

HIST 3374

The Silk Roads

Spring 2022



Instructor:

Dr. Laurie Dickmeyer

Email:

laurie.dickmeyer@angelo.edu

Phone: 325-942-2325

Office: Academic 239 D

Office Hours (in-person and virtual):

- **In-person:** Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays 9-9:50am; Tuesdays & Thursdays 1-2pm, or by appointment
- **Virtual:** Call during office hours. Or email or speak with me to arrange a virtual appointment via phone or Zoom.



Course Information

Welcome!

Welcome to “The Silk Roads”! I am very excited to work with you this semester, and I look forward to hearing your ideas and the unique perspective each of you will bring. If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to share something with me, please get in touch.

–Dr. Dickmeyer

Course Description

An introduction to Asian history from earliest times to 1600, examining civilizations and cultural exchanges. This course will place Eurasian trade routes in context. Topics will include commerce; the spread of the world religions Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam; the influence of Confucian thought in East Asia; and the Mongol Empire.

Course Credits

3 credits

Prerequisite and Co-requisite Courses

None

Prerequisite Skills

Accessing Internet websites, using ASU Library resources, opening PDF files, and proficiency with Microsoft Word are expectations of this course.

Program Outcomes

During the course of the program of study for a degree in History, the graduate will:

1. Develop a fundamental knowledge and an understanding of historical events
2. Recognize political, economic and social causation in history and the effects that historical forces have on humankind
3. Appreciate cultural achievements of different civilizations, whether American, Latin American, Asian or European
4. Hone skills in research, writing, reading, oral communication and critical thinking
5. Engage in active learning through personal inquiry and problem solving
6. Gain usable specialized vocabulary needed for careers in history-related fields
7. Acquire bibliographical expertise and familiarity with historiography

Student Learning Outcomes

Student Learning Outcome	Assignment(s) or activity(ies) validating outcome achievement:	Mapping to Program Outcomes
By completing all course requirements, students will be able to: Identify and describe the major trends of East and South Asian history	Lectures, weekly assignments	#1, 2, 3, 6

in the ancient and medieval eras		
Explain how gender, socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, and religion affected individual experiences	Lectures, weekly assignments, (research paper)	#1, 2, 6
Contextualize, analyze, and critique the thoughts and actions of historical actors	Lectures, weekly assignments, biography project, research paper	#1, 2, 6
Evaluate and synthesize information from disparate sources	Research paper	#4, 7
Communicate historical information clearly	Research paper	#4, 5, 6, 7

Course Delivery

This is a face-to-face course. The bulk of material will be delivered during face-to-face meetings, so regular attendance and participation in class activities is vital to your success.

Slides from class, readings, and additional study materials will be delivered online via Blackboard. All assignments (except in-class exams and extra credit) will be submitted and assessed in Blackboard.

Required Texts and Materials

All required readings will be available on Blackboard as PDFs or links to websites. You do not need to purchase any materials.

Technology Requirements

To successfully complete this course, students need to have access to a computer to read emails and course announcements, view videos, open and read PDF files, and use a Word processor to compose assignments.

Communication

I will respond to email and/or telephone messages within 24 hours during working hours Monday through Friday. Weekend messages might not be returned until Monday. Please also keep in mind that I will tend to answer emails during regular business hours (8am-5pm).

Written communication via email: All private communication will be done exclusively through your ASU email address. Check frequently for announcements and policy changes. In your emails to faculty, include the course name and section number in your subject line.

In-person office hours: Stop by during the regularly scheduled times or make an appointment. Please see the time and place at the top of this document.

Virtual communication: Office hours and/or advising may be done via telephone (325-942-2325) or Zoom. Links to Zoom office hours will be posted on Blackboard.



Grading

Evaluation and Grades

Course grades will be determined as indicated in the table below.

Assessment	Percent/Points of Total Grade
Attendance/Participation	10%
Weekly Assignments/Quizzes	40%
Primary Source Paper + Presentation	50%
TOTAL	100%

Grading System

Course grades will be dependent upon completing course requirements and meeting the student learning outcomes.

The following grading scale is in use for this course:

A = 89.5-100%

B = 79.5-89.4%

C = 69.5-79.4%

D = 59.5-69.4%

F = 0-59.4%

Please see the “Weighted Total” column on Blackboard for your updated course grade.

Teaching Strategies

The course will mostly take place in the classroom. Class meetings will consist of lecture, discussion, and work with historical sources.

Students are expected to arrive to class on time or early with note-taking materials. Phones should be turned to silent and be stowed away. Attention should be focused on lecture and class activities. Other homework should not be completed in class. If found to be doing so, your participation grade will be impacted.

The course also requires time outside of the classroom. You should set time aside each week to review notes and identify gaps in your understanding of the material using the study guide, which will be updated regularly. Studying consistently over a longer period helps to reinforce knowledge and is more effective than studying the night before the exam.

In addition, there will be weekly assignments. Plan for anywhere between 10 minutes to an hour each week for these assignments.

If you have questions about the content, please feel free to email those to the instructor at laurie.dickmeyer@angelo.edu and/or raise them during in-person discussion.

Assignment and Activity Descriptions

***Please note: Additional instructions and rubrics for all assignments will be posted to Blackboard.**

Attendance/Participation (10%): You will be assigned daily grades for attendance and participation.

- 100% will be given for on-time attendance and participation (in the form of note-taking, attention to lectures, and participation in activities).
- 75% will be given for late arrival or early departures, inattention to class, failure to participate in activities, or dominating discussion without regard to the needs of other students with questions or thoughts to share.
- 0% will be given to unexcused absences.
- If you are unable to attend class, please email for an excuse. Please do this as soon as possible. Also, please email me even if we have spoken about the excused absence in person. This ensures that there is a record.

Weekly Assignments/Quizzes (40%): Each week between Thursday afternoon, I will make a short assignment or quiz available to have you reflect on content from the week. These assignments will be due one week later. If the quiz is multiple-choice, there will be the option to retake for a higher grade. Other times I may have you briefly respond to questions based on class material or readings.

Primary Source Paper (50%): For this assignment you will be using one primary source as the starting point for a research paper on a topic related to the Silk Roads or ancient and medieval Asia. The idea is to use at least one primary source to identify a question and then use secondary sources (and perhaps additional primary sources) to answer the question and further develop your topic. You may find that you have specific questions about commodities and commerce, religion and cultural exchange, gender, warfare, labor, specific cities along the Silk Roads, etc. The final draft of the paper should be a minimum of 1,500 words and a maximum of 3,000 words. Further instructions and rubrics will be made available on Blackboard.

The paper project has a number of preparatory assignments, so that you are primed with ideas and writing to craft a solid, thought-out research paper instead of staring at a blank page the night before the paper is due. Additionally, you will meet with the instructor at least once to discuss your project. You may do so at any stage of the project—whichever point is most helpful for you. You will also be presenting your findings to your peers at the end of the course. The breakdown of research assignments includes:

- Primary Source Analysis + Possible Research Questions (5%)
- Annotated Bibliography (5%)
- Primary Source Paper Rough Draft (5%)
- Meeting with Instructor (5%)
- Primary Source Paper Final Draft (20%)
- Presentation (5%)
- Presentation Responses (5%)

Extra Credit Assignments (+2% each; for a total of +6% possible toward the final course grade)

The Dr. Arnaldo De León Department of History runs a regular History Lecture Series, highlighting original research and timely topics. This semester all lectures will take place in MCS 100 (specific times to be announced). You can either view lectures in-person or after the event on the department's Youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCBlh8OEJyLd1iJpXdE4bYOA>

During the spring 2022 semester, there will be lectures on the following dates:

- February 17 Dr. Laura Hooton
- March 3 Texas Independence Commemoration Lecture (facilitated by Dr. Powers)
- April 14 Dr. Bradley Cesario

To receive extra credit, view/attend the lecture, write a 150-word response, and email it to laurie.dickmeyer@angelo.edu within two weeks following the presentation (see specific due dates on the Course Schedule below). I will waive the written assignment if you ask a question at the event.

Assignment Submission

All assignments must be submitted through the Assignment Submission link or the corresponding week's page in the Blackboard site unless otherwise specified. This is for grading, documenting, and archiving purposes.

Issues with technology use arise from time to time. If a technology issue does occur regarding an assignment submission, email me at laurie.dickmeyer@angelo.edu and attach a copy of what you are trying to submit. Please contact the **IT Service Center at (325) 942-2911** or go to your Technology Support tab to report the issue. This lets me know you completed the assignment on time and are just having problems with the online submission feature in Blackboard. Once the problem is resolved, submit your assignment through the appropriate link. This process will document the problem and establish a timeline. Be sure to keep a backup of all work.



Late Work or Missed Assignments Policy

All due dates are posted on this syllabus and any revisions to this schedule will be announced via email and Blackboard.

If you believe you will be unable to complete an assignment on time, please email me, and we can arrange for an extension.

Note: I want to emphasize that I realize that you all have lives outside of this class, so please get in touch if anything comes up.

General Policies Related to This Course

All students are required to follow the policies and procedures presented in these documents:

- [Angelo State University Student Handbook](#)¹
- [Angelo State University Catalog](#)²

Basic Needs

Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live, and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Multicultural and Student Activities Programs center (multicultural@angelo.edu; 325-942-2729). The Multicultural and Student Activities Program Center has a food pantry and other resources to help. Furthermore, please notify the professor

¹ <https://www.angelo.edu/student-handbook/>

² <https://www.angelo.edu/catalogs/>

if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable them to provide any resources that they may possess.

Student Responsibility and Attendance

As regular attendance is necessary to achieve student learning outcomes *it is the policy of the History Department that missing more than 20 percent of the course (9 absences in a 50-minute MWF course) will result in a reduction of one full letter grade when calculating the final course grade.*

Every three absences after the limit will result in the reduction of another letter grade. In the case of illness, emergency, or other unavoidable circumstances, please email me as soon as possible, and I can excuse your absence.



Student Conduct Policies

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in all work. Any student found guilty of any form of dishonesty in academic work is subject to disciplinary action and possible expulsion from ASU.

The College of Arts and Humanities adheres to the Statement of [Academic Integrity](#)

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious topic covered in ASU's [Academic Integrity policy](#) in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism is the action or practice of taking someone else's work, idea, etc., and passing it off as one's own. Plagiarism is literary theft.

In your discussions and/or your papers, it is unacceptable to copy word-for-word without quotation marks and the source of the quotation. It is expected that you will summarize or paraphrase ideas giving appropriate credit to the source both in the body of your paper and the reference list.

Papers are subject to be evaluated for originality via Turnitin. Resources to help you understand this policy better are available at the [ASU Writing Center](#).

COPYRIGHT POLICY

Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any

portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

DEPARTMENTAL POLICY AND STATEMENT

If you are unsure about a citation, contact me with your question or visit [this helpful website](#) to avoid common plagiarism pitfalls. *There is no excuse for plagiarism*. It is your responsibility to plan your semester and time effectively to avoid putting yourself in a situation where you might turn to plagiarism. A digital plagiarism detection program (e.g. SafeAssign or Turn-it-in) will be used to check your work. Be intentional about submitting original work, complete with proper citations.

Academic misconduct is not limited to plagiarism. Academic dishonesty might also include copying somebody else's work, submitting somebody else's work as your own, failing to cite sources, or signing another student into class. Although discussing your work with classmates may be helpful, you must also be aware of "unauthorized collaboration" as a form of academic misconduct.

The History Department's policy is that violations of the academic honor code will result in a 0 on an assignment for the first offense and a 0 in the entire class for subsequent offenses.

In-class forms of plagiarism, such as signing in for another student, will be considered on a case by case basis, and I reserve the right to fail violators from this course on their first violation in egregious cases of misconduct. All academic integrity violations will be referred to the Executive Director of Student Affairs, who may impose additional sanctions if warranted as outlined in the [Code of Student Conduct](#). Once a student has been notified of an academic integrity allegation, the student may not drop the course until the academic integrity processes are complete. If a student drops or withdraws, the student will be reinstated to the course.

Student Disability Services

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA) and subsequent legislation.

Student Disability Services is located in the Office of Student Affairs, and is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability. It is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting an employee of the Office of Student Affairs, in the Houston Harte

University Center, Room 112, or contacting the department via email at ADA@angelo.edu. For more information about the application process and requirements, visit the Student Disability Services website at www.angelo.edu/ADA. The employee charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing accommodation requests is:

[Dr. Dallas Swafford](#)

Director of Student Disability Services

dallas.swafford@angelo.edu

325-942-2047

[Houston Harte University Center](#), 112

Incomplete Grade Policy

It is policy that incomplete grades be reserved for student illness or personal misfortune. Please contact faculty if you have serious illness or a personal misfortune that would keep you from completing course work. Documentation may be required. See ASU Operating Policy 10.11 [Grading Procedures](#)³ for more information.



Student Absence for Observance of Religious Holy Days

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. See ASU Operating Policy 10.19 Student Absence for [Observance of Religious Holy Day](#)⁴ for more information.

Copyright Policy

Students officially enrolled in this course should make only one printed copy of the given articles and/or chapters. You are expressly prohibited from distributing or reproducing any portion of course readings in printed or electronic form without written permission from the copyright holders or publishers.

Syllabus Changes

The faculty member reserves the option to make changes as necessary to this syllabus and the course content. If changes become necessary during this course, the faculty will notify students of

³ <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14197-op-1011-grading-procedures>

⁴ <https://www.angelo.edu/content/files/14206-op-1019-student-absence-for-observance-of>

such changes by email and/or course announcements. It is the student's responsibility to look for such communications about the course on a daily basis.

Title IX

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual violence, and any other misconduct based on sex.

You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Miller, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner:

- Online: angelo.edu/incident-form
- Face to Face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210
- Phone: 325-942-2022
- Email: michelle.miller@angelo.edu

Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171).

For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State's policy please visit: angelo.edu/title-ix.

Course Schedule

Note: Additional recommended readings, podcasts, and videos will be included in slides and Blackboard. This schedule and the selected readings are subject to change, so please read announcements and check the Blackboard Course Schedule for the most up-to-date information. **Please complete the readings before Thursday each week.**

Week/Date	Topic/Readings/Assignments/Assessments DUE
1 Jan. 18/20	<p>Course Introduction</p> <p>Reading: Hansen, "Introduction," <i>The Silk Road</i> (pp. 3-24)</p>
2 Jan. 25/27	<p>Early Indian Civilization (to 6th century CE)</p> <p>Reading: Albinia, "Alluvial Cities" (pp. 243-260) and "Indra's Beverage" (pp. 216-242), <i>Empires of the Indus</i>; Walsh, "Land, Climate, and Prehistory," <i>A Brief History of India</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jan. 27 - Assignment #1 due
3 Feb. 1/3	<p>Early Chinese Civilization and the Mandate of Heaven (to 3rd century BCE)</p> <p>Reading: Burbank and Cooper, "Imperial Rule in Rome and China," <i>Empires in World History</i> (pp. 23-59)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feb. 3 - Assignment #2 due
4 Feb. 8/10	<p>Han China and the Beginning of the Silk Roads (2nd-1st centuries BCE)</p> <p>Reading: Benjamin, "Zhang Qian and Han Expansionism into Central Asia" and "The Early Han Dynasty and the Eastern Silk Roads," <i>Empires of Ancient Eurasia</i> (pp. 68-118)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feb. 10 - Assignment #3 due
5 Feb. 15/17	<p>Schools of Thought in China</p> <p>Reading: Tanner, "The Age of Fighting and Philosophy," <i>China: A History</i>, (pp. 59-82)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feb. 18 - Primary Source Analysis + Research Question(s) due (No weekly assignment/quiz)
6 Feb. 22/24	<p>Rome's Trade to the East (1st century BCE-2nd century CE)</p> <p>Reading: Benjamin, "The Roman Empire and the Western Silk Roads," <i>Empires of Ancient Eurasia</i> (pp. 119-147)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feb. 24 - Assignment #4
7 Mar. 1/3	<p>Vedic Reformers in India</p> <p>Reading: Walsh, "Caste, Kings, and the Hindu World Order," <i>A Brief History of India</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mar. 3 - Assignment #5
8 Mar. 8/10	<p>The Kushan Empire (2nd century CE-2nd century CE)</p>

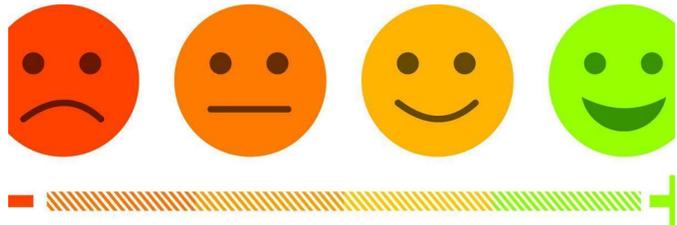
	<p>Reading: Benjamin, "The Kushan Empire: At the Crossroads of Ancient Eurasia," <i>Empires of Ancient Eurasia</i> (pp. 176-203)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mar. 11 - Annotated Bibliography due by 11:59 pm (no weekly assignment/quiz)
9	Spring Break - No Class
10 Mar. 22/24	<p>The Oasis Towns of Central Asia (3rd-7th centuries CE)</p> <p>Reading: Brose, <i>Xuanzang</i> (pp. 13-102)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mar. 24 - Assignment #6 due
11 Mar. 29/31	<p>The Oasis Towns of Central Asia (3rd-7th centuries CE) - continued</p> <p>Reading: Wu, <i>Monkey King</i> (selections)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mar. 31 - Assignment #7 due
12 Apr. 5/7	<p>The Tang Dynasty and Foreign Traders and Priests (8th-10th CE)</p> <p>Reading: Whitfield, "The Princess's Tale," <i>Life along the Silk Road</i> (pp. 73-89); "The Nun's Tale" (pp. 153-168)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Apr. 8 - Rough Draft of Primary Source Paper due by 11:59 pm (no weekly assignment/quiz due)
13 Apr. 12/14	<p>Muslim Baghdad and the Eurasian Market (9th-11th)</p> <p>Reading: Whitfield, "The Writer's Tale," <i>Life along the Silk Road</i> (pp. 126-137); Gordon, "Caliph and Caravan: Ibn Fadlan, 921-922 CE," <i>When Asia Was the World</i> (pp. 21-38)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Apr. 14 - Assignment #8 due
14 Apr. 19/21	<p>The Mongol Empire (13th-14th)</p> <p>Reading: Burbank and Cooper, "Eurasian Connections," <i>Empires in World History</i> (pp. 93-115), Jackson, "Apportioning and Governing an Empire," <i>The Mongols and the Islamic World</i> (pp. 95-124)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Apr. 22 - Final Draft of Primary Source Paper due by 11:59 pm (no weekly assignment/quiz due)
15 Apr. 26/28	<p>The Mongol Empire (13th-14th)</p> <p>Reading: Hansen, "A New Route Through the Grasslands: Beijing," <i>The Silk Roads</i> (pp. 391-417)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Apr. 28 - Assignment #9 due
16 May 3/5	<p>Paper Presentations Attend and write short responses to each presentation. Additional instructions to be given in class. Submit responses in one document by May 11, 11:59 pm.</p>
Final Exam Period	<p>Tues., May 10, 8-10 am - reserved for presentations</p> <p>Wed., May 11, 11:59 pm - presentation responses + Assignment #10 due</p>

Grading Rubrics

Grading Rubrics will be made available on the Blackboard website.

Student Evaluation of Faculty and Course

Students in all programs are given the opportunity to evaluate their courses and the faculty who teach them. Evaluations are most helpful when they are honest, fair, constructive, and pertinent to the class, clinical experience, or course.



Faculty value student evaluations, and use student suggestions in making modifications in courses, labs and clinical experiences.

Angelo State University uses the IDEA (Individual Development and Educational Assessment) system administered through Kansas State University for all course evaluations. The Office of Institutional Research and Assessment administers IDEA for the entire university, online and has established a policy whereby students can complete course evaluations free from coercion.

The evaluation for this course will be weighted to evaluate the success in acquiring the following skills:

1. Gaining a basic understanding of the subject (e.g., factual knowledge, methods, principles, generalizations, theories)
2. Developing knowledge and understanding of diverse perspectives, global awareness, or other cultures

End of Syllabus!