Global Asia

Fall 2018

Overview and Part One
Week 1
Introducing Global Asia
What is Global Asia?

Asia is a space of perpetual globalization, which has shape all its regions, localities, cultures, economies, empires, states, and nations, from ancient times to the present. Global Asia is an exploration of that very long-term process of globalization; it provides a method for decolonizing modernity, which now appears to originate in The West. When Europeans sailed across the Atlantic and launched modern globalization, they were actually heading to India, to acquire Asian products and participate in Asian spaces of globalization, which had expanded overland and overseas for two millennia, embracing Europe through the Mediterranean and Black Sea.

This course explores the very long-term spatial expansion of human mobility and territorial order -- from ancient times to the present -- that nurtured the modern world through Asia’s globalization. We have two weekly lectures presentations and one weekly discussion section. Our readings, writing assignments, presentations, and discussions follow the travels of merchants, missionaries, nomads, armies, writers, and many others who have shaped cultural, political, and economic systems around Asia.

We begin with ancient Greece, Persia, India, and China, where empires launched globalization during the long first millennium, when Asia’s circulatory system connected the Pacific and Mediterranean across the Asian steppe and around the Indian Ocean. Around mid-term, we arrive in 1206, when Genghis Khan launched a new phase of overland imperial expansion and mobile connectivity that brought Russia, Europe, and Africa more firmly into Asian circuits of mobility. The last third of the term, we follow trends after 1492, when Iberians launched a sequence of seaborne empires in Asia that made Asian port cities critical nodes in global networks of modern imperialism, capitalism, and nationalism. We end the term with a consideration of Asia’s present-day globalization.
Asia's Circulatory System

1. Fertile Crescent.
2. Indian Ocean Routes.
3. Silk Road.
4. India.
5. China.
6. Bay of Bengal
Introducing the staff

Instructor: David Ludden, History

Assistant Instructors

Matyas Mervay, History
Elvan Sahin, History
Angelica Engle, Russian and Slavic Studies
Books to buy ... but much of the reading will be online

**Books to Buy in the NYU Bookstore** (Prices are from Amazon, as listed 7 July 2017)

- Richard H. Davis, *Global India circa 100CE: South Asia in Early World History*, Association for Asian Studies, 2009. $7.10
PUT THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR

Tues.  4 Sept. first day classes

Mon.  8 Oct. Fall Break.

Tues  9 Oct. Legislative Day, No Class

Friday  12 Oct. Paper #1 Due

Mon.  6 Nov. Midterm grade deadline

Friday  16 Nov. Paper #2 Due

Thurs.  22 Nov. Thanksgiving. No Class..

Fri.  14 Dec. Last day NYU Fall 2018 classes. Paper #3 Due
ATTENDANCE POLICY

Each week includes three meetings: two lectures (T, Th) and one discussion section (Fri). Attendance is required at all meetings. Attendance will be recorded and medically unexcused absences will be penalized.

Students who plan to take advantage of NYU’s policy of permitting absence to observe religious holidays must inform their instructors in the first week of classes. They must also make suitable arrangements for extra work to compensate for absence. Class participation is essential and will be taken into account in calculating final grades.
ASSIGNMENTS

THERE ARE NO EXAMS IN THIS COURSE.

READING

Readings must be done before discussion sections each week. Participation grades and weekly writing assignment grades will depend on demonstrated understanding of the reading and the lectures.

If you do not understand readings, or have any questions related to the course, talk to your instructors in discussion sections on Fridays and/or attend their office hours.
Grades are based primarily on writing assignments

Instructions for all assignments will be provided only in lectures, on Tuesdays. They will not be posted on the website in advance of the due date.

All writing assignments are due in hard copy in discussion sections on Fridays. All assignments must be handed in person, in hard copy, to the instructor in each student’s discussion section. No email submissions will be accepted.

There are two kinds of required writing assignments. All writing assignments must be double-spaced with one inch margins:

1. Six 1-page Weeklies. Students must complete six weekly 1-page writing assignments based on reading and lectures. These weekly assignments are due at the start of discussion section.

2. Three 5-page Papers. Students must write three five-page essays, based on all available course material, under instructions provided in lectures and discussion sections. Deadline extensions are not available; lateness is allowed for the first two papers, but not the last. Lateness is penalized proportionately.

The schedule of writing assignments appears in the COURSE SCHEDULE below.
Global Asia. Part One.
The origins of globalization.

Part One: Asia’s Circulatory System: The Long First Millennium … Map reference Prezi

Week 1. Sept 4-6. Introductions and Environments. Read: Curtin, Cross-Cultural Trade, 16pp. Do homework polls that will arrive via NYU Classes email.
