

Syllabus-Two Thousand Years of Sino-foreign Cultural Exchanges

Objectives: This course investigates cultural exchanges between China and the world throughout history. It will cover various topics, including the Silk Road trades, the Maritime Silk Road, the reception of Buddhism, Christianity, and Islam in China, the spread of Chinese inventions to the Old World, Admiral Zheng He's voyages from China to Africa during the 15th century, and other significant events.

The aim of this course is to improve cross-cultural understanding. It will demonstrate how Chinese civilization engaged in important cultural exchanges with other major civilizations via land and ocean routes, and the significant impacts these exchanges had on both the development of China and the world.

Grading Policy

30% classroom performance, 70% final exam

Schedule

Section 1: From the Origin to the Tang Dynasty

Week1: Geography of China/Chinese Writing System/Imperial System

Week 2: Relations between Qin-Han Dynasties (221B.C.-A.D.220) and Xiongnu (Huns)

Week 3: The Fall of the Han Imperial Order and the Disunion of China

Week 4: The Rise of Sui-Tang (589-907) Cosmopolitanism

Week 5: Silk Road I-Trade and the Spread of Technology

Week 6: Silk Road II-Buddhism, Islam, Persian Religion and Arts

Section Two: Song and Yuan

Week 7: The Fall of the Tang Dynasty and the Disunion of China

Week 8: Song, Liao and Jin

Week 9: Maritime Trade

Week 10: Yuan and the Mongol Empire

Spring 2025
Zhaoyang Zhang

Week 11: Silk Road III-Islam and Nestorian Christianity

Section Three: Ming and Qing

Week 12: The Fall of the Yuan Dynasty and the Rise of Ming

Week 13: Admiral Zheng He's Voyages

Week 14: Field Trip

Week 15: Jesuits in Ming and Qing China

Weeks 16: Final Exam