

HIST21242

# Silk Roads: Eurasian Connections from the Mongols to Manilla, 1200-1800

Zoom meeting on Wednesday 14 June at 2pm: <https://zoom.us/j/98017203485>



## What will we study?

The place of Asia at the heart of the world economy is far from a modern phenomenon. By 1200, the Song Dynasty oversaw an economy driven by joint-stock companies, overseen by guilds, powered by coal, and sending goods like porcelain, silk and iron to destinations across Asia. Such economic success contributed to the development and expansion of trade routes, the movement of people, and the exchange of ideas that would come to define Eurasian connections for centuries to come. By 1800, these links were still influential and had expanded further still through maritime routes tying Eurasia further into the economies of Europe, Africa and America.

In this module, we will use the idea of the “Silk Road” as a starting point for asking important questions about the origins of our globalised world, from the formation of empires to the impact of religion and practices of diplomacy.

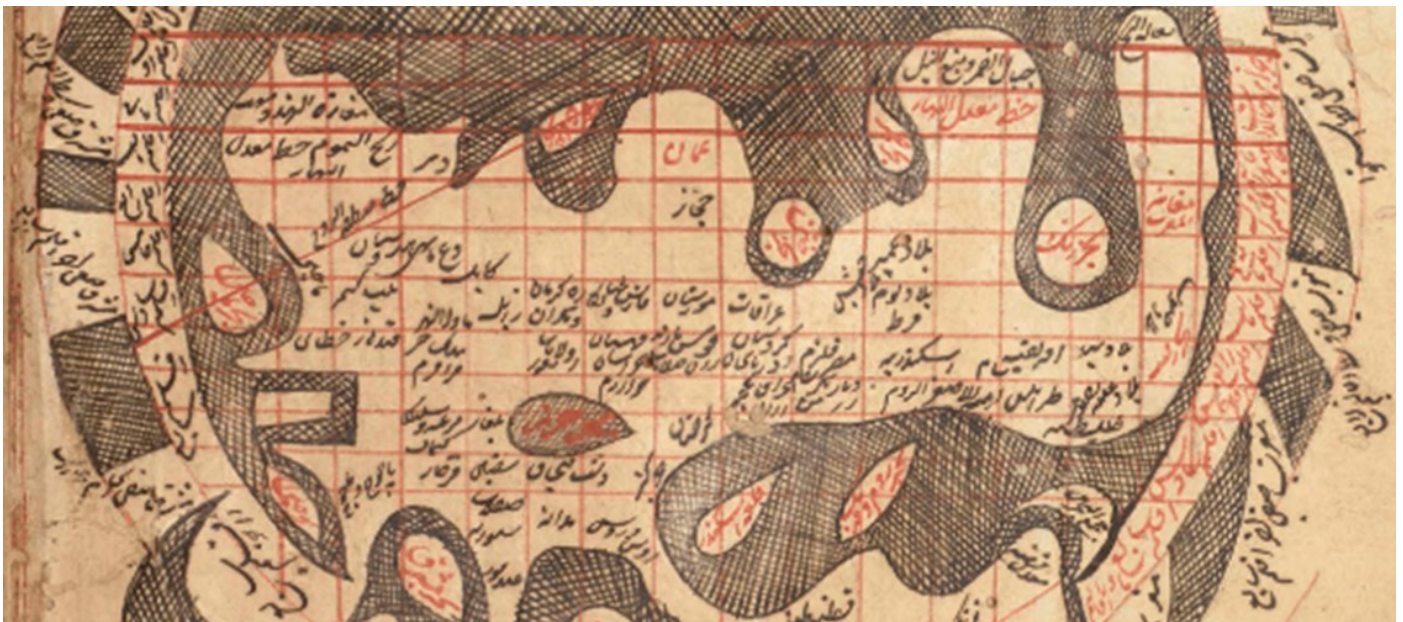
## Methods of Assessment:

Essay (3000 words) —60%

Presentation (3 minutes per presenter) —40%

## Syllabus:

1. Introduction
2. China and alternative capitalisms (c. 1200-1400)
3. Eurasia and empires of the Silk Road (c. 1200-1400)
4. Anatolia, political religion and legal empire (c. 1300-1500)
5. The Eastern Mediterranean, trading empires and the terminus of the silk road (c. 1300-1500)
6. The Middle East, diaspora and empires of the Islamic World (1400-1600)
7. The Indian Ocean World, diplomacy and cultural exchange (1400-1600)
8. South Asia and the material worlds of the silk road (1500-1700)
9. South-East Asia, maritime states and Eurasian diasporas (1500-1700)
10. The Pacific and the re-development of new silk routes (1600-1800)
11. Conclusions: stability and change in the Eurasian World



## Indicative reading:

- Janet Abu-Lughod, *Before European Hegemony: The World System, 1250-1350*
- Mary Favereau, *The Horde: How The Mongols Changed the World*
- Peter Frankopan, *The Silk Roads: A New History of the World*
- William McNeill, *A World History*
- Sanjay Subrahmanyam, *Explorations in Connected History: Mughals and Franks*
- Kaveh Yazdani and Dilip Menon, *Capitalisms: Towards a Global History*

## Further information:

If you have any enquiries about this module, please get in touch with:

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