

**SUMMER 2010**  
**EDUCATION 6950-054**  
**SILK ROAD: ACROSS EURASIA**  
**(3 credit hours; no pre- or co-requisites)**  
**SYLLABUS**

(also available at <http://ewas.us/Silk.Road.syllabus.education.htm>  
in html, pdf, and word forms)

**Instructor:** Dr. Ewa Wasilewska, Associate Professor/Lecturer,  
Dept. of Anthropology.

**Contact info.:** Office: Stewart 101. By appointment only.  
Office phone: 801-581-6251. Please call between 8:00 a.m. and  
5:00 p.m. and leave your name, phone number, and course number  
so the instructor can call you back. Telephone appointments are  
acceptable.  
Home phone: 801-596-3105. For emergencies only, unless a  
telephone appointment is arranged.  
Email: [Mruczek@AOL.com](mailto:Mruczek@AOL.com) Preferable for all contacts.  
Website: [www.ewas.us](http://www.ewas.us)

**Time:** Class meets: 06/28/2010 to 07/02/2010  
M, T, W, H, F at 9:00 a.m. – to 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** OSH 134

**Course main goal:**

Globalization is not only a relatively recent concept debated vigorously by various commentators, but also the reality that affects each and every aspect of human life. To explain all changes, interactions, interdependence, etc., in the spatial and territorial continuum is becoming increasingly difficult when, at the same time, the scientific trend is toward developing more and more highly specialized sub-disciplines of once more general fields. This poses a great challenge to educators at all levels to know it all, when this is simply impossible. Thus, this course is designed to provide its students with tools to pick and choose what they need the most to make their teaching experience not only most effective but also enjoyable. Although the material presented in this course might seem, at times, to be quite overwhelming, it is not expected that it would be memorized for the purpose of this class. The focus is on making connections and sense out of the concepts and facts involved.

**Course description:**

The most famous highway of antiquity, the Silk Road, has never lost its importance as one of the most strategic areas in the world. While many ancient cities and stops on the Silk Road no longer enjoy their days of glory, many new ones have emerged and become destinations themselves. Central Asia's enormous reserves of oil and gas make this region more than desirable for all major world powers and as volatile as it was in the past.

Though natural resources and commodities traded along this Road have changed, the importance of the heartland controlled by nomads and/or those of nomadic traditions has remained constant. “Whoever controls the Heartland controls the world” as Halford Mackinder, a founder of the so-called Geopolitics (1904, “The Heartland Theory”) stated many years ago. Since then this axiom has been adjusted and modified by others but its main message is the same: whoever controls the ancient road(s) from China, through Central Asia and the Middle East, to Europe controls the world.

This course will introduce students to this Heartland, its history and archaeology, its people and their customs, and its strategic importance in the world. The course will be richly illustrated with the unique slides and footage obtained by the instructor during her research in the area. Additional slides and films will be used to help students understand the harsh reality of the area and its enormous potential for the future development.

**Disclaimer:**

Some of the writings, lectures, films, or presentations in this course may include material that conflicts with the core beliefs of some students. Please review the syllabus carefully to see if the course is one that you are committed to taking.

**Course Objectives:**

At the end of this course students will:

1. Acquire knowledge and understanding of geopolitics of Eurasia and its historical outline focusing on the last two thousand years.
2. Be able to make basic chronological, political, economic and cultural connections between all parties involved throughout the region.
3. Be able to identify and discuss mobility issues of the region as impacting the global community.
4. Be introduced to the mosaic of people and cultures from the earliest written records to the present day.
5. Learn about origins of such important groups of people as the Indo-Europeans, Altaic, Semites, and the Chinese.
6. Acquire knowledge and understanding of great nomadic empires that controlled the world in the past.
7. Be able to identify and discuss the potential indefensibility of the region where long-lasting governments are more of an anomaly than of a rule.
8. Understand the region’s crucial position in world politics and its importance in the strategic planning of American foreign policy.

**Teaching and Learning Methods:**

This course is a combination of lectures and discussions. While students are encouraged to initiate and participate in all discussions, they must remain respectful of all classmates and the professor.

**Evaluation Methods:**

Students are expected to:

1. Attend class meetings. This is very important since this course is especially designed to explain and connect what cannot be found in any textbook in such a condense and accessible form.
2. Do their readings. Since this course is very intense – just one week of 40 hours total, glance through your readings before the meetings, but don't stress out. Then, come back to these readings when answering your exam questions.
3. Complete and turn their exam on the scheduled date of July 30, 2010. Upon a valid request, special arrangements might be made with the professor.
4. Offer their opinions and argue their points. All must be done in good and edited English.
5. NO PLAGIARISM OR CHEATING IN ANY SHAPE OR FORM (see below: "Academic Misconduct").

**Exams and Grades:**

The final exam consists of 6 take-home questions to be turned in on July 30, 2010. Each question is graded separately and counts for 10 to 20% of the final grade. Not only you will have choices, but each question is formulated in such a way that it will allow you to explore the topic in the most beneficial way to your education.

There won't be any extra-credit assignments in this class. Each exam question will be graded using the Letter-Grade scale ("A" as the highest, "E" as the lowest [no-pass] grade). The final grade will be calculated accordingly by setting up values of the Letter-Grade scale using the 4-Point scale.

<u>Letter</u> <u>Scale</u>	<u>4 Point</u> <u>Scale</u>
A	4
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1
D-	0.7
E	0

**Required Readings:**

All required articles, chapters from different books, etc., are listed under specific topics discussed during the semester. All of them are available at Marriott Library Reserve Desk through electronic reserve or as hard copies.

Do not panic! They will all make sense through the lectures and when answering your exam questions. Remember, the most important thing is to understand main concepts. The rest can always be "filled in."

## SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND DATES:

### MONDAY – June 28, 2010

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Course information. Eurasia – geography.
10:30 – 10:40 a.m.	Break
10:40 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Eurasia -- geopolitical divisions. Geopolitics. The U.S. interest in the region.
12:00 – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch break
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.	Eurasia: Defining the people. A brief introduction to genetics.
2:00 – 2:10 p.m.	Break
2:10 – 4:00 p.m.	Major groups of Central Asia and genetic implications.

### Suggested Readings pertinent to the above topics:

For introduction to geography of the area see:

Grousset, René: Introduction: The Steppe and History. In *The Empire of the Steppes. A History of Central Asia*. Rutgers University Press: New Brunswick, New Jersey, and London. 1999 (sixth edition). Pp. XXI-XXX.

Waugh, Daniel. C.: The Silk Roads and Eurasian Geography. In *Silk Road Seattle*. August 2008. <http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/geography/geography.html>

For the importance of the region in modern politics see:

Cohen, Ariel: Introduction. In *Eurasia in Balance: the U.S. and the Regional Power Shift*. Ariel Cohen, ed. Ashgate Publishing Limited, England, U.S.A. 2005. Pp. 1-8.

For the importance of the region in politics of oil and energy see:

Amineh, Mehdi P. & Henk Houweling: II. Caspian Energy: Oil and Gas resources and the Global Market. In *Central Eurasia in Global Politics. Conflicts, Security, and Development*. Mehdi Parvizi Amineh & Henk Houweling, eds. Brill: Leiden Boston. 2005. Pp. 77-92.

For introduction to genetics and connections with languages see:

Nasidze, I. et al: Close Genetic Relationship Between Semitic-speaking and Indo-European-speaking Groups in Iran. In *Annals of Human Genetics* (2008) 72. Pp. 241-252.

Renfrew, Colin: Genetics and Language in Contemporary Archaeology. In *Archaeology: The Widening Debate*. Barry Cunliffe, Wendy Davies & Colin Renfrew, eds., Oxford University Press. 2002. Pp. 43-76.

Zerjal, Tatiana et al: The Genetic Legacy of the Mongols. In *American Journal of Human Genetics*. 2003. March 72 (3). Pp. 717-721.

<http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=1180246>

An excellent website on the National Geographic Genographic Project:

<https://www3.nationalgeographic.com/genographic/>

**TUESDAY – June 29, 2010**

<b>9:00 – 10:30 a.m.</b>	Defining the people. Languages and scripts.
<b>10:30 – 10: 40 a.m.</b>	Break
<b>10:40 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</b>	Logographic nature of early scripts and their transition.
<b>12:00 – 12:30 p.m.</b>	Lunch break
<b>12:30 – 2:00 p.m.</b>	Connecting points in the history of the region (Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia, Mongolia, and China).
<b>2:00 – 2:10 p.m.</b>	Break
<b>2:10 – 4:00 p.m.</b>	Connecting points in the history of the region (Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia, Mongolia, and China). Cont.

**Suggested Readings pertinent to the above topics:**

For an overview of ethnic groups living in Central Asia see:

Rall, Ted: Tajiks Don't Live in Tajikistan. In *Silk Road to Ruin. Is Central Asia the New Middle East?* NBM. 2006. Pp. 97-108.

For understanding of importance and principles underlying writing see:

Robertson, John. S.: The possibility and actuality of writing. In *The First Writing. Script Invention as History and Process*. Houston, Stephen D. ed. Cambridge University Press. 2004. Pp. 16-38.

For basic information about and lists of different language groups used in Eurasia browse through

<http://www.krysstal.com/langfams.html> (has info. about how they work)

<http://www.uoregon.edu/~delancey/courses/families.html>

<http://www.ethnologue.com> (with maps)

<http://www.mnsu.edu/emuseum/cultural/language>

For basic information about various scripts, etc., see: <http://www.ancientscripts.com>

For classification of and bibliography on different languages see:

MultiTree: A Digital Library of Language Relationships.

<http://multitree.linguistlist.org/search>

To just have an idea how complex and complicated the history of the area is, see, for example:

Chaliand, Gerard: The Military Fronts of the Altaic Nomads (Fourth Century B.C. – Twelfth Century A.D.). In *From Mongolia to the Danube. Nomadic Empires*. Transaction Publishers: New Brunswick and London. 2004. Pp. 19-58.

For an interesting timeline of the world history see:

<http://www.fsmitha.com/timeline.html>

**WEDNESDAY – June 30, 2010**

<b>9:00 – 10:30 a.m.</b>	Defining nomadism.
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<b>10:30 – 10: 40 a.m.</b>	Break
<b>10:40 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</b>	Animals.
<b>12:00 – 12:30 p.m.</b>	Lunch break
<b>12:30 – 2:00 p.m.</b>	Political organization.
<b>2:00 – 2:10 p.m.</b>	Break
<b>2:10 – 4:00 p.m.</b>	Terrorizing China: the Hsiung-nu

**Suggested Readings pertinent to the above topics:**

Barfield, Thomas J: 1. Introduction (pp. 1-18). 4. The Good Shepherds: Pastoral Tribes of Southwest Asia (pp. 93-130). 5. The Horse Riders: Nomads of the Eurasian Steppe (pp. 131-179). In *The Nomadic Alternative*. Prentice Hall. London. 1993.

Castillo, Jorge Silva: Nomadism through the ages. In *A Companion to the Ancient Near East*. Daniel C. Snell ed. Malden MA: Blackwell. 2005. Pp. 126-140.

Renfrew, Colin: Pastoralism and Interaction: Some Introductory Questions. In *Ancient Interactions: East and West in Eurasia*. Katie Boyle, Colin Renfrew & Marsha Levine, eds. McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research. Cambridge. 2002. Pp. 1-9.

**THURSDAY – July 1, 2010**

<b>9:00 – 10:30 a.m.</b>	Emperor Shi Huangdi, unification of China, and the Great Wall.
<b>10:30 – 10: 40 a.m.</b>	Break
<b>10:40 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</b>	Silk Road.
<b>12:00 – 12:30 p.m.</b>	Lunch break
<b>12:30 – 2:00 p.m.</b>	Trade.
<b>2:00 – 2:10 p.m.</b>	Break
<b>2:10 – 4:00 p.m.</b>	The journey.

**Suggested Readings pertinent to the above topics:**

Barfield, Thomas: Steppe Empires, China, and the Silk Route: Nomads as a Forces in International Trade Politics. In *Nomads in the Sedentary World*. Anatoly M. Khazanov and André Wink, eds. Curzon Press. 2001. Pp. 234-249.

Boulnois, Luce: Ch.1. Serica (pp. 33-45). Ch. 2. The Land of Silk. (pp. 47-58). In *Silk Road. Monks, Warriors & Merchants on the Silk Road*. W.W. Norton & Company, Inc.: New York. 2006.

Chazan, Michael: Shang China. In *“World Prehistory and Archaeology: Pathways through Time.”* Pearson Education. 2008. Pp. 350-355.

Di Cosmo, Nicola. Those Who Draw the Bow. The Rise of the Hsiung-nu Nomadic Empire and the Political Unification of the Nomads. In *Ancient China and Its Enemies*.

*The Rise of Nomadic Power in East Asian History*. Cambridge University Press. 2002. Pp. 161-205.

Franck, Irene M. & David M. Brownstone: On the Road. In *The Silk Road: A History*. Facts on File Publications: New York. 1986. Pp. 7-32.

Franck, Irene M. & David M. Brownstone: 8. A Second Flowering (pp. 185-216). 9. The Age of the Great Khans (pp. 217-235). 10. Pax Mongolica (pp. 237-262). 11. Cities in the Sand (pp. 263-280). In *The Silk Road: A History*. Facts on File Publications: New York. 1986.

Check also: <http://www.ess.uci.edu/~oliver/silk.html> and <http://www.chinaknowledge.de/History/Myth/shang.html>

### **FRIDAY – July 2, 2010**

<b>9:00 – 10:30 a.m.</b>	The Altaic Empires of the Steppe: Challenging the “border” phenomenon.
<b>10:30 – 10:40 a.m.</b>	Break
<b>10:40 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.</b>	The Altaic Empires of the Steppe: Challenging the “border” phenomenon. Cont.
<b>12:00 – 12:30 p.m.</b>	Lunch break
<b>12:30 – 2:00 p.m.</b>	Monotheism, henotheism, and polytheism of the Heartland. Ancient traditions and modern delivery.
<b>2:00 – 2:10 p.m.</b>	Break
<b>2:10 – 4:00 p.m.</b>	Monotheism, henotheism, and polytheism of the Heartland. Ancient traditions and modern delivery. Cont.

### **Suggested Readings pertinent to the above topics:**

Grousset, René: The Ephthalite Huns. The Huns in Europe: Attila (pp. 69-79). 2. The Early Middle Ages: T'u-chüeh, Uigur, and Khitan (pp. 80-140). II. The Jenghiz Khananite Mongols (pp. 189-325). 11. Tamerlane (pp. 409-465). In *The Empire of the Steppes. A History of Central Asia*. Rutgers University Press: New Brunswick, New Jersey, and London. 1999 (sixth edition).

Foltz, Richard C.: 2. Religion and Trade in Ancient Eurasia (pp. 23-360). 3. Buddhism and the Silk Road (pp. 37-59). 4. A Refuge of Heretics: Nestorians and Manicheans on the Silk Road (pp. 61-87). The Islamization of the Silk Road. (pp. 89-109). In *Religions of the Silk Road. Overland Trade and Cultural exchange from Antiquity to the Fifteenth Century*. St. Martin's Press: New York.

Frye, Richard N.: Zoroaster's Cult. In *The Heritage of Central Asia. From Antiquity to the Turkish Expansion*. Markus Wiener Publishers: Princeton. 1998. Pp. 67-74.

Rall, Ted: Karakoram Highway 1999 (pp. 117-138). Radicals, Repression & Revolution (pp. 139-162). *Silk Road to Ruin. Is Central Asia the New Middle East?* NBM. 2006.

**HIGHLY RECOMMENDED READING:**

Rall, Ted: Silk Road to Ruin. Is Central Asia the New Middle East? NBM. 2006.

**ADA Statement:**

“The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability Services, 162 Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). CDS will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations.” ([www.hr.utah.edu/oeo/ada/guide/faculty](http://www.hr.utah.edu/oeo/ada/guide/faculty))

**Faculty Responsibilities:**

“All students are expected to maintain professional behavior in the classroom setting, according to the Student Code, spelled out in the Student Handbook. Students have specific rights in the classroom as detailed in Article III of the Code. The Code also specifies proscribed conduct (Article XI) that involves cheating on tests, plagiarism, and/or collusion, as well as fraud, theft, etc. Students should read the Code carefully and know they are responsible for the content. According to Faculty Rules and Regulations, it is the faculty responsibility to enforce responsible classroom behaviors, and I will do so, beginning with verbal warnings and progressing to dismissal from and class and a failing grade. Students have the right to appeal such action to the Student Behavior Committee.” ([www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-12-4.html](http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual/8/8-12-4.html))

**Academic Misconduct:**

**Please familiarize yourself with the University of Utah CODE OF STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (“STUDENT CODE”) at <http://www.admin.utah.edu/ppmanual//8/8-10.html>**

**The following is an excerpt from this CODE explaining specific actions that won’t be tolerated in this class.**

“2. “Academic misconduct” includes, but is not limited to, cheating, misrepresenting one's work, inappropriately collaborating, plagiarism, and fabrication or falsification of information, as defined further below. It also includes facilitating academic misconduct by intentionally helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic misconduct.

a. “Cheating” involves the unauthorized possession or use of information, materials, notes, study aids, or other devices in any academic exercise, or the unauthorized communication with another person during such an exercise. Common examples of cheating include, but are not limited to, copying from another student's examination, submitting work for an in-class exam that has been prepared in advance, violating rules governing the administration of exams, having another person take an exam, altering one's work after the work has been returned and before resubmitting it, or violating any rules relating to academic conduct of a course or program.

b. Misrepresenting one's work includes, but is not limited to, representing material prepared by another as one's own work, or submitting the same work in more than one course without prior permission of both faculty members.

c. "Plagiarism" means the intentional unacknowledged use or incorporation of any other person's work in, or as a basis for, one's own work offered for academic consideration or credit or for public presentation. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, representing as one's own, without attribution, any other individual's words, phrasing, ideas, sequence of ideas, information or any other mode or content of expression.

d. "Fabrication" or "falsification" includes reporting experiments or measurements or statistical analyses never performed; manipulating or altering data or other manifestations of research to achieve a desired result; falsifying or misrepresenting background information, credentials or other academically relevant information; or selective reporting, including the deliberate suppression of conflicting or unwanted data. It does not include honest error or honest differences in interpretations or judgments of data and/or results."