

East Asian Studies 314: The Mongols

Syllabus - Spring 2006

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Textbooks

1. *The Mongols and the West*, by Peter Jackson (abbreviated MW)
2. Also readings from *Encyclopedia of Mongolia and the Mongols* (abbreviated EM), which is on reserve at Wilson Library

Class Grade

Each day the lecture will focus on around a particular question, listed on your syllabus. Your midterm and final, both counting half of your total grade, will consist of a select number of these questions. You will need blue books for both tests.

Course Goals

This course covers the Mongols from the earliest times to the present. The primary focus is on the rise of Chinggis Khan, the formation of the Mongol World Empire, and the impact of the Mongol conquests on the peoples of Eurasia.

Schedule

Week 1	
	Introduction
	The earliest Mongol and other East Asian pastoral tribes. Read xerox page from EM (the encyclopedia on reserve) chronology on pastoralists (p. 630).
	Question: What were the earliest known Mongolic tribes and states?
	NO class. I'll be in Toronto at the <i>International Linguistics Conference</i> (http://www.ilaword.org/index.html)
Week 2	
	Read MW (our textbook) pp. 8-16.
	Q: What was the political and social situation in Europe on the eve of the Mongol invasion?
	Read MW pp. 16-25. Read EM article on the Kitans, pp. 316-19.
	Q: Who were the Kitans and the Karakitai?
	Read EM article on the Qipchaqs, pp. 455-6

		Q: What was the political and ethnic composition of the steppes in the 12th century?
		Read EM article on Chinggis Khan, pp. 97-103.
		Q: Describe in detail the milestones in the life of Chinggis Khan?
Week 3		
		Read MW pp. 34-40.
		Q: What was the political and social situation among Mongols in the 12th century?
		Read MW pp. 40-44.
		Q: Describe the conquests of Chinggis Khan in North China and Central Asia during 1218-27.
		Read MW pp. 44-49.
		Q: Describe the Mongols' attitudes toward religion, as well as the religions they were in contact with.
		Read MW pp. 58-63.
		Q: Describe the Mongol conquest of Kievan Rus and the Pontic Steppes, 1236-40.
Week 4		
		Read MW pp. 63-71.
		Q: Describe the Mongol invasion of Europe, 1240-41.
		Read MW pp. 71-75.
		Q: Discuss the various reasons put forward for the Mongol departure from Central Europe.
		Read MW pp. 87-97.
		Q: Describe the responses of Christian kingdoms to the Mongols.
		Read MW pp. 97-105.
		Q: Describe the position of Christianity within the Mongol Empire.
Week 5		

	Read MW pp. 113-123.
	Q: Describe the Mongol invasion of the Middle East.
	Read MW pp. 123-128.
	Q: Discuss the eruption of civil wars among Chinggis Khan's grandsons.
	Review
	MIDTERM
Week 6	
	Read MW pp. 135-153.
	Q: Compare and contrast how the Mongol viewed westerners with how the Western world viewed the Mongols.
	Read MW pp. 165-186.
	Q: Describe the politics and diplomacy of the Il-Khans in the Middle East.
	Read MW pp. 196-213.
	Q: Describe patterns of war and peace between the Golden Horde and its Christian neighbors.
	Read MW pp. 213-220.
	Q: What are the reasons for the decline of the Golden Horde?
Week 7	
	Read MW pp. 235-248.
	Q: Discuss the career of Tamerlane and the effect of his conquests.
	Read MW pp. 256-279.
	Q: Discuss the Christian mission to the Mongols and assess its effects.
	Read MW pp. 290-315.
	Q: What effect did the Mongol Empire have on Eurasian trade and contact?
	Read MW pp. 329-350, pp. 358-362.

		Q: Describe the Mongol experience with religion.
Week 8		
		Read EM article on Golden Horde, pp. 201-8.
		Q: Discuss the establishment, governance, and dissolution of the Golden Horde.
		Read EM article on the Il-Khanate, pp. 230-36.
		Q: Discuss the establishment, governance, and dissolution of the Il-Khanate.
		Read EM articles on Qubilai Khan, pp. 457-460, and the Yuan Dynasty, pp. 603-11.
		Q: Discuss the establishment, governance, and dissolution of the Yuan Dynasty.
		Read EM articles on the Zungars, pp. 621-624, and Qing Dynasty, pp. 449-55.
		Q: Discuss the rise of the Qing Dynasty and its effect on the Zungars.
Week 9		
		Read EM articles on Buddhism, pp. 48-53, 1911 Restoration on p. 246 and pp. 470-1.
		Q: Discuss the spread of Buddhism in Mongolia and its effect on the culture.
		Read EM articles on Revocation of Autonomy and Revolution of 1921 on pp. 471-6, Ungern-Sternberg, pp. 572-3, and Sukh-Baatar, pp. 522-3
		Q: Discuss the major political events affecting Mongolian independence between 1911 and 1921.
		Read EM articles on China and Inner Mongolia, p. 246, and Choibalsan, pp. 103-5.
		Q: Discuss the effects of Stalinism on (Outer) Mongolia.
		Read EM articles on Chinese Republic, Japanese rule, Inner Mongolia, pp. 246(bottom)-252. Q: How did Inner Mongolia fare under Chinese rule?
Week 10		
		Memorial Day. No class.

	Read EM article on the Soviet Union and Mongolia, pp. 513-18.
	Q: Chronicle the major events of the Soviet occupation of (Outer) Mongolia, 1921-1990.
	Mongolia today, Read EM article on Russia and Mongolia, pp.484-5.
	Q: Discuss the collapse of communism in Mongolia in 1990 and the subsequent period of democracy.
Week 11	
	Final Review
	Final Exam will be given in our regular classroom at the day and time officially scheduled by the university for our final exam.