



OLLI 2279: ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE SILK ROAD

Winter 2011

Tuesdays 2:15-3:45 pm

235 McNamara Alumni Center

U of M East Bank Campus

Instructor: Alexandra Moyer

Ph.D. candidate, Department of Anthropology

This course will delve into the ancient links between cultures across Asia and Europe, primarily through the archaeological evidence. We will investigate the rise of empires and nomadic tribes in Central Asia, the spread of revolutionary religions and technologies, and the lives of individuals who traveled and explored the Silk Road from the time of the earliest histories to the Middle Ages

[Course Schedule]

Week 1 1/11	What is the Silk Road?	Christian 2000, Hanks 2010, Kuz'mina & Mair 2008 (Ch. 1), Wood 2002 (Ch. 11 & 13)
Week 2 1/18	Nasty nomads & their heavenly horses	Barber 1999 (Ch. 6 & 8), Beckwith 1991, 2009 (Ch. 1 & 2)
Week 3 1/25	Gold & lapis, bronze & jade	Liu 2001, Wood 2002 (Ch. 2), Gordon 2008
Week 4 2/1	Imperial ambitions: from the Greeks to the Mongols and back again	Honeychurch & Amartuvshin 2006, Beckwith 2009 (Ch. 5 & 8), Seaman and Marks 1991 (Ch. TBA)
Week 5 2/8	The original dharma bums: religions on the Silk Road	Barnes 1995, Liu 2001 (Ch. 3), Wood 2002 (Ch. 5 & 7), Hansen 2004
Week 6 2/15	The legacy of the Silk Road	

[Contact Information]

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[Recommended Books & Articles]

- Barber, Elizabeth Wayland (1999) *The Mummies of Ürümchi*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company.
- Barnes, Gina L. (1995) An Introduction to Buddhist Archaeology. *World Archaeology* 27(2): 165-182.
- Beckwith, Christopher I. (1991) The Impact of the Horse and Silk Trade on the Economies of T'ang China and the Uighur Empire: On the Importance of International Commerce in the Early Middle Ages. *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* 34(1): 183-198.
- Beckwith, Christopher I. (2009) *Empires of the Silk Road: A History of Central Eurasia from the Bronze Age to the Present*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Christian, David (2000) Silk Roads or Steppe Roads? The Silk Roads in World History. *Journal of World History* 11(1): 1-26.
- Gordon, Stewart (2008) *When Asia Was the World*. Da Capo Press, Philadelphia.
- Hanks, Brian (2010) Archaeology of the Eurasian Steppes and Mongolia. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 39: 469-486.
- Hansen, Valerie (2004) Religious Life in a Silk Road Community: Niya during the Third and Fourth Centuries. In *Religion and Chinese Society, Vol. 1: Ancient and Medieval China*, edited by J. Lagerwey, pp. 279-316. Hong Kong: The Chinese University of Hong Kong and École française d'Extrême-Orient.
- Honeychurch, W. and C. Amartuvshin (2006) States on Horseback: The Rise of Inner Asian Confederations and Empires. In *Asian Archaeology*, edited by M. Stark, pp. 255-278. Cambridge: Blackwell.
- Kuz'mina, Elena and Victor H. Mair (2008) *The Prehistory of the Silk Road*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Liu, Xinru (2001) *The Silk Road in World History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

● Seaman, Gary and Daniel Marks, eds. (1991) *Rulers from the Steppe: State Formation on the Eurasian Periphery*. Los Angeles: Ethnographics Press.

● Wood, Frances (2002) *The Silk Road: Two Thousand Years in the Heart of Asia*. University of California Press, Berkeley.

