HIEA 126
THE SILK ROAD IN CHINESE AND JAPANESE HISTORY

Professor: J. Wayne Bass
Room: CSB 005
Time: MWF; 9am-9:50am
Email: wbass@ucsd.edu
Office: H&SS 2306
Office Hours: MW 10-11:30

YOU are responsible for understanding and adhering to the guidelines in this syllabus. “I didn’t know” is not a valid excuse for missing exams or not following the guidelines for all assignments contained herein.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
In this course, we will study the people, cultures, religions, economics, arts, and technologies of the trade routes known collectively as the Silk Road from c. 200 BCE to 1000 CE. We will use an interdisciplinary approach, drawing from history, art history, archaeology, philology, and philosophy. Primary sources will include written texts and visual materials such as videos, sculpture and painting. We will examine these trade routes as an early example of globalization.

REQUIRED TEXTS:
The World of Buddhism edited by Heinz Bechert and Richard Gombrich
Religions of the Silk Road by Richard Foltz

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
The first and most important requirement for this course is a fearless and fervent love of LEARNING. You must have a serious commitment to reading and writing. You must have no fear of hard work, nor of criticism of your knowledge and ideas. You must be ready and eager to engage the material, to challenge your own assumptions, and to allow your mind to grow into new areas of thought and questioning. How much you gain from the course is entirely up to you. A great scholar once said...
“THE LIFE OF THE MIND CANNOT BE LIVED BY SPIRITUAL COUCH POTATOES.” –JLF

**Participation/Discussion**
You are encouraged to participate enthusiastically in all aspects of the course. Much of the content of this course will depend on discussion and questions based on the readings. New ideas and questions are always welcome. Please be on time for each class and do not chat, sleep, or do other work while our class is in session.

**Graded Assignments:**
**Essays:** In this course you will be responsible for two short essays.

**Format for Essays:** You have been writing and will continue to write within a multitude of different contexts. In any given situation, it is very important that you reflect on, understand, and adhere to the parameters dictated by the situation. For this course, your papers should be double-spaced and written in a font that appears no larger than 12-point Times New Roman. Your margins should be set at 1” on top and bottom, and 1.25” on the left and right. All references to the course readings or other materials must be documented in *Chicago Humanities Style*. (You may use footnotes or endnotes.) It is up to you to research this form of citation and ensure that your work conforms to its specifications. You do not need to cite lecture notes. Do not include a title page, and do not hand in your paper in a folder or binder. You are encouraged to print your essays double-sided, or on recycled paper. In all of your essays, you must italicize your entire thesis statement.

I do not accept essays via e-mail. If you happen to miss class on a day that a paper is due, turn in a hardcopy to my mailbox in the main office of the History department on the fifth floor of H&SS.

**Reading Exams:** A serious commitment to reading is essential to broadening and strengthening the mind. Have all readings completed before you come to class. You will be given four reading exams that cover all readings and lectures prior to or on that date. Quizzes missed for any reason cannot be made up. However, at the end of the session, your lowest quiz grade will be dropped from
YOUR FINAL AVERAGE.

**FINAL EXAM:** The final exam will cover all the material for the course. The format for the exam will be 50% multiple choice and 50% short essay. The multiple choice questions will cover any and all content from the readings and lectures. Essay questions will draw on central ideas and issues discussed throughout the quarter.

**Graded Assignment Distributions and Dates**

2 Essays—20% (10% each)

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<tr>
<th>Essay Due Dates</th>
<th>Essay #1—Monday, Week #2—10/7</th>
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4 Reading Exams—45% (15% each, with the lowest score dropped)

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<tr>
<th>Reading Exam Dates</th>
<th>Exam #1: Friday, Week #3—10/18</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exam #2: Friday, Week #5—11/1</td>
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<td>Exam #3: Friday, Week #7—11/15</td>
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<td>Exam #4: Monday, Week #10—12/2</td>
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Final Exam—35%

Final Exam Date: Wednesday, December 11th, 8-11am

**Grade Scale**

A: 100-93; A-: 92-90
B+: 89-88; B: 87-83; B-: 82-80
C+: 79-78; C: 77-73; C-: 72-70
D: 69-60
F: 59 and below
# HIEA 126 Timetable

## WEEK ZERO—9/30-10/4
### Introduction

| Fri. | Introduction to HIEA 126—The Silk Road in Chinese and Japanese History |

## WEEK ONE—9/30-10/4
### Globalization

| Mon. | Globalization in the modern world. |
| Fri. | Reading: Religions of the Silk Road—Chapter 1: The Silk Road and Its Travelers, Chapter 2: Religion and Trade in Ancient Eurasia |

## WEEK TWO—10/7-10/11
### Early Buddhism

| Mon. | Reading: *Legend of the Buddha Shakyamuni* by Ashvagosa |
| Weds. | DUE: Essay #1: Write a 3-4 page essay in which you compare two instances of globalization that you find in our literal (or virtual) community. Look at books, movies, advertisements, music, or even video games. First, analyze these instances in terms of which cultures you see being referenced or appropriated. Then, make an original argument about how the different cultures are being interpreted, presented, or reimagined in the instances of globalization you chose. You may include pictures in this essay, but these pictures do not count towards the 3-4 page requirement. |
| Fri. | Reading: “Buddhism in Ancient India” in *The World of Buddhism* (pgs. 77-98) |
| Weds. | Reading: “Expansion to the North: Afghanistan and Central Asia” in *The World of Buddhism* (pgs. 99-107) |