



ARTS2458

Along the Silk Road: Conquerors, Traders and Explorers

Summer // 2021

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

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

Lecturers

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

Tutors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Ayxem Eli	a.eli@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 - 5pm

Phone: +61 2 9385 1681

Fax: +61 2 9385 8705

Email: hal@unsw.edu.au

Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

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.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Evaluate 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
3. Critically evaluate a variety of historical evidence
4. Identify important historical events related to the 'Silk Road' within historical, social and cultural contexts
5. Make scholarly arguments using independently located and credible evidence

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

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Essay	50%	29/01/2020 10:00 PM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Online test	50%	06/02/2020 11:00 AM	1, 3, 4

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Length: 3000 words (10% leeway)

Details:

Students write an essay based on independent research (ca. 3000 words). Feedback via individual comments and rubric.

Additional details:

See Moodle for details

Assessment 2: Online test

Details:

Online test covering class content. The test will last 60 minutes. Feedback via individual comments and rubric.

Additional details:

See Moodle for details

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Mon. 18 Jan 2020 10:00 - 12:00	Lecture	A general introduction to the Silk Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ecological conditions • Major terminologies related to peoples, places, and empires
Mon. 18 Jan 2020 14:00 - 16:00	Lecture	All about this course Introduction to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The structure of the course • Assessment tasks • Attendance
Tue. 19 Jan 2020 10:00 - 12:00	Lecture	Eurasian Nomads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State formation in the steppes with an emphasis on the Mongol Empire
Tue. 19 Jan 2020 14:00 - 16:00	Lecture	China and Its Neighbours to the West <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
Wed. 20 Jan 2020 10:00 - 12:00	Lecture	Greek expansion and the Hellenisation of Central Asia
Wed. 20 Jan 2020 14:00 - 16:00	Lecture	Religions along the Silk Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pread and encounter of a plethora of religious beliefs and movements • Particular emphasis on Manichaeism and Zoroastrianism, as well as Persianate societies
Thur. 21 Jan 2020 10:00 - 12:00	Lecture	Dunhuang <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
Thur. 21 Jan 2020 14:00 - 16:00	Lecture	Trade: commodities, traders and consumers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The complexity of commercial networks

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific socio-cultural and political contexts for the survival/decline of these networks
Fri. 22 Jan 2020 10:00 - 12:00	Lecture	<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
Fri. 24 Jan 2020 14:00 - 16:00	Lecture	<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
Mon. 25 Jan 9:00-17:00 Tutorial	Tutorial	See Moodle for details
Wed. 27 Jan 9:00-17:00 Tutorial	Tutorial	See Moodle for details
Thur. 28 Jan 9:00 - 11:00 Tutorial	Tutorial	See Moodle for details

Resources

Prescribed Resources

All made available on Moodle

Recommended Resources

Book: Millward, James A, *The Silk Road : a Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2013) - UNSW Library online access:

<https://www-veryshortintroductions-com.wwwproxy1.library.unsw.edu.au/view/10.1093/actrade/9780199782864.001.0001/actrade-9780199782864>

Other essential course readings: All made available on Moodle

Course Evaluation and Development

This course is formally evaluated through MyExperience. Further development and adjustment are made according to student feedback and learning experience.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@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 their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

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

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (<http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/>). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.

<http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise>

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

<https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/>

Image Credit

Shah-i-Zinda, Samarkand, Uzbekistan @ Ayxem Eli

CRICOS

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.