



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

Australia's  
Global  
University



# ARTS2458

Along the Silk Road: Conquerors, Traders and Explorers

Summer // 2020

## 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
TBA TBA	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](mailto:hal@unsw.edu.au)

## 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.

### Course Learning Outcomes

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 20 January - Friday 24 January

Morning: 10:00 -12:00

Afternoon: 2:00 - 4:00

### Tutorial dates and hours

Two-hour tutorial: 28 or 29 January

In this tutorial session, your group will be presenting the group work that you have prepared on the assigned topic. 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	50%	07/02/2020 10:00 PM	1,2,3,5
Group presentation	25%	Not Applicable	1,3,4
Online test	25%	10/02/2020 11:00 AM	2,3,5

### Assessment Details

#### Assessment 1: Research 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:

Details on Moodle

#### Assessment 2: Group presentation

**Start date:** Not Applicable

**Details:** Students in allocated groups present on the assigned content (approx. 20 – 25 minutes).Feedback via individual comments, rubric and in-class discussion

**Additional details:**

ALL students, including both face-to-face and web-enrolled students, will be assigned to a group and you will find your group members and their contact email on Moodle. It is your responsibility to get in touch with one another and decide when and how to communicate amongst yourselves so that you can start preparing for the group presentation immediately. Remember, it is YOUR responsibility to make sure that you are connected to, and stay in touch with your assigned group members. Otherwise, you will lose 25% of the total mark for this course.

**Assessment 3: Online test****Start date:**

**Details:** Online test covering class content. The test will last 30 minutes for 25 questions. Students receive written feedback.

## Attendance Requirements

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

## Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

### Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Mon. 20 Jan 2020 10:00 - 12:00	Lecture	A general introduction to the Silk Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The ecological conditions</li><li>• Major terminologies related to peoples, places, and empires</li></ul>
Mon. 20 Jan 2020 14:00 - 16:00	Lecture	All about this course  Introduction to <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The structure of the course</li><li>• Assessment tasks</li><li>• Attendance</li></ul>
Tue. 21 Jan 2020 10:00 - 12:00	Lecture	Eurasian Nomads <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• State formation in the steppes Later development</li><li>• An emphasis on Mongol empires</li></ul>
Tue. 21 Jan 2020 14:00 - 16:00	Lecture	China and Its Neighbours to the West <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The history of China's western frontier, with special reference to the spread of Islam in Central Asia and China</li></ul>
Wed. 22 Jan 2020 10:00 - 12:00	Lecture	Trade: silk, spice, and consumers <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The complexity of commercial networks</li><li>• Specific socio-cultural and political contexts for the survival/decline of these networks</li><li>• Emphasis on silk and spice trade</li></ul>
Wed. 22 Jan 2020 14:00 - 16:00	Lecture	Religions along the Silk Road <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The creation, spread and encounter of a plethora of religious beliefs and movements</li><li>• Particular emphasis on Manichaeism and Zoroastrianism, as well as Persianate societies</li></ul>
Thur. 23 Jan 2020 10:00 - 12:00	Lecture	Dunhuang <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The historical and cultural significance of an oasis city</li></ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transformation of Buddhism and Buddhist art along the Silk Road</li> </ul>
Thur. 23 Jan 2020 14:00 - 16:00	Lecture	<p>Art and Taste along the Silk Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Music, architecture, visual arts and food between East and West</li> </ul>
Thur. 23 Jan 2020 16:00 - 16:40	Studio	<p>Experiencing 'Pure Land' ( iCinema, UNSW campus) - Session One</p> <p>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</p>
Fri. 24 Jan 2020 10:00 - 12:00	Lecture	<p>Travellers and explorers along the Silk Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Important travelers, diplomats, scholars and missionaries along the Silk Road</li> <li>Their legacy</li> </ul>
Fri. 24 Jan 2020 14:00 - 16:00	Lecture	<p>A 'New Silk Road'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The revival of the concept of 'Silk Road' in the 21st century, from geo-political and economic perspectives</li> </ul>
Fri. 24 Jan 2020 16:00 - 16:40	Studio	<p>Experiencing 'Pure Land' ( iCinema, UNSW campus) - Session Two</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You have the options to experience 'Pure Land' either on Thursday or Friday</li> </ul>
Tue. 28 Jan 9:00-16:00 Group presentation	Seminar	See the Course Timetable for details of times and rooms for your enrolled tutorial class
Tue. 29 Jan 9:00-16:00 Group presentation	Seminar	See the Course Timetable for details of times and rooms for your enrolled tutorial class



## **Resources**

### **Prescribed Resources**

All made available on Moodle

### **Recommended Resources**

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**

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### **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](mailto: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**

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## **CRICOS**

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