly should, in the first instance, attempt to resolve any issues with their tutor or course convenor.

If such an approach fails to resolve the matter, the School of Humanities and Languages has an academic member of staff who acts as a Grievance Officer for the School. This staff member is identified on the notice board in the School of Humanities and Languages. Further information about UNSW grievance procedures is available at: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/guide>

Review of Assessment Results

There is no automatic right to have an assessment reviewed, the Faculty reserves the right to make such judgements.

In the first instance a student should seek an informal clarification, this should normally be done within two working days of the return of the assessed work.

If the student is not satisfied with the informal process, they should complete the UNSW Review of Results Application form, which is available at: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/results>. An application must be lodged within 15 working days of receiving the result of the assessment task.

Further information on review of student work in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences can be viewed at: <https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/Protocols-Guidelines/>

Course Evaluation and Development

Courses are periodically reviewed and students' feedback is used to improve them. Feedback is gathered from students using myExperience. It is encouraged students complete their surveys by accessing the personalised web link via the Moodle course site.

Student Support

The Learning Centre is available for individual consultation and workshops on academic skills. Find out more by visiting the Centre's website at: <http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au>

myUNSW

myUNSW is the online access point for UNSW services and information, integrating online services for applicants, commencing and current students and UNSW staff. To visit myUNSW please visit either of the below links: <https://my.unsw.edu.au>

OHS

UNSW's Occupational Health and Safety Policy requires each person to work safely and responsibly, in order to avoid personal injury and to protect the safety of others. For all matters relating to Occupational Health, Safety and environment, see <http://www.ohs.unsw.edu.au/>

Student Equity and Disabilities Unit

Students who have a disability that requires some adjustment in their learning and teaching environment are encouraged to discuss their study needs with the course convener prior to or at the commencement of the course, or with the Student Equity Officers (Disability) in the Student Equity and Disabilities Unit (9385 4734). Information for students with disabilities is available at:

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/disability>

Issues that can be discussed may include access to materials, signers or note-takers, the provision of services and additional examination and assessment arrangements. Early notification is essential to enable any necessary adjustments to be made.

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

Subject Area: *Chinese Studies*

This course can also be studied in the following specialisation: *Asian Studies*

The 'Silk Roads' are often considered to be the world's greatest network of throughways that linked China to the Mediterranean world over land and sea. The historical development of Chinese culture and civilization cannot be scrutinized without a reflective understanding of the Chinese Empire's dynamic interactions with the nomadic peoples and the Western world that were situated along the Silk Road. In this course, you will examine the geopolitical and cultural landscapes of Eurasia; the migration of peoples; as well as the spread of goods, religions, ideas, technologies, art and diseases between the East and the West. You will explore the construction of an early form of globalization, and how it has contributed to the formation and dissolution of people's ethnic, religious, linguistic and cultural identities. This course ends by examining Chinese government's grand initiative 'One Belt One Road', and inquiring about the way in which the geopolitics of the Silk Road region in the past still exerts tangible and long-lasting impact on the world today.

This course is taught in English and with readings in English.

At the conclusion of this course the student will be able to

1. describe the interconnections and mutual influences that contribute to the development of civilisations such as that of China
2. articulate the role of commerce in the dissemination of arts, technologies, beliefs and customs; and the cultural and economic consequences of long lasting contacts between settled and nomadic populations
3. critically evaluate different kinds of historical evidence in academic writing, in particular written sources, artefacts, archaeological findings and ongoing traditions
4. work effectively in small groups
5. articulate ideas and coherent arguments drawing on independently located sources

Teaching Strategies

This course is designed to build your knowledge in the geographic, ecological and cultural conditions of the Silk Road regions, and their ongoing relevance for the construction of Chinese culture and politics. We make use of archaeological findings and of textual materials in Chinese and other languages. Readings, lectures, videos and workshop discussions and presentations introduce you to aspects of the history, culture and daily life of the Silk Road region. We will attempt to engage you in discussions, taking your interests and your disciplinary background into consideration. The sequence of lectures is meant to take a step by step approach. It adheres as much as it is possible to a chronological and geographical order and framework. However, developments along the Silk Road were and are complex. As this is an intensive course, you will find the subject much more enjoyable and interesting if you come prepared. Lectures and readings are meant to give you a broad picture. We encourage and expect you to work independently for your research essay and take-home-exam questions, and engage vigorously in group-work for the preparation for your group presentation. You are invited to make active use of your

own disciplinary skills and interests by choosing topics you wish to work on and by using methods you are familiar with.

Assessment

Lecture Dates and Hours:

Monday 27 November - Friday 1 December

Morning: 10:00 -12:00

Afternoon: 1:00 - 3:00

Web-enrolled students do not need to physically attend the lectures. However, you are required to listen to it on the same day that the lectures are delivered. Students enrolled in the face-to-face class must attend at least 80% of the lectures.

Tutorial dates and hours

One hour tutorial: 3 - 4 PM, 27 November @ Webster Theatre A

ALL students, including both face-to-face and web-enrolled students, MUST attend this tutorial. Your attendance is extremely important because in this session, you will be assigned to a group and you will meet and get to know your team members. Your team will then decide when and how to communicate amongst yourselves so that you can start preparing for the group presentation immediately. Remember, you will NOT be allocated to a group if you miss this tutorial - which means, you will lose 25% of the total mark for this course.

Two-hour tutorial: 4 or 5 December

In this tutorial session, your group will be presenting the group work that you have prepared on the assigned topic. Again, ALL students, including web-enrolled students, must attend this 2-hour session physically.

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Research essay	40%	03/01/2018 04:00 PM	1,2,3,5
Group presentation	25%	Not Applicable	1,3,4
Online test	35%	21/12/2017 04:00 PM	2,3,5

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Research essay

Start date:

Length: 2500 words

Details: Students write an essay based on independent research (ca. 2500 words). Feedback via

individual comments and rubric.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin, students do not see Turnitin similarity reports

Assessment 2: Group presentation

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 15 - 18 minutes

Details: Students in allocated groups present on the assigned content. Feedback via individual comments, rubric and in-class discussion

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 3: Online test

Start date: 18/12/2017 09:00 AM

Length: 60

Details: Online test covering class content. Students receive written feedback.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Assignments must be submitted electronically through Moodle (<http://moodle.telt.unsw.edu.au/>). You must use your zID login to submit your assignments in Moodle.

Refer to the section “*Course Assessment*” for details of assessment tasks that are to be submitted via Moodle.

**** Please note the deadline to submit an assignment electronically is 4:00 pm on the due date of the assignment.**

When you submit your assignment electronically, you agree that:

I have followed the [Student Code of Conduct](#). I certify that I have read and understand the University requirements in respect of student academic misconduct outlined in the [Student Code of Conduct](#) and the [Student Misconduct Procedures](#). I declare that this assessment item is my own work, except where acknowledged, and has not been submitted for academic credit previously in whole or in part.

I acknowledge that the assessor of this item may, for assessment purposes:

- provide a copy to another staff member of the University
- communicate a copy of this assessment item to a plagiarism checking service (such as Turnitin) which may retain a copy of the assessment item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking.

You are required to put **your name (as it appears in University records)** and **UNSW Student ID** on **every page** of your assignments.

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Moodle/Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalsupport@unsw.edu.au. Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year).

If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on its system status on Twitter.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Late Submission of Assignments

Students are responsible for the submission of assessment tasks by the required dates and times. Depending of the extent of delay in the submission of an assessment task past the due date and time, one of the following late penalties will apply unless Special Consideration or a blanket extension due to a technical outage is granted. For the purpose of late penalty calculation, a ‘day’ is deemed to be each

24-hour period (or part thereof) past the stipulated deadline for submission.

- **Work submitted less than 10 days after the stipulated deadline** is subject to a deduction of 5% of the total awardable mark from the mark that would have been achieved if not for the penalty for every day past the stipulated deadline for submission. That is, a student who submits an assignment with a stipulated deadline of 4:00pm on 13 May 2016 at 4:10pm on 14 May 2016 will incur a deduction of 10%.

Task with a non-integer percentage mark

If the task is marked out of 25, then late submission will attract a penalty of a deduction of 1.25 from the mark awarded to the student for every 24-hour period (or part thereof) past the stipulated deadline.

Example: A student submits an essay 48 hours and 10 minutes after the stipulated deadline. The total possible mark for the essay is 25. The essay receives a mark of 17. The student's mark is therefore $17 - [25 (0.05 \times 3)] = 13.25$.

Task with a percentage mark

If the task is marked out of 100%, then late submission will attract a penalty of a deduction of 5% from the mark awarded to the student for every 24-hour period (or part thereof) past the stipulated deadline.

Example: A student submits an essay 48 hours and 10 minutes after the stipulated deadline. The essay is marked out of 100%. The essay receives a mark of 68. The student's mark is therefore $68 - 15 = 53$

- **Work submitted 10 to 19 days after the stipulated deadline** will be assessed and feedback provided but a mark of zero will be recorded. If the work would have received a pass mark but for the lateness and the work is a compulsory course component (hurdle requirement), a student will be deemed to have met that requirement;
- **Work submitted 20 or more days after the stipulated deadline** will not be accepted for assessment and will receive no feedback, mark or grade. If the assessment task is a compulsory component of the course a student will receive an Unsatisfactory Fail (UF) grade as a result of unsatisfactory performance in essential component of the course.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's thoughts or work as your own. It can take many forms, from not having appropriate academic referencing to deliberate cheating.

In many cases plagiarism is the result of inexperience about academic conventions. The University has resources and information to assist you to avoid plagiarism.

The Learning Centre assists students with understanding academic integrity and how to not plagiarise. Information is available on their website: <https://student.unsw.edu.au/plagiarism/>. They also hold workshops and can help students one-on-one.

If plagiarism is found in your work when you are in first year, your lecturer will offer you assistance to improve your academic skills. They may ask you to look at some online resources, attend the Learning Centre, or sometimes resubmit your work with the problem fixed. However, more serious instances in first year, such as stealing another student's work or paying someone to do your work, may be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures.

Repeated plagiarism (even in first year), plagiarism after first year, or serious instances, may also be investigated under the Student Misconduct Procedures. The penalties under the procedures can include a reduction in marks, failing a course or for the most serious matters (like plagiarism in an Honours thesis) or even suspension from the university. The Student Misconduct Procedures are available here: <http://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentmisconductprocedures.pdf>

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 27 November - 3 December	Lecture	<p>Mon. 27 Nov 10:00 - 12:00</p> <p>A general introduction to the Silk Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ecological conditions • Major terminologies related to peoples, places and empires
	Lecture	<p>Mon. 27 Nov 13:00 - 15:00</p> <p>All about this course</p> <p>Introduction to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The structure of the course • Assessment tasks • Attendance
	Tutorial	<p>Mon. 27 Nov 15:00 - 16:00</p> <p>Form workshop Groups with the guidance of tutors. ALL enrolled students, including those who have enrolled in web-offered lectures, must attend this session.</p>
	Lecture	<p>Tue. 28 Nov 10:00-12:00</p> <p>Eurasian Nomads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State formation in the steppes • Later development • An emphasis on Mongol empires
	Lecture	<p>Tue. 28 Nov 13:00-15:00</p> <p>China and Its Neighbours to the West</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The history of China's western frontier, with special reference to the spread of Islam in Central Asia and China
	Lecture	<p>Wed. 29 Nov 10:00-12:00</p> <p>Trade: silk, spice, and consumers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complexity of commercial networks • Specific socio-cultural and political contexts for the survival/decline of these networks

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasis on silk and spice trade
	<p>Wed. 29 Nov 13:00-15:00</p> <p>Religions along the Silk Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation, spread and encounter of a plethora of religious beliefs and movements • Particular emphasis on Manichaeism and Zoroastrianism, as well as Persianate societies
Lecture	<p>Thu. 30 Nov 10:00-12:00</p> <p>Dunhuang</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The historical and cultural significance of an oasis city • Transformation of Buddhism and Buddhist art along the Silk Road
Lecture	<p>Thu. 30 Nov 13:00-15:00</p> <p>Art and Taste along the Silk Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music, architecture, visual arts and food from East to West
Studio	<p>Thu. 30 Nov 15:15 - 15:40</p> <p>Experiencing 'Pure Land' (iCinema, UNSW campus) - Session One</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a non-compulsory, but highly recommended activity for students to have a true-to-life experience of being inside a Dunhuang cave temple. Details see Moodle, and link below <p>http://alive.scm.cityu.edu.hk/projects/alive/pure-land-inside-the-mogao-grottoes-at-dunhuang-2012/</p>
Lecture	<p>Fri. 1 Dec 10:00-12:00</p> <p>Travellers and explorers along the Silk Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important travelers, diplomats, scholars and missionaries along the Silk Road • Their legacy
Lecture	<p>Fri. 1 Dec 13:00-15:00</p> <p>A 'New Silk Road'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The revival of the concept of 'Silk Road' in the 21st century, from geo-political and

		economic perspectives
	Studio	<p>Fri. 1 Dec 15:15-15:40</p> <p>Experiencing 'Pure Land' (iCinema, UNSW campus) - Session Two</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You have the options to experience 'Pure Land' either on Thursday or Friday
Week 2: 4 December - 10 December	Seminar	<p>Mon. 4 Dec 9:00-16:00</p> <p>Group presentation</p> <p>See the Course Timetable for details of times and rooms for your enrolled tutorial class</p>
	Seminar	<p>Tue. 5 Dec 9:00-16:00</p> <p>Group presentation</p> <p>See the Course Timetable for details of times and rooms for your enrolled tutorial class</p>

Resources

Prescribed Resources

All made available on Moodle

Recommended Resources

All made available on Moodle

Course Evaluation and Development

Image Credit

Bactrian camels roaming in the Gobi desert, Kucha, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, China @
Ayxem Eli 2005

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