

**HIST 099-21**  
**China in the World**  
**Prof. Clark Alejandrino**  
**(Draft Syllabus)**

Summer 2019  
Session Dates: July 8- August 9, 2019  
Schedule: MTWR 1:00-3:00 pm  
Venue: ICC 116

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Office Hours: TBA  
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**Course Description:**

History is not simply the study of the past, but a specific way of thinking about and studying the past: history, like all disciplines within a liberal arts curriculum, pursues particular ways of formulating questions, identifying relevant evidence and contexts, analyzing and interpreting evidence, connecting facts and sources with each other, drawing conclusions, and constructing answers. The purpose of History 099 is to introduce students to various elements of historical work and thinking by taking an in-depth look at one particular event or theme.

In this course, we will thus focus on a specific topic – in this case, China in the World – and use our study of it as a way to approach and understand at an introductory level various elements of historical work and analysis: what are primary sources, and how can we identify them, locate them, examine them, and employ them in our analysis; what are other types of evidence historians use (visual sources, artifacts of all kinds, etc.) and how; how we construct an argument based on our evidence; how historians formulate the questions that guide their research and analysis; how to approach and understand the work of other historians in developing our own questions and analysis; how to present and employ historical evidence in our own writing; and so on. Throughout, we will seek to be always mindful of a fundamental question for all effective analysis: how do we know what we know.

In this course we will examine Chinese history from a world history perspective. We will ask and seek to answer two questions: How much of Chinese history was shaped by what was happening outside of what we know today as China? How did the historical dynamics within China shape the world outside of it? History 099 primarily aims to help students think historically and understand the process of historical reasoning and analysis. The emphasis will thus not be on memorizing events and facts, but on raising and discussing questions and on examining evidence. While the regional surveys that form the other component of the College history core requirement attempt to achieve these goals by exposing students to the broad sweep of history, in this course we will work by looking more deeply at a particular set of developments.

The course fulfills one semester of the Core history requirement for College students; students from other GU schools cannot take this course.

**Course Learning Goals:** Students who consistently come to class, participate in discussions, finish the readings, and complete all requirements will improve their ability to:

- Appreciate places, cultures, and peoples from different perspectives.
- Think critically about change over time. “The past” is not an unchanging set of facts but an ongoing conversation about what it means. It is an argument about how we should

interpret it in light of available evidence while remaining sensitive to the many contexts we may place them in.

- Identify and analyze primary sources, and use them critically as evidence for building historical interpretations.
- Access and use library resources, databases, journals, books, and digital media.
- Articulate ideas verbally and in writing and defend them with evidence.
- Read critically and reflect thoughtfully on texts, and carefully assess their claims and biases.
- Write critically and thoughtfully. You will be able to articulate a thesis-driven argument supported with evidence documented in standard citation formats.

#### Course Requirements:

Participation	50%
Short Papers (1-2 pages each)	30%
Final Paper (7-8 pages)	20%

#### Course Schedule:

July 8 (M): Introduction

July 9 (T): Early Contacts between China and the Outside World

Edwin G. Pulleyblank, "Early Contacts between Indo-Europeans and Chinese," in *Central Asia and non-Chinese peoples of ancient China*, (Burlington, VT: Ashgate, 2002), pp. 1-47.

July 10 (W): Early Chinese States

Paul S. Ropp, *China in World History*, Chapter One.

July 11 (Th): Chinese Steppe-Sown Relations (Primary Source Analysis)

Sima Qian. "Shiji 110: The Account of the Xiongnu." In Sima Qian. *Records of the Grand historian: Han Dynasty*. Translated by Burton Watson. New York: Renditions-Columbia University Press, 1993, pp. 129-161.

July 15 (M): Early Chinese Empires

Paul S. Ropp, *China in World History*, Chapter Two.

Mark E. Lewis, Chapter Six "The Outer World," in *The Early Chinese Empires: Qin and Han* (Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press, 2007).

July 16 (T): China Between Empires

Paul S. Ropp, *China in World History*, Chapter Three.

Mark E. Lewis, Chapter Six “China and the Outer World,” in *China Between Empires: The Northern and Southern Dynasties* (Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press, 2009).

July 17 (W): The Cosmopolitan Tang

Paul S. Ropp, *China in World History*, Chapter Four.

Mark E. Lewis, Chapter Six “The Outer World,” in *China’s Cosmopolitan Empire: The Tang Dynasty* (Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press, 2009), pp.

July 18 (Th): China and the Silk Road (Lab)

Susan Whitfield, *Life Along the Silk Road*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2015), (Selections TBA).

July 22 (M): Song in a Multi-State World

Paul S. Ropp, *China in World History*, Chapter Five.

Dieter Kuhn, Chapter Eight “Exploring the World Within and Without,” in *The Age of Confucian Rule: The Song Transformation of China* (Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press, 2009).

July 23 (T): Pax Mongolica (Primary Source Analysis)

Marco Polo, *The Travels of Marco Polo*, (Penguin Books), pp. 241-243. 257-259, 285-292, 307-309, 311-312.

July 24 (W): China in the Early Modern World

Paul S. Ropp, *China in World History*, Chapter Six.

Timothy Brook, Chapter Nine “The South China Sea,” in *The Troubled Empire: China in the Yuan and Ming Dynasties* (Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press, 2013).

July 25 (Th): The Ming Voyages (Primary Source Analysis)

Ma Huan (1433), “The overall survey of the ocean’s shores,” Translated from Chinese by Feng Ch’eng Chun, with introduction by J.V.G. Mills, pp. 76, 124-129, 137-146, 154-159, 165-178.

July 29 (M): Global Circulations

Timothy Brook, *Vermeer’s Hat: The Seventeenth Century and the Dawn of the Global World* (New York: Bloomsbury, 2008), Chapters One to Three.

July 30 (T): Global Circulations II

Timothy Brook, *Vermeer's Hat: The Seventeenth Century and the Dawn of the Global World* (New York: Bloomsbury, 2008), Chapters Four to Six.

July 31 (W): Global Circulations III

Timothy Brook, *Vermeer's Hat: The Seventeenth Century and the Dawn of the Global World* (New York: Bloomsbury, 2008), Chapters Seven to Eight.

August 1 (Th): China's Ecological Footprint

David Iglar, *The Great Ocean: Pacific Worlds from Captain Cook to the Gold Rush*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2017), pp. 3-42, 99-128.

August 5-9: Finals week. Final Papers due.