



HISTORY 4399 ONLINE

Mongol Eurasia: Long-Distance Travel in a Cross-Cultural World

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& BY APPOINTMENT

SPRING SEMESTER 2018

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

ONLINE COURSE VIA BLACKBOARD

HIST 4399 is an advanced investigation of the Mongols and their Eurasian empire. In the span of half a century, the Mongols constructed the largest contiguous land empire in all of human history. How a thirteenth-century nomadic confederation managed to achieve this feat from their homeland on the eastern edge of Central Eurasia demands historical explanation. To this end, we will probe Mongol military tactics and strategies, statecraft, and the trans-Eurasian interaction encouraged and directed by the Mongols. But our principal focus is long-distance movement across Mongol Eurasia, especially along the *yam* network (the successor of the ancient “Silk Roads”), and its many cross-cultural implications.

As an online capstone seminar, this course emphasizes critical reading, writing, and discussion with special attention devoted to “primary” sources in translation. Expect a heavy reading load—especially during the first two-thirds of the semester—as well as a variety of written assignments with strict deadlines. The shorter essays will build towards an article-length interpretative paper due at the end of the semester. Upon the successful completion of HIST 4399, you will have acquired a sophisticated understanding of Eurasian nomads and the Mongol Empire; of the destructive and constructive aspects of Mongol imperialism; of the intensifying cross-cultural exchanges integrating medieval Eurasia; of the importance of authorship and target audience; and of the value of comparative and interdisciplinary methodologies.

Requirements, procedures, & grading

Your enrollment implies the acceptance of all provisions articulated in this syllabus. Course requirements and procedures are non-negotiable. All students must carefully read the syllabus by the end of the first week and communicate questions to Dr. Rapp immediately.

This section of HIST 4399 is conducted entirely online through SHSU’s Blackboard interface. Because of the interactive nature of this course, participation in all activities within the fixed timeframes is mandatory. Students are required to check their university e-mail accounts and to check the announcements section of our Blackboard page at least every two days for the duration of the semester, with the exception of spring break.

Any student with a disability affecting her/his academic performance must immediately contact Dr. Rapp and the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities in the Lee Drain Annex, (936) 294–3512, TDD (936) 294–3786, to request accommodations. Visit www.shsu.edu/syllabus for additional information on academic dishonesty, the Americans with Disabilities Act, absences for religious holy days, and visitors in the classroom.

STRICT DEADLINES. This advanced course is structured so that assignments build upon one another. If you fall behind, it will be difficult to catch up. Deadlines are firm and will be extended only for documented personal emergency. It is your responsibility to contact the instructor in a timely fashion should you encounter circumstances adversely affecting your performance.

READING & NOTE TAKING. In accordance with the schedule below, all assigned readings must be completed and thought about before the relevant deadlines. Many readings are available as PDFs for download through our password-protected Blackboard page. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU TAKE NOTES DURING ALL PHASES OF THIS COURSE: as you listen to online audio introductions; as you read; as you participate in discussion; and as you prepare written work. If a written assignment accompanies discussion, this paper must be submitted before you log into the discussion board.

ONLINE DISCUSSION. Text-based discussion is the principal venue through which you will interact with other students in HIST 4399. Regular participation is required; this includes reading all postings and introducing your own threads and postings. When a discussion board is active, you must log in and participate at least once every 36 hours.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS. This is a writing-intensive course whose principal objective is the production of a high-quality, article-length original research paper. In preparation for this task, you shall compose three short papers and a partial draft of the final paper. All written work must be submitted through the appropriate link in Blackboard unless otherwise announced. DEADLINES ARE STRICT! EXTENSIONS WILL BE GRANTED ONLY IN EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES AND ARE NEVER AUTOMATIC. NEVER SUBMIT A LATE ASSIGNMENT WITHOUT FIRST CONTACTING THE DR. RAPP. The modification of deadlines is solely at the instructor's discretion; in such cases, verifiable documentation for a personal emergency must be presented in a timely manner.

ACTION PLANS. Starting with the second short paper, a typed "action plan" must be attached to the end of each written assignment. You must describe specific improvements (grammar, syntax, organization, etc.) you have implemented since the last paper. Always make careful use of the instructor's comments on your earlier assignments.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY & PLAGIARISM. All work produced in this course must be your own. ACADEMIC DISHONESTY OF ANY KIND, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO PLAGIARISM, WILL BE PUNISHED IN ACCORD WITH UNIVERSITY STATUTES. Review the important information about plagiarism in SHSU's Student Handbook and Code of Student Conduct at www.shsu.edu/students/guide/.

GRADING. Your course grade will be calculated according to the following formula:

10%	Discussion & Chicago-style exercise, etc.	10%	Third short paper †
10%	First short paper	10%	Partial draft of final paper †
10%	Second short paper †	50%	Complete final paper †

Items suffixed † require an action plan for improving writing (typed, 1–2 pp.).

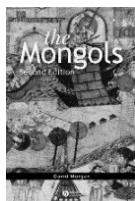
Quizzes and other short assignments may be given with or without prior notice. They cannot normally be rescheduled. Although +/- grades are used for individual assignments, university policy mandates whole letters for final course grades. Course grades of B+, B, or B- will be reported to the registrar as a B and so forth.

If all requirements have been fulfilled, Dr. Rapp reserves the right to reward improvement. Any student earning an F in two or more of the primary grading categories and/or failing the final paper will automatically fail the course. Incompletes are granted only for personal emergencies and at the sole discretion of the instructor.

Required course materials

The following four books are required for this course. E-BOOKS MAY BE USED ONLY IF THEIR PAGINATION STRICTLY MATCHES THAT OF THE REQUIRED PRINTED VERSIONS. If you cannot verify this, purchase a physical copy. It is your responsibility to acquire and read each book/assignment, in the required edition/translation, before the relevant deadline. Keep your receipts!

- Dawson, Christopher. *Mission to Asia*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1980. ISBN 978-0802064363.



- Morgan, David. *The Mongols*. 2nd edition. Oxford: Blackwell, 2007. ISBN 978-1405135399.

IMPORTANT: USE ONLY THE SECOND EDITION; THE ORIGINAL 1985 VERSION MAY NOT BE USED FOR THIS COURSE! THE COVER OF THE SECOND EDITION IS PICTURED HERE.

- Rossabi, Morris. *The Mongols: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012. ISBN 978-0199840892.

- *The Travels of Marco Polo*. Translated by Ronald Latham. New York: Penguin, 1958. ISBN 978-0140440577.

Other required readings are available for download through this course's password-protected Blackboard site. It is recommended that you download all PDFs now and print the individual files as needed. Only read and print the assigned pages! Materials on Blackboard are provided for the exclusive use of this course.

Should you require additional background, I recommend the following optional textbook: Jerry H. Bentley and Herbert F. Ziegler, *Traditions & Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past*, 2 vols., 6th ed. Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2015. ISBN 978-0077504908.

Some important deadlines

Tu January 30	STRICT deadline for short paper #1 at 9:00am (all times Huntsville, TX)
Th February 15	STRICT deadline for short paper #2 at 9:00am
Th March 1	Rossabi must have been read by this time (see Unit 2 below)
M March 5	STRICT deadline for short paper #3 at 9:00am
M March 26	Deadline for optional custom final paper topic proposals at noon
Tu April 17	STRICT deadline for partial draft of final paper at 9:00am
M May 7	STRICT deadline for completed and polished final paper at 9:00am

Schedule

This schedule is subject to change. Modifications will be communicated via Blackboard and/or university e-mail. Complete tasks in order enumerated below. Reading assignments always include footnotes/endnotes, images, maps, genealogical stemmata, etc.

UNIT 1: Introductions

Wednesday, January 17—Monday, January 22

- ▶ ONLINE AUDIO INTRODUCTION—Begin each unit by listening to the appropriate audio introduction(s). Take notes and contact Dr. Rapp if anything is unclear. Complete assignments in the order listed.
- ▶ ONLINE DISCUSSION—Briefly introduce yourself on the Blackboard discussion board for Unit 1. Give us a sense of your historical interests, any training you have had in pre-modern history, etc. This discussion board **opens Wednesday, January 17 at 9:00am and concludes Monday, January 22 at 9:00am** (all Huntsville, TX times). Post your introduction as quickly as possible and make sure to read all the introductions by January 23.
- ▶ READING (ONLINE PDF)—“Chicago-Style Citation Quick Guide.” Download, print, and carefully review this important document. You’ll use it frequently throughout the semester.

❖ From this point, always work ahead on the next unit!

UNIT 2: Mongol Eurasia: Historical & Historiographical Overview

Tuesday, January 30—Tuesday, February 6

- ▶ ONLINE AUDIO INTRODUCTION.
- ▶ READING—Morgan, *The Mongols*. Only the 2nd edition may be used for this course. Yes, you are required to read the entire book! Remember to take careful notes on all of the assigned readings.
- ▶ SHORT PAPER #1—Critical book review (5–6 pages) of Morgan must be submitted via the appropriate Blackboard link no later than **Tuesday, January 30 at 9:00am** (Huntsville, TX time). **All deadlines are firm!** Before you begin, read carefully the guidelines for the short papers below. Remember: the use of unapproved sources, including internet materials, is prohibited in this course.
- ▶ ONLINE DISCUSSION—Our first online discussion features Morgan’s *The Mongols*. The discussion board **opens Tuesday, January 30 at 9:00am and concludes Tuesday, February 6 at 9:00am** (all Huntsville, TX times).

❖ During each online discussion, you should already be working on the next unit!

❖ ADDITIONAL REQUIRED READING—By March 1, you must also have read Rossabi, *The Mongols: A Very Short Introduction*. You will need Rossabi for the second half of the course and the final paper.

UNIT 3: Mongol Empire from Within—*Secret History* & Rashīd al-Dīn

Tuesday, February 6—Tuesday, February 13

► ONLINE AUDIO INTRODUCTION. Also use vocabulary sheets, when available on Blackboard.

► READING (ONLINE PDF)—*The Secret History of the Mongols: A Mongolian Epic Chronicle of the Thirteenth Century*, trans. Igor de Rachewiltz, vol. 1 (Leiden: Brill, 2006), skim xxv–xl and corresponding endnotes starting on p. lxxxiii (introduction by the modern translator) and read carefully 1–16, 70–107, and 196–218. NOTE: modern translators are not identical to the medieval authors! Only read and print the assigned pages of PDF readings!

► READING—“Two Bulls of Pope Innocent IV Addressed to the Emperor of the Tartars” and “Guyuk Khan’s Letter to Pope Innocent IV (1246),” in Dawson, *Mission to Asia*, 73–76 and 85–86.

► READING (ONLINE PDF)—Rashīd al-Dīn, *The Successors of Genghis Khan*, trans. John Andrew Boyle, vol. 1 (New York: Columbia University Press, 1971), skim 3–13 (modern introduction) and read carefully 17–21, 29–35, 53–67, 76–94, 97–99, and 117–122. As you read, use the glossary (pp. 339–341) and genealogical tables.

❖ **NO SHORT PAPER FOR THIS UNIT!** Do not underestimate the importance of these readings! Because no short paper is due for Unit 3, I expect an especially vibrant discussion of the assigned pages of *The Secret History of the Mongols* and Rashīd al-Dīn.

► CHICAGO-STYLE CITATION EXERCISE—All students must download the Unit 3 “Chicago-Style Citation Exercise” and prepare sample footnotes and master bibliography references according to the included instructions. Submit your citations as a Word file via the appropriate Blackboard link no later than **Tuesday, February 6 at 9:00am** (Huntsville, TX time). You must always prepare and type your own citations; cutting-and-pasting, using a computer program or website, working with others, etc. are strictly prohibited!

► ONLINE DISCUSSION—Our online discussion comprises ALL assigned readings for this unit. The discussion board **opens Tuesday, February 6 at 9:00am and concludes Tuesday, February 13 at 9:00am** (all Huntsville, TX times).

UNIT 4: A European Informant among the Mongols—John of Plano Carpini

Thursday, February 15—Thursday, February 22

► ONLINE AUDIO INTRODUCTION.

► READING—John of Plano Carpini, in Dawson, *Mission to Asia*, 2–72. NOTE: the text on p. 2 is a modern introduction; the medieval source written by John of Plano Carpini begins on p. 3.

► SHORT PAPER #2—Critical source analysis (5–6 pages) of John of Plano Carpini must be submitted via the appropriate Blackboard link no later than **Thursday, February 15 at 9:00am** (Huntsville, TX time). Deadlines are firm! This and all future writing assignments require action plans.

► ONLINE DISCUSSION—Our online discussion features John of Plano Carpini’s report. The discussion board **opens Thursday, February 15 at 9:00am and concludes Thursday, February 22 at 9:00am** (all Huntsville, TX times).

UNIT 5: A Merchant on the Yam—Marco Polo

Friday, February 23—Friday, March 2

► ONLINE AUDIO INTRODUCTION.

► READING—Marco Polo, *The Travels*, trans. Ronald Latham, skim 7–29 (modern introduction); read carefully 33–57, 74–167, 241–249, 260–272, and 344–345. As you read, make use of the genealogical tables, maps, and index starting on p. 347. NOTE: you may use ONLY this translation by Latham.

❖ **NO SHORT PAPER FOR THIS UNIT!** Do not underestimate the importance of this reading! Because no short paper is due for Unit 5, I expect an especially vibrant discussion.

► ONLINE DISCUSSION—Our online discussion features Marco Polo’s travelogue. The discussion board **opens Friday, February 23 at 9:00am and concludes Friday, March 2 at 9:00am** (all Huntsville, TX times).

❖ ADDITIONAL REQUIRED READING—Remember: by March 1, all students must also have read Rossabi, *The Mongols: A Very Short Introduction*. See Unit 2 for more information.

UNIT 6: A Catholic Missionary in Mongol Eurasia—William of Rubruck

Monday, March 5—Friday, March 9

► ONLINE AUDIO INTRODUCTION.

► READING—William of Rubruck, in Dawson, *Mission to Asia*, 88–220. NOTE: the text on p. 88 is a modern introduction; the medieval source written by William of Rubruck begins on p. 89.

► SHORT PAPER #3—Critical source comparison (5–6 pages) exploring the similarities and differences of the accounts by John of Plano Carpini (see Unit 4) and William of Rubruck must be submitted via the appropriate Blackboard link no later than **Monday, March 5 at 9:00am** (Huntsville, TX time). Deadlines are firm! This assignment requires an action plan.

► ONLINE DISCUSSION—Our online discussion features William of Rubruck’s travelogue. The ABBREVIATED discussion board **opens Monday, March 5 at 9:00am and concludes Friday, March 9 at 3:00pm** (all Huntsville, TX times).

SPRING BREAK, university holiday!

No class and no office hours between Monday, March 12 and Friday, March 16.

UNIT 7: A Mongol Envoy to Europe—Rabban Sawma

Thursday, March 22—Thursday, March 29

► ONLINE AUDIO INTRODUCTION.

► READING (ONLINE PDF)—*The Monks of Kublai Khan, Emperor of China*, trans. E.A. Wallis Budge (London: Religious Tract Society, 1928), 39–65 and relevant endnotes 95–96.

❖ **NO SHORT PAPER FOR THIS UNIT!** Do not underestimate the importance of this source! Because no short paper is due for Unit 7, I expect an especially vibrant online discussion.

► ONLINE DISCUSSION—This very important online discussion features the trans-Eurasian adventures of Rabban Sawma (Bar Sauma). The discussion board **opens Thursday, March 22 at 9:00am and concludes Thursday, March 29 at 9:00am** (all Huntsville, TX times).

TUESDAY, APRIL 17

9:00AM SHARP

PARTIAL DRAFT OF THE FINAL PAPER DUE VIA BLACKBOARD

❖ For requirements, see below, “Guidelines for the Partial Draft of the Final Paper.”

❖ Instructor’s comments will be e-mailed no later than Monday, April 23.

MONDAY, MAY 7

9:00AM SHARP

COMPLETE & POLISHED FINAL PAPER DUE VIA BLACKBOARD

❖ For detailed requirements, see below, “Guidelines for the Final Paper.”

ONLINE DISCUSSION: REQUIREMENTS & EXPECTATIONS

Discussion is an essential component of HIST 4399. Students are required to participate regularly in our online discussion for all units. FAILURE TO CONTRIBUTE REGULARLY TO DISCUSSION IS AKIN TO SKIPPING CLASS. Regular participation entails:

- ❖ making *AT LEAST* TWO SUBSTANTIAL SCHOLARLY POSTINGS PER UNIT; these postings may be responses, the introduction of original threads (see below), the posing of detailed questions, etc.; YOUR INITIAL POSTING MUST BE TRANSMITTED WITHIN THE FIRST 24 HOURS OF THE OPENING OF EACH DISCUSSION BOARD. Occasionally posting a few sentences or impressions is not sufficient
- ❖ carefully reading all postings by students and the instructor AT LEAST ONCE EVERY 36 HOURS when a discussion board is active
- ❖ introducing AT LEAST ONE ORIGINAL THREAD (I.E., MAIN SUBJECT/IDEA FOR DISCUSSION) IN EACH DISCUSSION UNIT; begin each thread with a thoughtful and coherent paragraph of medium length; you are responsible for moderating comments on your threads

In addition:

- ❖ while you are welcome to disagree with the author(s) of the readings, Dr. Rapp, and other students, always treat others with courtesy and respect
- ❖ some tangents and detours are expected, and these can be quite interesting, but in general please remain focused on course materials
- ❖ bald impressions and opinions are not sufficient in an advanced history course, whether in discussion or a written work; accordingly, your position/argument must be bolstered by evidence and proof (avoid “I believe” and “I feel” because they tend to signal impressions and not analysis)
- ❖ avoid single postings exceeding two long paragraphs
- ❖ if your posting refers to a specific passage or incorporates a direct quote, please indicate the relevant page number(s)
- ❖ you are encouraged to refer to earlier assigned readings from this course

IMPORTANT—It is forbidden to read and/or to participate in discussion until your written review/analysis for that unit has been submitted!

GUIDELINES FOR THE SHORT PAPERS

Strict deadlines

Submit typed, electronic versions of all formal papers, including these short essays, in standard .doc or .docx format via the appropriate Blackboard links. Prepare written work using Microsoft Word using its automatic footnote feature. ITAKE DEADLINES VERY SERIOUSLY! For more information, see above “Requirements, Procedures, & Grading.”

Required topics

The required topics for the shorter written assignments are:

❖ **SHORT PAPER #1.** Critical book review, organized thematically, of the required second edition of Morgan’s *The Mongols*. In all written assignments, keep description and plot summary to a minimum. Total size including separate one-page, single-spaced bibliography: 5–6 pages. DO NOT USE THE FIRST EDITION OF MORGAN!

❖ **SHORT PAPER #2.** Critical source analysis of John of Plano Carpini’s report to the papacy on his travels in the Mongol Empire. Organize your paper thematically and keep description and plot summary to a minimum. Total size including separate one-page, single-spaced bibliography: 5–6 pages, not including the required action plan. The following questions should be addressed: Who is the author? How and why does he travel across Eurasia? Where did he go? What did he see, and what particularly interested him? On the whole, is his report reliable? Why or why not?

❖ **SHORT PAPER #3.** Critical comparison of the accounts by John of Plano Carpini and William of Rubruck. Organize your paper thematically and keep description and plot summary to a minimum. Total size including separate one-page, single-spaced bibliography: 5–6 pages, not including the required action plan. Make use of the questions enumerated under the topic for short paper #2 (just above) as you explore the similarities and differences of these authors and their texts. Consider not only the authors and their purposes for traveling/writing but also how they describe the Mongols, etc.

ALL WRITING ASSIGNMENTS ARE MEASURED IN WHOLE PAGES OF TEXT SET IN THE REQUIRED FONT AND SIZE AND WITH THE REQUIRED MARGINS AND LINE SPACING. STARTING WITH THE SECOND SHORT PAPER, WRITING ASSIGNMENTS REQUIRE AN ACTION PLAN (NOT INCLUDED IN THE PAGE COUNTS).

Approach & structure

Think historically! Think critically! Your papers must not be limited to a description of the main plot points. Rather, they must have a strong critical dimension. Don’t forget to contextualize; among other things, give a sense of time and place. I highly recommend that you organize your written assignments by theme/subject. USE ONLY THE SPECIFIED ASSIGNED READINGS. NEVER USE INTERNET SOURCES, INCLUDING WIKIPEDIA, UNLESS THEY HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY DR. RAPP.

For each paper, your initial paragraph must: (1) set the chronological and geographical scene; (2) introduce the main characters and authors/sources; and (3) articulate a clear statement of purpose (thesis).

Papers must be well organized and grammatically correct. Generalizations must be balanced with specific details and evidence from the sources. Supply formal references in the required format.

Required format

- ☐ All written assignments must be prepared in Microsoft Word AND SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA BLACKBOARD in standard .doc or .docx format.
- ☐ Page counts for the short papers are for whole pages of text and INCLUDE a SEPARATE bibliography/works cited page. (Page counts do not include action plans when required; see below). At the start of the master bibliography, center the word Bibliography. Then alphabetize all sources cited in your paper. Insert an extra space between entries in the bibliography.
- ☐ Typed in 12-point Times New Roman font. Please convert all footnote text to Times New Roman font; footnotes may be set in either 10- or 12-point.
- ☐ Do NOT include a cover sheet.
- ☐ Pages MUST be numbered.
- ☐ Line spacing must be set at double (2.0) or one-and-a-half (1.5); single-spaced papers will not be graded.
- ☐ 1" margins on all sides, neither larger nor smaller.
- ☐ Always use Word's automatic footnote feature. Do not manually type superscripted footnote numbers. Convert footnotes to the same font as the main body of text. Footnotes and bibliography must conform to the Chicago system (see below).
- ☐ No extra spaces between paragraphs; do not use subheadings in short papers.
- ☐ At the top of the first page ONLY indicate your name, course number, instructor's name, and date submitted using this format, SINGLE-SPACED:

Insert your name
 HIST 4399
 Dr. Rapp
Insert date actually submitted
- ☐ Select an appropriate scholarly title and center it at the top of p. 1, just after the header (see just above).
- ☐ Your introductory paragraph(s) must include a clear statement of purpose/thesis statement.
- ☐ STRICTLY LIMIT THE USE OF DIRECT QUOTATIONS; avoid block quotations altogether.
- ☐ Starting with the second short paper, an ACTION PLANS for improving your writing *must* be attached to all essays. These are not included in the page counts. See below for details.
- ☐ PAPERS MUST BE ENTIRELY YOUR OWN WORK. Not writing your own paper, working with others, using computer programs or websites to generate references, cheating, and/or plagiarism of any kind is absolutely forbidden. The use of unassigned sources, including internet materials, is strictly prohibited and will result in zero credit earned.

Chicago-system references

REFERENCES MUST APPEAR AS FOOTNOTES AND MUST BE PREPARED ACCORDING TO THE CHICAGO SYSTEM. Attach a master bibliography to the end of each paper. For more information, see the last section of the syllabus below and the PDF on Chicago citations.

Always cite your sources when you extract specific information, whether it is directly quoted or put into your own words. Failure to cite your sources properly constitutes plagiarism. PAPERS COMPLETELY LACKING REFERENCES WILL EARN NO CREDIT.

On average, a formal history essay should have approximately three references for every full page of text. As a rule, do not lump references together at the end of a paragraph.

Action plans

Starting with the second short paper, all formal written submissions require an action plan: a statement, typed in prose and consisting of 1 or 2 pages of single-spaced text, describing specific steps you have implemented to improve your writing. WHILE ACTION PLANS SHOULD INCLUDE ISSUES DR. RAPP HAS MARKED ON YOUR EARLIER ASSIGNMENTS, YOU MUST ALSO BE PROACTIVE IN IDENTIFYING AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT. In other words, do not limit your action plan to instructor's comments. Action plans do NOT require footnotes and a bibliography. Action plans should appear as a separate section immediately after your bibliography; please title this section "Action Plan."

Important reminders

- ❖ Organize your papers by theme/subject. Avoid lengthy description/plot summary.
- ❖ Always balance generalizations with specific evidence and details. Bald assumptions and impressions are insufficient for academic work. Thus, you must always refer to specific information from the sources in order to justify your assertions. FORMAL REFERENCES MUST BE PROVIDED. UNSUBSTANTIATED AND/OR UNDOCUMENTED CLAIMS WILL EARN NO CREDIT. You must analyze the contemporary evidence, clearly identifying its significance and relevance. A stream of consciousness is not enough; your paper must make a focused, articulate, and convincing argument based on the assigned topic.
- ❖ Essays without any formal references and/or which are plagiarized will earn no credit. Plagiarized papers may incur additional actions in accordance with strict university policies. See the SHSU Student Handbook for details.
- ❖ PROOFREADING IS ESSENTIAL. You must use formal English prose appropriate to academic writing. Avoid colloquialisms! Your paper must be articulate, convincing, and based on historical evidence.

GUIDELINES FOR THE PARTIAL DRAFT OF THE FINAL PAPER

IMPORTANT! See “Guidelines for the Final Paper” below for final paper topics, format, and other requirements. Provisions for the completed final paper also apply to the draft unless otherwise stated in this section.

The **STRICT DEADLINE** for submitting the partial draft of the final paper via the appropriate link in Blackboard is TUESDAY, APRIL 17 AT 9:00 AM SHARP (HUNTSVILLE, TX TIME). Dr. Rapp shall return comments on your draft via e-mail by Monday, April 23. While the instructor will not mark every item requiring revision and/or correction, his comments will give you a clear sense of the kinds of changes that need to be applied to the finished final paper.

All written assignments for this course are measured in whole pages of text set in the required font and size and with the required margins and line spacing.

Some things to keep in mind for the partial draft of your final paper:

- ❖ Prepare the draft and final paper in Microsoft Word in the standard *.doc* or *.docx* format.
- ❖ The partial draft must consist of AT LEAST SIX PAGES OF TEXT (including relevant, properly-formatted footnotes) as well as a COMPLETE, PROPERLY-FORMATTED BIBLIOGRAPHY AND AN ACTION PLAN. The bibliography and action plan are in addition to the six+ pages of text specified here.
- ❖ Footnotes and complete bibliography must be conform to the Chicago system. Use Word’s automatic footnote feature.
- ❖ All partial drafts must contain a preliminary title, introductory paragraphs, thesis statement, footnotes, and complete, properly-formatted bibliography.
- ❖ Your draft should be as polished as possible.
- ❖ Throughout your paper, balance generalizations with specific details and evidence.
- ❖ While your paper will include some basic description, the bulk of this exercise should be organized around themes/subjects in which you critically engage relevant sources collectively.
- ❖ The core of your paper should consist of your own analysis of the sources. Always make clear the historical significance. What do we learn historically from your analysis?
- ❖ Partial drafts may make use of the extra readings required for the final paper. See the following section for details.
- ❖ **IMPORTANT:** the draft and polished final papers are evaluated separately using different standards. Grades for the completed final paper may be higher or lower than those earned for drafts.

GUIDELINES FOR THE FINAL PAPER

Select **ONE** of the following topics for your final paper. All topics require engagement with the full range of assigned materials from HIST 4399.

- (1) The Mongols devastated everything in their path and hindered interaction across Eurasia until modern Europeans created the modern world. Oh? Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- (2) What motivated people to travel long distances across Mongol Eurasia? What made such movement possible? Which kinds of “primary” sources reveal this activity? Which kinds of sources do not?
- (3) Compare and contrast the description of the Mongols and their empire in the various sources—including the Mongols’ own *Secret History*—with special attention to long-distance cross-cultural interplay. How do you account for the differences?
- (4) Create your own topic. Typed, one-page proposals must be e-mailed to Dr. Rapp no later than noon on Monday, March 26. Custom topics must have the instructor’s approval.

Strict deadline

FINAL PAPERS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN **MONDAY, MAY 7 AT 9:00AM SHARP** (HUNTSVILLE, TX TIME). This is a **STRICT DEADLINE**. Because this important assignment is based chiefly upon assigned readings, extensions will be granted only in extraordinary cases of officially documented personal emergency. Extensions are never automatic. Never submit a late paper without first contacting Dr. Rapp. Get started early and give yourself plenty of time for revisions and proofreading.

Length

At least fourteen (14) full pages of main text, including appropriate footnotes. In addition, you must attach a single-spaced bibliography and an action plan. Begin with a suitable scholarly title and introductory paragraph(s), including a clear statement of purpose (thesis). Do not attach a separate cover page. Do not add spaces between paragraphs.

Required format

Final papers must be prepared in Microsoft Word and submitted electronically via Blackboard in standard .doc or .docx format. Use Times New Roman font set at 12-point; please convert footnotes to Times New Roman set at either 10- or 12-point. Pages must be numbered and margins set to 1” on all sides. Set line spacing to one-and-a-half or double. Use the same information block at the top of p. 1 required for book reviews.

Your paper must be logically organized, persuasive, articulate, and grammatically and syntactically sound. Don’t forget to provide an appropriate title and introductory paragraph, including a clear statement of purpose/thesis.

All work must be your own and sources must be properly cited. FINAL PAPERS LACKING SOURCES AND/OR SCHOLARLY REFERENCES, OR THAT HAVE BEEN PLAGIARIZED, WILL EARN NO CREDIT.

It is essential that you deeply engage the readings, keeping description and “plot summary” to a minimum; discuss the readings COLLECTIVELY AND IN RELATION TO ONE ANOTHER; analyze, critique, and

contextualize the assigned sources; identify places and dates as appropriate; and balance broad ideas and observations with specific details and examples. A THEMATIC ORGANIZATION IS EXPECTED; IN ANY CASE, DO NOT DISCUSS THE READINGS SEQUENTIALLY, ONE-AT-A-TIME.

Required sources (IMPORTANT!)

You should engage ALL relevant assigned readings for the final paper, including the various “primary” sources and BOTH Morgan AND Rossabi. This provision includes readings not used for the shorter papers. In addition, all students are required to read and incorporate the following:

► ONLINE PDF READING—Kirakos Gandzaketsi, *History of the Armenians*, trans. John Andrew Boyle, in “The Journey of Het‘um I, King of Little Armenia, to the Court of the Great Khan Möngke,” *Central Asiatic Journal* 9 (1964): 175–189.

► ONLINE PDF READING—Kirakos Gandzaketsi, *History of the Armenians*, trans. John Andrew Boyle, in “Kirakos of Ganjak on the Mongols,” *Central Asiatic Journal* 8 (1963): 109–214.

IMPORTANT NOTE: These PDFs contain partial translation of a single source, a history written by the medieval Armenian author Kirakos Gandzaketsi (use this spelling). Kirakos was born around 1200 and died in 1271. Boyle is the modern translator.

Optionally, you may use up to two additional monographs or their equivalent. DR. RAPP’S WRITTEN APPROVAL IS REQUIRED FOR ALL UNASSIGNED MATERIALS, INCLUDING INTERNET RESOURCES. However, no penalty will be incurred if you do not employ extra readings.

References & direct quotations

Footnotes and a master bibliography are required for the final paper and must be prepared according to the Chicago system. The automatic footnote feature in Word must be used. If you have questions about these provisions, contact Dr. Rapp immediately.

All direct quotations must be cited; specific ideas from sources put into your own words must also be referenced. Limit direct quotations and especially block quotations (i.e. direct quotations exceeding three typed lines). It is usually more effective to paraphrase—to rephrase in your own words—the idea and then state the significance/relevance to your argument. Don’t forget to include a citation for paraphrased material.

Academic papers tend to average three or four footnotes per full page of text.

Single-space the master bibliography and arrange works alphabetically by authors’ last names—but do not invert the names of pre-modern authors. Please add a space between entries.

Wikipedia and other online materials: Don’t do it!

Unless you have obtained explicit written permission from Dr. Rapp, the use of any unassigned sources including those on the internet are forbidden. Should you have questions or require additional background, contact Dr. Rapp for assistance.

CHICAGO-STYLE CITATION SAMPLES

“PRIMARY” SOURCES IN TRANSLATION, first footnote reference (three examples!)

¹ John of Plano Carpini, *History of the Mongols*, in Christopher Dawson, *Mission to Asia* (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1980), 11.

² *The Travels of Marco Polo*, trans. Ronald Latham (New York: Penguin, 1958), 272.

⁶ Rashid al-Din, *The Successors of Genghis Khan*, trans. John Andrew Boyle, vol. 1 (New York: Columbia University Press, 1971), 30.

Note: The first reference to each work MUST give complete information, including the full name of the author, title, and any translator(s)/editor(s); page numbers in footnote refer to pages actually cited; book titles must be italicized. Use Microsoft Word’s automatic feature to insert footnotes. Before submitting your paper, convert all footnotes to the same font as the main body of your paper. Footnotes must be single-spaced and set in either 10- or 12-point.

“PRIMARY” SOURCES IN TRANSLATION, all additional footnote references

²⁴ John of Plano Carpini, *History*, 37 and 41–42.

³³ *Travels of Marco Polo*, 117–120.

⁷² Rashid al-Din, 18, 20, 52–55, and 118.

Note: abbreviated references; logically abbreviate titles.

“PRIMARY” SOURCES IN TRANSLATION, master bibliography listings

John of Plano Carpini. *History of the Mongols*. In Christopher Dawson, *Mission to Asia*, 1–72. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1980.

Rashid al-Din. *The Successors of Genghis Khan*. Translated by John Andrew Boyle. Vol. 1. New York: Columbia University Press, 1971.

The Travels of Marco Polo. Translated by Ronald Latham. New York: Penguin, 1958.

Note: single-space the bibliography; alphabetize entries; for ancient and medieval authors, do not invert first and last names (when both exist); do not indicate page numbers for a stand-alone book, but DO provide the full range of page numbers for a source published within a larger tome (as is the case for John of Plano Carpini [Mission to Asia contains multiple texts by different authors]; note the placement of the page numbers after the book title); and add a space between entries.



MONOGRAPHS, first footnote reference (two examples!)

¹¹ David Morgan, *The Mongols*, 2nd ed. (Oxford: Blackwell, 2007), 39–41.

³⁸ Dale T. Irvin and Scott W. Sunquist, *History of the World Christian Movement*, vol. 1 (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2001), 39–41.

MONOGRAPHS, all additional footnote references

⁴² Morgan, *Mongols*, 88.

⁴³ Irvin and Sunquist, *World Christian Movement*, 88.

MONOGRAPHS, master bibliography listing

Irvin, Dale T. and Scott W. Sunquist. *History of the World Christian Movement*. Vol. 1. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 2001.

Morgan, David. *The Mongols*, 2nd edition. Oxford: Blackwell, 2007.

Note: for modern scholarship, invert the author's name in the master bibliography (if the monograph has multiple authors, invert and alphabetize only the first name [do not invert the others!]); do not indicate page numbers for a book-length publication by a single author.



CHAPTER IN AN EDITED BOOK WITH MULTIPLE CONTRIBUTORS, first footnote reference

³³ Malcom Choat, Jitse Dijkstra, Christopher Haas, and William Tabbernee, “The World of the Nile,” in *Early Christianity in Contexts: An Exploration across Cultures and Continents*, ed. William Tabbernee (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2014), 210–214.

Note: ed. = editor; eds. = editors; page numbers in footnotes refer to those actually cited.

CHAPTER IN AN EDITED BOOK WITH MULTIPLE CONTRIBUTORS, all additional footnote references

⁴² Choat et al., “World of the Nile,” 201–203 and 215.

Note: for additional footnote references, use “et al.” for four or more authors.

CHAPTER IN AN EDITED BOOK WITH MULTIPLE CONTRIBUTORS, master bibliography listing

Choat, Malcom, Jitse Dijkstra, Christopher Haas, and William Tabbernee. “The World of the Nile.” In *Early Christianity in Contexts: An Exploration across Cultures and Continents*, edited by William Tabbernee, 181–222. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2014.

Note: invert author’s name and alphabetize list—if more than one author, invert only first occurrence; note “edited by” in the bibliographical reference; pages in the master bibliography indicate full range for the chapter.



