

PAAS 395 A01: SPECIAL TOPICS-MEDIEVAL CULTURE:
Medieval China

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Prerequisites:

- **Minimum second-year standing; or**
- **permission of the program.**

Required Readings:

1. Wendy Swartz, *Reading Tao Yuanming: Shifting Paradigms of Historical Reception (427-1900)* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, Harvard University Asia Center, 2008).
2. James A. Millward, *The Silk Road: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2013).

Course Description:

This course is concerned with Medieval China. On one hand, China in Medieval Age has its own distinctive features in terms of culture and history. On the other, Medieval China is not restricted to its geographical location but closely interacts with a variety of cultures flourishing in other areas of Eurasian continents, a combined continental landmass of Europe and Asia. The design of this course comprises three parts. First, students learn a specific topic through a group project which will be supervised by the instructor and TAs in order to ensure that students of each group well and deeply understand their topic of Chinese culture, which will serve as the foundation to explore more and advanced knowledge of Chinese culture of that age. Second part is in-class group presentations by students. Listening to the presentations on different topics on Medieval China, students are able to expose to different aspects of the culture, promoting their understanding of Medieval Chinese culture and producing a bigger picture concerning how Medieval China culturally and historically interacts with Europe and Asia of that era. The third part is a series of invited guest lectures, including the instructor's, touching on the areas of their research specialty which aim to deepen and broaden students' understanding of Medieval China.

Evaluation:

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| Attendance & Participation: | 10% |
| Group Project and Poster: | 20% |
| In-class Poster Presentation: | 20% |
| Book Review 1: | 25% |
| Book Review 2: | 25% |