CH/TH 646 Religions on the Silk Road: From Antiquity to the Present
Global Education Course in Taraz, Kazakhstan
BTI summer workshop course
May 24-June 11, 2012
Professor: Todd M. Johnson, Ph.D.
With Rodney L. Petersen, Ph.D., BTI Executive Director

Course description
This course explores the history of religions on the Silk Road from antiquity to the present examining the impact of trade, translation, and interaction of world religions from Venice, Italy to Chang'an, China. The course will be based on lectures, reading, visiting historic sites, and discussions of the texts, art, music and film related to religions on the Silk Road.

Onsite benefits
The course will be held in two locations on the ancient Silk Road. For the first few days we will be located in Uzbekistan near three of the most important trade centers in world history, Khiva, Bukhara and Samarkand. For the bulk of the course we will be located in Taraz, Kazakhstan, which recently celebrated its 2,000th anniversary! Taraz is near other Silk Road sites such as Otrar and Turkistan. We will also visit Talas, Kirgizstan, the site of an epic battle in 751 between the Arabs and the Chinese.

Learning Outcomes
Students who participate in "Religions on the Silk Road" will:

1. Gain a basic understanding of the history of each of the major world religions.
2. Study the impact of Silk Road trade on the spread and development of the world's religions.
3. Become familiar with the cartography and geography of the Silk Road.
4. Understand the dynamics of cultural and religious exchange.
5. Begin to discern the current situation on the Silk Road and its implication for the future of trade and religion.

Required Texts and CD
Beckwith, Christopher I., *Empires of the Silk Road: A History of Central Eurasia from the Bronze Age to the Present*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009. 472 pages
Foltz, Richard C., *Religions of the Silk Road: Premodern Patterns of Globalization.* Second Edition, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010. 190 pages
Simpfendorfer, Ben, *The New Silk Road: How a Rising Arab World is Turning Away from the West and Rediscovering China*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009, 256 pages.
Ma, Yo-Yo, *Silk Road Journeys*, (Compact Disc) Washington DC: Smithsonian Folkways, 2002.
ten Grotenhuis, Elizabeth, ed. *Along the Silk Road*. Washington DC: Smithsonian Institution, 2002. 144 pages

Whitfield, Susan, *Life Along the Silk Road.* Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1999. 242 pages

DVD
The Silk Road: An Ancient World of Adventure. 12 episodes. 660 minutes.
This is the best and most detailed research documentary on the "Silk Road" from historic and geographic viewpoints. It was a joint venture between NHK (Japan) and China Central TV, which took 10 years and $50 million to complete.

Course Requirements
Students should be aware of the weight of class participation in the final grade. Students are expected to keep up with all assignments, and to come prepared for each class discussion session.
1. Travel journal (30%)
2. Two book reviews (800 words for each, 30%, the Beckwith and Whitfield books)
3. One 3,000-word essay on religions on the Silk Road (40%)

Abbreviated Itinerary

May 24-25	Fly Boston to Khiva
May 26	Khiva
May 27	Khiva
May 28	Khiva
May 29	Fly Khiva to Taraz
May 30	Taraz Silk Road museum
May 31	Taraz
June 1	Tour of NGOs in Shimkent
June 2	Tour Otrar, return to Taraz
June 3	*Local church in Taraz*
June 4	Taraz
June 5	Taraz
June 6	Taraz
June 7	Taraz
June 8	Taraz
June 9	Farewell Dinner in Taraz
June 10-11	Fly Almaty to Boston

Lecture schedule
(Beckwith and Simpfendorfer to be read before the trip)
Lecture 1
Introduction: Major Themes
Readings: Foltz, Chapter One, Grotenhuis, Introduction, Whitfield, Introduction

Lecture 2
Religions and Trade on the Silk Road
Readings: Foltz, Chapter Two, Whitfield, The Horseman's Tale

Lecture 3
Buddhists on the Silk Road
Readings: Foltz, Chapter Three, Whitfield, The Monk's Tale, Two readings on Buddhism

Lecture 4
Manichaeans on the Silk Road
Readings: Foltz, Chapter Four, p. 73-87, Whitfield, The Merchant's Tale, Two readings on Mani

Lecture 5
Film discussion: *In This World*
Readings: Grotenhuis, Chapter One, "A Conversation with Yo-Yo Ma"

Lecture 6
Christians on the Silk Road
Readings: Foltz, Chapter Four, p.61-73, Whitfield, The Princess's Tale, Grotenhuis, Chapter Two, "A Melodic Migration in Northwest China" Two readings on Christians

Lecture 7
Muslims on the Silk Road
Readings: Foltz, Chapter Five, Whitfield, The Widow's Tale, Grotenhuis, Chapter Three, "Fashioned from Fiber", Two readings on Muslims

Lecture 8
Zoroastrians on the Silk Road
Readings: Grotenhuis, Chapter Four, "Astrology and a Japanese Star Mandala", Whitfield, The Soldier's Tale, Two readings on Zoroastrians

Lecture 9
Jews, Hindus, Sikhs, and Chinese religions on the Silk Road
Readings: Foltz, Chapter Seven, Whitfield, The Nun's Tale, Grotenhuis, Chapter Six, "Traveling Technologies"

Lecture 10
Mongols on the Silk Road
Readings: Foltz, Chapter Six, Whitfield, The Official's Tale, Grotenhuis, Chapter Five, "Sacred Sites along the Silk Road"

Lecture 11
Art on the Silk Road
Readings: Whitfield, The Artist's Tale, Grotenhuis, Chapter Seven, "Iranian Cinema", Two readings on Art

Lecture 12
Music on the Silk Road
Readings: Whitfield, The Courtesan's Tale, Two readings on Music

Lecture 13
The Silk Road Today, Two readings on the Silk Road Today

Additional readings

Adshead, S.A.M., *Central Asia in World History*. London: Macmillan, 1993.
Baum, The Church of the East
Burn, Barbara, ed., *Monks and Merchants: Silk Road Treasures from Northwest China*. New York: Asia Society, 2001.
Dawson, Christopher, ed., *Mission to Asia*. New York: Harper Torchbooks, 1955.
Foltz, Richard, *Spirituality in the Land of the Nobles*.
Fyre, Richard N. *The Heritage of Central Asia: From Antiquity to the Turkish Expansion*. Princeton: Marcus Wiener, 1996.
Klimkeit, Christianity in Asia before 1500
Levin, Theodore. *The Hundred Thousand Fools of God: Musical Travels in Central Asia*. (with CD). Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1996.
Liu, Xinru, *Silk and Religion*. New Delhi: Oxford India, 1996.
Moffett, Samuel, A History of Christianity in Asia, Vols 1 & 2,
Muqi, Che. *The Silk Road: Past and Present*. Beijing: Foreign Languages Press, 1989.
Nebenzahl, Kenneth. *Mapping the Silk Road and Beyond*. London: Phaidon, 2004
Rice, Tamara Talbot. *Ancient Arts of Central Asia*. New York: Praeger, 1965.
Vainker, Shelagh. *Chinese Silk: A Cultural History*. London: British Museum Press, 2004.
Vollmer, John. *Silk Roads, China Ships*. Toronto: Royal Ontario Museum, 1983.
Wriggens, Sally Hovey. *The Silk Road Journey with Xuanzang*. Boulder, CO: Westview, 2004.