

# *Global Asia*

## **Syllabus Fall 2013**

Revised 30 September 2013

UA 546-001 (14637)

Lectures on Tuesday and Thursday, 9:30-10:45, in 19W4 Rm.101

Discussion Sections on Wednesday:

Instructors: Matt MacLean, David Rainbow, Ahmad Shokr

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Office hours: Thurs 11-12:30 and by appt.

People in Asia are now generating dynamic forces of globalization, and by doing so, they are tossing old ways of thinking about Asia out the window. Though Asia is still often imagined as a collection of enduring ancient Eastern civilizations, which were jolted by the West into modernity, such ideas were produced by and for the bygone days of imperialism and nationalism, whose historians erased Asia's vast pre-modern dynamism.

To understand globalization today, we need new ways to think historically. In that pursuit, *Global Asia* explores Asian cultures and contexts from ancient times to the present, focusing on spaces of mobility. We pay special attention to long-distance mobility around the Silk Road and Indian Ocean, extending across the Mediterranean, Atlantic, and Pacific, and its articulation among regions all across Asia. We concentrate our studies on learning how people, goods, and ideas work and interact in these spaces, to influence cultures in everyday life.

We envision Asia as an open space of social activity and experience, with no fixed boundaries. Global Asia is composed of routes, networks, centers, and regions of cultural and material productivity. In these Asian spaces, forces of change have repeatedly transformed political territories, at many levels of scale, and Asia's territorial order has expanded spatially over the centuries. *Global Asia* is about dynamic Asian spaces formed by travels of religion and empire, by the stitching together of world economies, by migrations in and among continents, by nationalist struggles inside global imperialism, and by programs of national development inside global capitalism. In the course of our studies, we find that contemporary globalization is an integral feature of Asian history.

***Turn off and close ALL electronic devices during all course meetings***

***No electronic equipment should be used during lectures or discussion sections,***

***EVER, or for ANY REASON. Take notes by hand in notebooks and***

***pay attention***

***QUIZZES WILL TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION.***

**Registration problems?** Contact Core Curriculum Office, 903 Silver, email: core.cas@nyu.edu.

**Put these dates on your calendar:**

**NYU Special Dates:**

3 Sept. first day classes

14-15 Oct. No classes. Fall Break.

28-29 Nov. No classes. Thanksgiving.

13 Dec. last day classes

11 Dec. classes meet on Monday schedule (no Global Asia meetings)

**Global Asia Special Dates:**

**Weekly assignments** due: 11 Sept, 18 Sept, 25 Sept, 9 Oct, 23 Oct, 13 Nov

**Double-Weeklies** due for specified sections: 9 Oct, 13 Nov, 20 Nov.

**5-page papers** due: 2 Oct, 30 Oct, and 12 Dec.

**No class: 5 and 26 Nov. (Catch up with reading days)**

**Assignments and Grading**

*Global Asia* has twenty-six thematic units, organized in four parts, which cover four overlapping historical periods of decreasing length in a fourteen week semester. Each unit has a PowerPoint file that will be used in class and available as reference material.

Part I. to 1400: The Asian Circulatory System: The World of the Silk Road

Part II. 1300-1850: The Asian Circulatory System and Early Modernity: The Great Asian Empires and the World of Seaborne Mobility

Part III. 1750-1960: Carving Up Asia: Seaborne Empires and Railway Nations

Part IV. after 1950 – : Aerospace Asia: Global Circulation in Everyday Life

Each week includes three meetings -- two lectures and one discussion section -- as well as weekly readings, assignments, and reference material.

Attendance is required at all course meetings. Attendance will be recorded and medically unexcused absences will be penalized.

Readings should be done before the date on which they appear on the syllabus. Assignments are due on the day they are listed on the syllabus

Students who plan to take advantage of NYU's policy of permitting absence to observe religious holidays must inform instructors by the first week of classes and make suitable arrangements for extra work to compensate for absence.

There are three kinds of required writing assignments:

1. Students must complete six weekly assignments. Instruction for weeklies will be announced in lecture on Tuesdays. The weekly assignments are due the next day, on Wednesday, at the start of discussion section; they are based on material from the Thursday and Tuesday before the assignment is due. Discussion sections thus mark the end of each academic week of the course, though weeks are numbered according to the calendar on the syllabus.
2. In Fall 2013, we are privileged to welcome three world-renown experts in Asian history as visiting lecturers: Sanjay Subrahmanyam, Peter Perdue, and Prasannan Parthasarathi. They will provide readings for the class, attend class to discuss their work, and deliver special lectures on Thursday evenings, respectively, on 3 October, 7 November, and 14 November, in the NYU-Abu Dhabi second floor lecture hall, 19 Washington Square North.

One-third of the class will attend each of these lectures, so that all students will be able to write a special two-page weekly assignment, due the following Wednesday, based on that lecture and on related reading material. This essay will count for two weekly assignments.

All students must complete weeklies #1-3 and #5. Students writing the double-weekly assignment on Subrahmanyam will not write Weekly#4. Students writing double-weeklies on Perdue and Parthasarathi lectures will not write Weekly#6.

3. Students must also write three five-page essays, based on all available course material, under instructions provided in lectures and discussion sections. The first two of these essays are due on Wednesdays in discussion sections, according to the syllabus schedule; the last one is due on the last day of class. Deadline extensions are not available; lateness is allowed for the first two papers, but not the last. Lateness is penalized proportionately.

**Instructions for all assignments will be provided in class. All assignments be completed and submitted to instructors by the last day of class.** Nothing submitted later will be considered for grading. Please note: graduate student instructors do all the grading for this course. Attendance and participation in discussion sections are essential.

Weekly assignments will only be announced in class. Paper assignments will be announced first and discussed in class and then posted at Assignments in NYUClasses.

Grades are based on attendance, participation, weekly assignments, and three five-page essays. Grading is on a point system. Weekly writing assignments are worth 7 points each (5 weeklies = 35 points); the double-weekly is 12 points; five-page papers are 15 points each (3 x 15 = 45); and 8 points remain for the mid-term (4 points) and end-term (4 points) evaluation of attendance, comprehension, and participation. (Total = 100).

Please note: Small grade deductions matter. To get an “A” in this course, students must do good work in all areas, all term long. In addition to grade deductions for flaws in all writing assignments; each officially unexcused absence is penalized one point (deducted first from participation points, then from final grade total); and weekly grades include deductions for inattention in discussion sections, so that a perfectly good weekly paper by a student who is mentally absent in class might earn 5 instead of 7 points.

There will be no extra credit assignments. Grades will be based only on student work done for assignments listed in the syllabus.

All students must read and comply with university policies on academic integrity. Here is the link <http://cas.nyu.edu/page/academicintegrity>. Students must not copy each other’s work: this is cheating; it will be punished.

Final grade point equivalents are as follows: A = 95-100; A- = 90-94; B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82; C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- = 70-72; D+ = 67-69; D = 63-66; D- = 60-62; F = < 60. Midterm grades are calculated proportionately on the basis of grades at the end of Week 6.

### **Books to Buy at Shakespeare and Company, 716 Broadway**

Richard H. Davis, *Global India circa 100CE: South Asia in Early World History*, Ann Arbor, Association for Asian Studies, 2009

Jeffrey L. Richey, *Confucius in East Asia: Confucianism’s History in China, Korea, Japan, and Viet Nam*, Ann Arbor, Association for Asian Studies, 2013

L.P.Harvey, *Ibn Battuta*, London: IBTaurus, 2007

Giles Tillotson, *Taj Mahal*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2008

Martin B. Steger, *Globalization: A Very Short History*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.

James L. Huffman, *Japan and Imperialism, 1853-1945*. Ann Arbor, Association for Asian Studies, 2010.

William M. Tsutsui, *Japanese Popular Culture and Globalization*. Ann Arbor, Association for Asian Studies, 2010.

Zhiqun Zhu, *Understanding East Asia’s Economic “Miracles.”* Ann Arbor, Association for Asian Studies, 2009.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### Part I. The Asian Circulatory System: The World of the Silk Road, to 1400

#### Week1. A World of Mobility: Epochs, Transitions, Localities, and Regions

Unit1. Sept 3. Introducing Global Asia.  
Read: Unit1 Overview

Unit2. Sept 5. Pearls on Strings. Mobility walking over long periods. Landscapes: Water. Seasons, Mountains, Nomads, Farmers. Sites. Ethnicity. Culture.  
Read: 2.Andre Gunder Frank, "The Centrality of Central Asia" (PDF)

#### Week 2. Mobile Religion and Territorial Politics

**Weekly#1** (on "the silk road") due on Wednesday in discussion section Sept 11.

Unit3. Sept 10. Trajectories of Buddhism: North, South, East, West.  
Read: 3a.Liu Xin Ru, "A Silk Road Legacy: The Spread of Buddhism and Islam." *Journal of World History*, 22, 1, 2011, 55-81 (16pp)  
3b. Valerie Hansen's Silk Road Site  
3c. Silk Road Online Visuals

Unit4. Sept 12. The Creation of Social Space: Territory, Domestication, and Mobility  
Read: Richard Davis, *Global India circa 100CE. South Asia in Early World History*. AAS, 2009. 65pp.

#### Week 3. Cultural Politics and Territorial Mobility

**Weekly#2** (on Buddhism) due in discussion section on Wednesday Sept 18.

Unit5. Sept 17. Asian Spaces of Confucianism  
Read: Jeffrey Richey, *Confucius in East Asia: Confucianism's History in China, Korea, Japan, and Vietnam*, AAS, 2013. (91 pp)

Unit6. Sept 19. Late Antiquity/Early Medievalism: Migrations, Warriors, and Mongols  
Read: 6a.Climate.Medieval Warm Period (3pp)  
6b.Palat,"Territorial Expansion in Asia, 1000-1700" (37pp)  
Ref: 6.animated online maps  
6c.Allsen, "Mongol Cuisine"  
6d. Allsen, Marco and Po-Lo  
6e, f, g: YouTube Videos on Mongols

## **Week 4. The Asian Circulatory System, circa 1350: The Predominance of the Land**

**Weekly#3** (draft of paper #1).

Unit7 Sept 24. Land Routes and Empires (PPT: Marco Polo, Abu-Lughod, Al-Biruni)  
Read: L.P.Harvey, *Ibn Battuta*, London: IBTaurus, 2007.

Unit8 Sept 26. Review and Paper #1.  
Read: 8. "Some Reflections on Writing an Essay"

## **Part II. The Asian Circulatory System and Early Modernity: The Great Asian Empires and the World of Seaborne Mobility, 1300-1850**

### **Week 5. Asian Empires on Land, Facing the Sea**

**Paper #1** (Asian Circulatory System) is due **Wednesday Oct 2** in discussion section.

Unit9. Oct 1. World Trade and Ocean Spaces  
Read: 9. Flynn and Giraldez, "Born with a Silver Spoon."

Unit10. Oct 3. Mughals and the Indian Ocean  
Read: 10. Subrahmanyam on the Mughals

Special Evening Lecture. Sanjay Subrahmanyam, "The View from Surat: The Auspicious Port of the Mughals as a Cosmopolitan Hub"

Abstract: The port of Surat emerged into prominence in the 1540s, three decades before it was conquered by the Mughal dynasty. For the next two centuries, it remained one of the most important commercial centres in the Indian Ocean, and arguably one of the greatest ports in the world. The lecture will look at Surat as a place where traders, intellectuals, Sufi masters, pirates and warlords all had their part to play.

### **Week 6. Early Modernity, Empire, and World Economy**

**Weekly#4** (on seaborne empire) or **double weekly** for Subrahmanyam, due on Wednesday.

Unit11. Oct 8. Technologies of Empire  
Read: 11. Ludden chapter on Warriors, Empire, and Society. (34pp)

Unit12. Oct 10. Authority, Family, and Productivity  
Read: 12. Lieberman, Qing Dynasty and Neighbors (25pp)

## **Week 7. Imperial Cultures: Mughal and Safavid**

No Class Oct. 15. Fall Break

Unit13. Oct. 17. Locating the Mobility of Power, Skill, and Aesthetics

Read: Giles Tillotson, *Taj Mahal*, Harvard University Press, 2008, (115pp)

## **Week 8. Expansive Cultural Spaces: Islamic Interactions**

**Weekly#5** (on Islam) due in discussion section on Wed Oct 23

Unit14. Oct 22. The World of Islam

Read: 16 Eaton. "Islamic History as World History." (34pp) and

Unit15. Oct 24. Paper#2. Q&A. European Mobility and Territorial Conquest.

## **Part III. Carving up Asia: Modern Empires and Nations, 1750-1950**

### **Week 9. Empire, Nation, and Globalization: Summary Part III**

**Paper#2 Due** in discussion section on Wednesday Oct 30.

Unit16. Oct 29. A Chronology of Imperial Modernity.

Read: 16. Ludden chapter on British India (26 pp)

16. Selden, "East Asian Regionalism" (29pp)

Unit17. Oct 31. Imperialism, Capitalism, and Nationalism: 1850-1950.

Read: James Huffman, *Japanese Imperialism, 1853-1945*, Association for Asian Studies, Ann Arbor, 2010 (70pp.)

### **Week 10. Imperial Trajectories**

**Nov 5 No Class:** Unit18 Nov 5. Read: Perdue Reading

Unit19. Nov 7. Imperial Trajectories: Early Modern and Modern.

Evening Special Lecture: Peter Perdue, "Asian Imperial Expansion, 1400 to 1800"

Abstract: During the early modern era, empires around the world expanded their territories, through military conquest and commercial penetration. We know best the story of European expansion into maritime Asia and the new world. But at the same time, Asian empires like Timur in Central Eurasia, the Russians, the Ming and Qing, as well as the Mughals, Ottomans, and Safavids, also grew. What common forces produced these concurrent expansions, and what were their environmental, political,

and social consequences? This lecture surveys early modern global expansion by comparing the East Asian, Central Eurasian, and European imperial formations.

## **Part IV. Asia's Globalization since 1950**

### **Week 11. World Economies and Globalization.**

**Double Weekly** (on Perdue) and **Weekly #6** (for students who did double-weekly on Subrahmanyam), are due in section on Wed Nov 13. No assignment is due this week for students who write on Parthasarathi, next week.

Unit20. Nov 12. Globalization: Debates and Approaches

Read: Manfred B. Steger, *Globalization: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press, NY, 2003 (135 small pages)

Ref: 20.McKeown, "Periodizing Globalization" (12pp)

Unit21. Nov 14. Workers and Globalization

Read: Parthasarathi Reading. "Global History and Textile Workers"

Evening Special Lecture: Prasanna Parthasarathi

### **Week 12. National Development in a World Economy**

**Double-Weekly on Parthasarathi** due in discussion section Wed Nov 20.

Unit22. Nov 19. Nationalism and Economic Growth

Read Zhiqun Zhu, *Understanding East Asian Economic "Miracles,"* Association for Asia Studies, Ann Arbor, 2010, 2012 (68 pp)

Unit23. Nov 21. Comparing Regions of Asia

Read: TBA

Nov 26. Nov 28. NO CLASS in Thanksgiving Week. (Catch up with reading. Think about Paper#3)

### **Week 13. Globalising Asia**

Unit24. Dec 3. Commodities and Consumers

William M. Tsutsui, *Japanese Popular Culture and Globalization*, Association for Asian Studies, Ann Arbor, 2010 (80 pp)

(Remember Dec 6: Mossadeh and Babri Masjid).

Unit25. Dec 5. Cultural Perspectives: Politics in Question

Read: 25.Nikki Keddie, "The Revolt of Islam."

**Week 14. Summing Up.**

Unit26.Dec.10. Paper#3 Q&A. Student Presentations.

No discussion sections this week.

Dec. 13. Last Class. Paper #3 (on globalization) due at start of class.  
Student course critique. Lessons for today.