

Title of Course

Engaging China: The Silk Road

Other items here could include:

Course number (if known):	ASIA 297
Term (Fall/Spring + Year)	Fall 2010 /
Course time	Wednesdays, 4:30 to 5:30
Course location	Ning Yuan Lou, Fourth floor

Instructor Contact Information:

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Course Description:

The purpose of the ENGAGING CHINA: Silk Road Excursion is to familiarize the student with the geography and history of the Qin through Qing Dynasties of China.

The Silk Road Excursion course is comprised of:

- Three pre-trip introductory lectures / presentations
- Two weeks of guided travel
- Two to four lectures during the travel
- Two "reflection dinners" during trip to consider what is being learned
- Student research topic presented as an 8 minute "in-progress" report during trip.
- Daily (during 2 week trip) attendance at student presentations.
- Two summary lectures / presentations at conclusion of trip.
- Student 7 page (academic form) paper on research topic
- Synoptic exam

Course Outcomes:

Preliminary lectures / presentations will introduce the student to the history and peoples of China. The Excursion itself is a physical validation of what has been read and heard. Prior to arriving in China the student will be assigned a research topic on the appropriate trip. S/he will have additional time in our library to study. During the travel at an appropriate site each student offers an in-progress report on, for example, the pre-eminence of calligraphy in Chinese culture. Staff and faculty will comment on the presentation in private. Further research and physical resources will be supplied. The student will photograph interview, document and record data to corroborate the substance of their research. During travel reflection dinners will aid students to digest the myriad images and experiences they will have had. At the conclusion of the trip two presentations will help gather up what has been learned. A written exam will be undertaken. A final draught of the research will be presented in academic form.

Course Requirements and Form of Assessment:

Students must attend all pre-departure lectures, all "in-situ" student presentations, lectures during travel and post-trip lectures. Absence from any one

activity will diminish the total grade by 5%. Trip participation = 40%

Student "in-progress" report will be judged for comprehensiveness, clarity and presentation. Report = 15%

Final Exam = 15%

Final Paper = 30%

Attendance Policy:

Participation in the Excursions is mandatory. No exceptions. A student cannot enroll in TBC unless s/he can undertake these trips. Participation during the travel includes not only attendance, but contributing to reflection dinners, asking questions of presenters and lecturers.

Academic Honesty Statement:

TBC abides by the policies outlined by Loyola University

Required Texts:

All students will be given the Silk Road Reader prior to departure. All students will be afforded access to a vast array of general Silk Road reference books. Each student will be furnished with a reading list (approximately 6 books each topic) appropriate to the research topic s/he undertakes.

Class Schedule:

First Session:

- Introduction to Geography / History of Silk Road.
- Documentary Video: "China from the Inside."
- How to conduct research on assigned topics

Second Session: Pre Departure Special Topics:

- "How China became China"
- "Scholars & Scoundrels on the Silk Road"
- "The Meaning of Minzu Ethnicity in China"

Third Session: Pre Departure Special Topics

- "Xi'an and Tang Dynasty Openness"
- "Tourism and its Effect on Culture"
- "The Diversity of Peoples on the Silk Road."

Fourth Session: Music (During Travel Presentations)

- "Huygur music and dance"
- "Tang music and dance"
- "Tibetan 'short songs' at Boema Hotel" and dance.

Fifth Session: Religion (During Travel Lectures)

"Principles and Practice of Buddhism"

"Lamaist Buddhism" and "Theravada Buddhism"

"Foundations of Islam in Xi'an"

Sixth Session: Visual Images

"Significance of Mogao" or "Longmen Grottoes"

"Tibetan Thangka painting"

"introduction to Chinese Architecture"

"The Glories of the Tang Dynasty"

Seventh Session:

"Ecological Issues" or "Karetz of Dunhuang"

"The Gold Rush to Xinjiang Minerals and Resources"

Eighth Session:

Resume and Reflection on what we have Seen and Learned

This will consist of 4 twenty minute student ethnological studies

Comprehending their researches on the Silk Road.