

HIST 487/587 The Song and Yuan Dynasties CRN 23114/23115

260 CON

Instructor: Prof. Ina Asim

Office location: 317 McKenzie Hall

Online office hours: T: 1:30 - 3:30 pm through Canvas Conference (and by appointment)

Email: inaasim@uoregon.edu

Email policy: I'll answer emails as soon as possible, at the latest within 48 hours. Emails that request information which can be found on the course website will refer to the respective section on Canvas. Please always first refer to the class website.

University, department, and course policies

Learning Accommodation

The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that result in barriers to your participation, please notify me in the first week of class. You may also wish to contact the Accessible Education Center in 164 Oregon Hall at 346-1155.

General Inquiries: uoac@uoregon.edu Alternative Testing: aectesting@uoregon.edu

Academic integrity

Presenting work by someone else as your own is considered plagiarism. Cases of plagiarism will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Please read the policies for plagiarism at the University of

Oregon: [http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/Links to an external site.](http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/Links_to_an_external_site)

UO campus safety

Although we are all asked to shelter in place we have to get out at some time. Get home safely if you are out at night. There are call boxes on campus to notify Public Safety in case of an emergency.

You can download the map with the outdoor call box locations here: <https://police.uoregon.edu/e-phones>

Grade policies of the History Department

A+: Work of unusual distinction. Rarely awarded.

A: Work that distinguishes itself by the excellence of its grasp of the material and the precision and insight of its argument. Well executed and reasonably free of errors.

B: Work that satisfies main criteria of the assignment and demonstrates command of the material, but does not achieve the level of excellence that characterizes work of A quality.

C: Work that demonstrates a rudimentary grasp of the material and satisfies at least some of the assigned criteria reasonably well.

D: Work that demonstrates a poor grasp of the material and/or is executed with little regard for college standards, but which exhibits some engagement with the material.

F: Work that is weak in every aspect, demonstrating a basic misunderstanding of the material and/or disregards for the assigned question.

Course Requirements for Undergraduate Students

1. **Regular attendance and participation** in class discussions. Attendance alone is insufficient! Active participation in class is required. **20%**

2. **One paper** of 8+ pages incl. 1 page bibliography, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt., **printed on paper**, no emails!, due in class on **Wednesday, March 9 (Week 10)**. Topic options will be discussed during the first class session. **20%**.

On **01/10 (Monday, Week 3)** you will hand in the title of your paper, a paragraph explaining the reason(s) for your choice of topic and what you expect to learn by writing the paper, and three sources that you plan to use when writing the paper. I will return your proposed topics with comments and bibliographic suggestions on Monday, 01/17.

A good guide to writing history papers are

Anthony Brundage, *Going to the Sources. A Guide to Historical Research and Writing*. Wheeling, Illinois 2002 (and further editions)

<https://archive.org/details/goingtosources00brun> **(Links to an external site.)**or

Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*. Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martin 2010.

https://archive.org/details/isbn_9780312535032 **(Links to an external site.)**

The transliteration system used in this course is PINYIN. Do not use other systems (unless you quote an author who used another transliteration system in her/his work). A table of Pinyin and Wade-Giles is posted in a separate Canvas module.

3. **Short presentation** (precisely 5 minutes) of the most important points related to your paper topic. **20%**

4. **Midterm exam 20%**

5. **Concluding Quiz 20%**

There are no make-up quizzes or exams without a medical certificate.

A note on your paper:

The paper has to be argumentative (discuss your topic, do not only describe or summarize it), should be well organized and has to include the following:

1. Your name and title of the paper.

2. Introduction and your thesis statement in which you explain the historical context of your topic, the major points you cover in your paper and a statement explaining your thesis or purpose of your research paper. The introduction should be of approximately half to one page in length.

3. Main body: present your findings to support your thesis statement

4. Conclusion(s): briefly restate your thesis, summarize your arguments and explain why you have come to a particular conclusion. The conclusions are an important part of your paper. Saying that something is “so interesting” is not a conclusion. But beware of broad generalizations that you cannot prove.

5. Bibliography: this is an important part of your paper and should include all academic sources. For an academic paper only academic websites (such as university and educational websites like those ending in .edu) are acceptable. The content and terminology of websites may be inaccurate and non-academic. No Wikipedia please! If in doubt, please ask when handing in your draft.

6. Page numbers!

7. Print and staple all pages together. No emailed papers please.

The paper is due in week 10 (Monday, March 07) in order to avoid delays and collisions with preparations for your finals. Papers handed in late will be accepted only with documented medical certificate.

All quotations and paraphrases must be documented properly. This includes web pages you might plan to consult. The complete URL web address of any web page used is mandatory. For correct citations please follow the guidelines provided on <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/citing/index.html> **Links to an external site.**

Readings

The following course books are available at the Duck Store;

1. Dieter Kuhn, *The Age of Confucian Rule. The Song Transformation of China*. Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press 2009.
2. Morris Rossabi, *Khubilai Khan. His Life and Times*. Berkeley: University of California Press 1988.

Additional readings required for graduate students:

Two works by historians of the Song to be selected from the bibliography in the respective Canvas module.

Further readings required for all class participants will be posted on this website under "Assigned Readings" and announced in class videos.

Course Requirements for Graduate Students

Each student will prepare a three to five page, double-spaced, book review of each of the two books assigned to her or him. Reviews are due on the dates given in the course outline. In your reviews you should demonstrate a command of the content of the book and the sources the author relies on. Explain the objective of the main thesis developed in the book and the methodology applied by the author. Consult as many professional reviews in relevant periodicals for Asian Studies (*Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*, *Journal of Asian Studies*, *T'oung Pao* etc.) as possible but cite and acknowledge wherever you refer to them. Reading reviews by other authors will help you to place the book in its historical context and guides you to express your own observations.

As a general outline when preparing the review you can follow the pattern given below. Add other important information that will enhance the understanding of the reader of your review whenever further aspects of the book need to be covered.

1. Bibliographical data
2. Summary of content / summary of author's argument
3. Sources and methodology
4. Most valuable contribution to the topic
5. Most important shortcomings and questions that are left unanswered
6. Your suggestions (for comparisons with other works by the same author/ other authors; further reading; improvements for future editions; regarding the audience of the book etc.)

Course Outline

Week 1

01/03 M 1. Introduction; Chronological survey of political and military events

01/05 W 2. The Tang-Song transition and China's neighbors (Tanner, 167-200 in assigned readings)

Week 2

01/10 M 3. Model emperors, the central government and the rise of the scholar-officials (Kuhn, 1-70)

01/12 W 4. Religion and Philosophy (Kuhn, 99-119)

Week 3

01/17 M 5. MLK Jr Day; no class

01/19 W 6. Government Education (Kuhn, 120-137) Civil Service Examinations

(additional readings: Thomas H.C. Lee, 'Sung Schools and Education before Chu Hsi'; Tu Wei-ming, 'The Sung Confucian Idea of Education: A Background Understanding', in Wm. Theodore de Bary, John W. Chaffee, *Neo-Confucian Education: The Formative Stage*. Berkeley: UCP 1989, 105-136; 139-150).

Week 4

01/24 M 7. Life cycle rituals and the role of women (Kuhn, 138-159; additional readings: Francesca Bray, *Technology and Gender. Fabrics of Power in Later Imperial China*. Berkeley: UCP 1997, 183-217. Stephen Owen, 'The Snares of memory', in *Remembrances. The Experience of the Past in Classical Chinese Literature*. Cambridge, MA: HUP 1986, 80-98.)

01/26 W 8. Literati Culture: Literature, fine arts, and the quest for scientific investigation (Kuhn, 160-186; additional readings: Alfreda Murck, *Poetry and Poetry and Painting in Song China. The Subtle Art of Dissent*. Cambridge, MA: HUP 2000, 28-50.)
Review 1 due (graduate students only)

Week 5

01/31 M 9. Life in the cities – Life in the countryside: 1. Kaifeng and Hangzhou (Kuhn, 187-212; 251-275)

02/02 W 10. Life in the cities – Life in the countryside: 2. The Economy (Kuhn, 213-250)

Week 6

02/07 M 11. Women in the Song Dynasty

02/09 W 12. Important inventions of the Song ; Medicine in the Song (Readings on website)

Week 7

02/14 M 13. Trade Connections Between Song China and Japan

02/16 W 14. More on inventions of the Song, literati culture and a few biographical notes

Week 8

02/21 M 15. Chronological Survey of Political and Military Events of the Yuan Dynasty

Khubilai's way to power (Rossabi, 1-52); How to govern China? (Rossabi, 53-152)

02/23 W 16. The arts under Mongol rule: Visual arts, drama, and popular novels (Rossabi 153-176; additional readings: J.J. Crump, *Chinese Theater in the Days of Kublai Khan*; ch. 1, 3-30.)

Review 2 due (graduate students only)

Week 9

02/28 M 17. Foreigners under Yuan Rule (additional readings: Morris Rossabi, 'The Muslims in the Early Yuan Dynasty'; Herbert Franke: 'Tibetans in Yuan China', ch. IV "Foreigners in China" in John D. Langlois, Jr., *China under Mongol Rule*. Princeton UP 1981, pp. 257-328)

03/02 W 18. The Mongol Conquest of the Southern Song (video)

Week 10

**03/07 M 19. Film: Storm from the East; review for concluding quiz
ALL PAPERS DUE**

**03/09 W 20. The decline of Mongol rule
(Rossabi, 177-231)**