

**ART ALONG THE ANCIENT SILK ROAD**  
**Art 378**

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Course meetings: Tuesdays 9:30-10:45  
Location: 285 NFAC

**Course Description**

ART 378 explores the long and rich history of economic and cultural exchange along the Silk Road through a study of art, architecture, and archaeology. This interdisciplinary course examines the geography and religions of the Silk Road, the exchange of goods and technologies, the spread of artistic traditions, and the various ethnicities and empires that contributed to Silk Road history. Primary and secondary sources, including accounts of monks, merchants, and adventurers who traveled the Silk Road, will also be studied to broaden our understanding of a region where people, objects, and ideas came together.

**The primary academic goal for Art 378 is to provide the student with an educated basis for responding to art and archaeology along the Silk Road.**

**Course Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify significant works of Silk Road art.
- Analyze works of the Silk Road utilizing knowledge of aesthetic criteria from the periods in which the works were produced.
- Identify and explain the relationship between specific works of the Silk Road and their cultural, social, or historical contexts.
- Develop an understanding, awareness and appreciation of the varying approaches to creative expression in the arts of the Silk Road.

**Rental Textbook**

Frances Wood. The Silk Road: Two Thousand Years in the Heart of Asia. University of California Press, 2002.

**Required Purchase Texts**

Peter Hopkirk. Foreign Devils on the Silk Road. John Murray, 1980.

**Note: All other course readings will be posted on our D2L course website.** Each week I will assign readings. It is your responsibility to check D2L frequently for reading assignments and other course news and updates.

**Course Website**

This class uses Desire2Learn (D2L), UWSP's Online Learning Management System. Your course syllabus, study sheets, study images, grades and additional activities can be found here. You can log into D2L at,

<https://uwsp.courses.wisconsin.edu/>, with your UWSP logon. D2L can also be found on your MyPoint Portal, <https://mypoint.uwsp.edu>, on the Academics tab.

After you have logged in to D2L, look below "My Stevens Point Courses" in the middle of the screen. Click the plus sign in front of the current semester to access the link to our class.

### **Course Requirements**

1. Lecture attendance (taken daily)
2. Participation
3. Online D2L discussion posts
4. Reading assignments (posted on D2L)
5. Map quiz (schedule below)
6. Exam (schedule below)
7. Museum Exhibition Proposal

**Note:** Although I do distribute study sheets for each lecture, I do not make full lecture notes available to students online or in any other fashion. Excellent note taking is essential to success in this course and is a skill that is important to develop. If you need extra help with this course, please see me during office hours or make an appointment to meet with me outside of class. I am more than happy to give extra time to anyone who needs it.

### **Quiz and Exams**

You are required to take one map quiz and one exams. The map quiz will be given at the beginning of class on **January 30**. The map and list of sites you need to identify are posted on D2L for you to study. **The map quiz will be worth 5% of your final grade.**

Besides the quiz, there will be one exam. The exam may consist of anything from slide identification and discussion, term discussion, short/long answer questions, and/or essay. The exam will be given on **Thursday, April 19**. **The exam is worth 30% of your final grade.**

### **Online D2L Discussion Posts**

Students will be required to respond to four discussion topics on D2L throughout the semester. All response posts should be thoughtfully and coherently written with careful attention to grammar and spelling, and proper citations. Grade-school spelling errors, disorganized writing, unconvincing arguments, lack of supporting evidence, and/or obvious indifference to the discussion question will lower your overall discussion grade. Each post will have a specified due date. Late posts will not, under any circumstances, receive credit. **The online discussion will be worth 25% of your final grade.** Enthusiastic, engaged writing will be noted.

### **Foreign Devils**

The last week of April (the 24/26th) students will present on assigned chapters from *Foreign Devils*. The entire class periods will be spent on group discussions (4/24) and then class presentations (4/26), so please come fully prepared to discuss. Read your assigned chapters carefully, but also skim through the others (chapters 4 through 15) so that you can discuss with your peers.

### **Reading Assignments**

Prologue and Chapters 1-3: **Everyone**

*The Explorer Aurel Stein: Chapters 5, 6, 7, 11, 12*

Hannah

Angela

Alison

Cassady

Carly

Briana

Jing

Stacey

Katelyn

*The German Explorers Albert Von Le Coq and Albert Grunwedel: Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11*

Edison

Lily

Ryan

Zonghan

Mackenzie M.

Owen

Mackenzie N.

Zay

*Sven Hedin, Langdon Warner, Paul Pelliot and the Spies: Chapters 4, 13, 14, 15*

Tara

Janna-Marie

Brittany

Sarah

Kaila

Jaclyn

Jacob

Annie-Laurie

### **Museum Exhibition Proposal**

For your final semester project, you will be asked to write a museum proposal for an exhibition on art along the Silk Road. The proposal will include a title for your exhibition, a rationale, and a brief catalogue of objects included in your exhibition. Your exhibition should be related to the Silk Road, but can include objects beyond those we study in class. Use this as an opportunity to do your own exploration of the Silk Road based on your personal interests in the topic. Students may want to include objects found in national or international museum collections in their proposed exhibition.

During finals week, you will submit your proposal, including your exhibition title, rationale, and brief catalogue, to the D2L dropbox and then present your rationale to the class with a prepared powerpoint exhibition. You will have no more than 5 minutes to present your exhibition proposal to the class. Since we only have a two hour time slot for finals, you will work in pairs on this assignment. One group may have three students depending on whether or not we have an odd number of students in the class. Each team will be responsible for working collaboratively on their exhibition title and rationale. For the catalogue of exhibition objects, each team member should choose three objects to be included in the exhibition. They are responsible for their own catalogue entries and should include the author's initials at the end of the entry.

Your exhibition proposal will be graded on creativity, thoughtfulness, persuasiveness, and professionalism. Your role will be that of a museum curatorial team. In your rationale, you'll want to articulate and describe the theme of your exhibition and explain why your exhibition is special or significant. How do your objects relate to one another and your main exhibition theme? What about your exhibition will draw crowds to the museum or interest the community to attend? You'll want to create an alluring and creative exhibition title and select a significant image to use to advertise your exhibition in your powerpoint presentation. The first slide of your powerpoint should include your exhibition title and main exhibition image, along with your names. This will be followed by labeled slides showing the objects selected for your exhibition.

We will go over a more detailed list of what you need to submit to D2L for this project and what you need to prepare for your in-class presentation later in the semester.

**All exhibition proposals will be due to the D2L dropbox by Friday, May 10 at noon. Presentations will then take place during our designated final exam period on Thursday, May 17 from 2:45-4:45 PM. The total project will be worth 30% of your final grade.**

### **Grading**

Attendance and participation	10%
Map Quiz	5%
Online discussion	25%
Exam	30%
Museum Exhibition	30%

The grading distribution is as follows:

A 93-100%

A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D	60-69%
F	0-59%

### **General Policies**

1. All classes begin promptly, and attendance will be taken every day. Please do not miss class. Much of the information upon which you will be tested will be derived from lecture notes, not just the text.
2. You must take the quiz, exam, and complete the D2L discussions and museum exhibition proposal to pass the course. Makeup exams and quizzes will be given only in cases of dire emergency (i.e. you were deathly ill and in the hospital) and a note from your physician is required. If you are an athlete and your game schedule conflicts with the exam schedule you must let me know by January 30 to make arrangements. I will not make allowances otherwise.
3. **All electronic gadgets are banned for use in lectures, including cell phones, laptops, iPads, etc. Please turn off your cell phones in class. Text messaging, tweeting, instant messaging, etc. during class lectures is disruptive and distracting, and is therefore prohibited. I reserve the right to ask you to leave the class if you are engaging in social activities during lecture.**
4. Chitchatting with your classmates during lecture is discourteous. I reserve the right to ask you to leave the classroom if you are disrespectful to the professor or to your classmates. Disruptive behavior, in general, will not be tolerated and may result in class expulsion.
5. The University will make reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. If you have a learning or physical challenge which requires classroom accommodation, please contact the UWSP Disability and Assistive Technologies Office with your documentation as early as possible. They will then notify me, in a confidential memo, of the accommodations that will facilitate your success in the course.
6. The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point values academic honesty and integrity. Each student has a responsibility to understand, accept, and comply with the university's standards of academic conduct, as well as policies established by the schools and colleges. Cheating, collusion, misconduct, fabrication, and plagiarism are serious offenses. Violations will not be tolerated and may result in penalties up to and including expulsion from the University.