

**University of Calgary**  
**HTST 406**  
**The Mongol World Empire**  
**Tu, Th 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**  
**EDC 386**  
**Fall Session 2019**

Instructor: David Curtis Wright

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Office hours: Tu, Th 9:00 -10:00 a.m.; other hours (Tu, W, Th only) by appointment.

*Please respect these office hours.*

Course description

This course examines the history of the Mongol world empire, which had its origins in the early thirteenth century. It considers all sections of the empire as it spread to Russia and eastern Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia, and East Asia (including China, Korea, and Japan). Political and cultural developments are central to the course's emphasis. Some consideration is given to the heritage of Mongol domination of these areas.

Successful completion of this course will enable you to:

- \* Comment with knowledge and authority on the Mongol World Empire in general and in particular pertaining each of the four major khanates

- \* Have a nuanced and balanced view of Chinggis Khan, one that neither whitewashes or downplays his spectacular brutality nor neglects the positive contributions he and his successors made to subsequent world history

- \* Have an appreciation of the first Europeans to have substantive encounters with the Mongols and leave behind detailed written accounts of these encounters: John of Plano Carpini, William of Rubruck, and Marco Polo

- \* Understand and discuss the ongoing debate over Marco Polo – whether he really did get all the way to Mongolia and China and how much he understood of his encounters if he did

- \* Understand and discuss the historical reasons for the rise and spread of the Mongol World Empire

- \* Understand and discuss the contradictory views of the Mongols and their empire that still exist today in the areas they conquered: China, Persia and the Middle East, Russia, and Central Asia

- \* Understand and discuss the dynamics and implications of Mongolia's emergence as a free and democratic country wedged between two undemocratic neighbours: China and Russia

Course requirements

Students will write two midterm examinations and a final examination, submit a prospectus, and write a term paper of 3000-3500 words. The midterms and the final will consist of short ID and essay questions. The final examination will be comprehensive but will concentrate more heavily on the material covered since the second midterm. Review sheets will be handed out approximately one week prior to the midterms and the final examination. Examinations will cover both lecture presentations and assigned readings. Students should neither expect lectures to be mere recitations of reading assignments nor regard the assigned readings as substitutes for lecture attendance. The lectures will contain some material not covered in detail in the readings. The reverse also holds. Before you write an examination, you should thoroughly review both your reading and your lecture notes.

The prospectus is an outline of what you propose to do for the term paper. It is a short (one-page) outline of your topic and at least three sources (books, articles, images) you have identified for it. You should use at least one book, one journal article, and one primary source in your paper. (Primary sources are materials written by participants in, or observers of, historical events or developments. Primary sources may also include chronicles written by historians soon after the events they describe.) Of course, translations of primary sources are still considered primary sources themselves. Placed on reserve are several books you may use in writing your papers. These books and the bibliographies in your textbooks are valuable resources for you in considering a paper topic. Accordingly, please keep your use of the main textbook for the course, David Morgan's *The Mongols*, to a minimum. In your prospectus, please describe your topic in a few sentences and then list the sources you plan to use. ***The prospectus is due on 24 October 2019.*** Late prospectuses will be penalized by 10% and an additional 10% thereafter for each week or portion thereof they are late.

The paper is to be written in formal academic style with footnotes, endnotes, or parenthetical references. The paper will be graded on the basis of its focus, analysis, and correctness of grammar and language usage. The sources must be listed in a bibliography, to be stapled to the back of the paper. Please do not use expensive bond paper or any type of cover. Simply staple the pages together at the upper left corner. The ***first deadline*** for the term paper, 5 November 2019, is for students who would wish to receive their graded paper on the last day of class. The ***second deadline, 3 December 2019***, is for students who would like to receive their graded paper at the final examination.

Students should read section "K.3 Student Academic Misconduct" in the *University of Calgary Calendar 2019-2020* at <https://ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-3.html>

### Grading

Students who attend lectures regularly and read the assigned material carefully stand a good chance of doing well in this course. Those who attend lectures sporadically and do only piecemeal reading will likely earn the fair to poor marks they deserve. Grades are calculated according to point totals. Possible point totals are as below.

First midterm examination	20
Second midterm examination	20

Prospectus	5
Final examination	25
Paper	30
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Total	100

### Textbooks

David Morgan, *The Mongols* (This is the main textbook for the course.)  
 Charles J. Halperin, *Russia and the Golden Horde: The Mongol Impact on Medieval Russian History*  
 Peter Jackson, *The Mongols and the Islamic World*  
 Paul Kahn, translator, *The Secret History of the Mongols: The Origins of Chingis Khan*, expanded edition  
 Morris Rossabi, *Khubilai Khan: His Life and Times*, 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition  
 Morris Rossabi, *The Mongols and Global History: A Norton Documents Reader*

### Important books

Below are some additional useful items on the history of the Mongol world empire. You should determine early in the semester whether books for your essay topic are available at the University of Calgary's Taylor Family Library.

Thomas Allsen, *Mongol Imperialism*  
 Thomas J. Barfield, *The Perilous Frontier*  
 John Andrew Boyle, *The Mongol World Empire, 1206-1370*  
 John Andrew Boyle, ed., *The Cambridge History of Iran, V. 5: The Saljuk and Mongol Periods*  
 Anne F. Broadbridge, *Women and the Making of the Mongol Empire*  
 Hok-lam Chan and William Theodore de Bary, eds., *Yuan Thought*  
 Paul Heng-chao Ch'en, *Chinese Legal Tradition Under the Mongols*  
 Francis W. Cleaves, *The Secret History of the Mongols*  
 John W. Dardess, *Conquerors and Confucians*  
 Christopher Dawson, ed., *The Mongol Mission*  
 Martin H. Desmond, *The Rise of Chinggis Khan and His Conquest of Northern China*  
 Rene Grousset (Marian McKellar and Denis Sinor, translators), *Conqueror of the World*  
 Rene Grousset (Naomi Walford, trans.), *The Empire of the Steppes*  
 Charles J. Halperin, *Russia and the Golden Horde*  
 Ch'i-ch'ing Hsiao, *The Military Establishment of the Yuan Dynasty*  
 Sechin Jagchid, *Essays in Mongolian Studies*  
 Sechin Jagchid and Paul Hyer, *Mongolia's Culture and Society*  
 Sechin Jagchid and Van Jay Symons, *Peace, War and Trade Along the Great Wall*  
 Ata-Malik Juvaini (John A. Boyle, trans.), *The History of the World Conqueror*

John D. Langlois, ed., *China Under Mongol Rule*  
 LeBaron M C. D’Ohsson, *Histoire des Mongols*  
 Paul Pelliot and Louis Hambil, *Histoire des Campagnes de Genghis Khan*  
 Igor de Rachewiltz, *Papal Envoys to the Great Khans*  
 Paul Ratchnevsky, *Genghis Khan*(This is *the* authoritative biography of Chinggis Khan in English.)  
 Rashid al-Din (John Andrew Boyle, translator), *The Successors of Genghis Khan*  
 David Robinson, *In the Shadow of the Mongol Empire: Ming China and Eurasia*  
 Morris Rossabi, *Voyager from Xanadu*  
 V. A. Riasanovsky, *Fundamental Principles of Mongol Law*  
 Jean-Paul Roux, *Histoire de l’empire Mongol*  
 Herbert Franz Schurman, *Economic Structure of the Yuan Dynasty*  
 Bertold Spuler, *History of the Mongols*  
 Bertold Spuler, *The Mongol Period*  
 George Vernadsky, *The Mongols and Russia*  
 Arthur Waley, *Travels of an Alchemist*  
 David Curtis Wright, “Genghis Khan” (Oxford Bibliographies;  
<http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780199791279/obo-9780199791279-0154.xml> )  
 Sir Henry Yule, *Cathay and the Way Thither*

### Lecture topics and reading assignments

N.B.: These topics, dates, and reading assignments are *tentative and approximate*. They are subject to change as class needs dictate. “Rossabi” below refers to his book on Khubilai Khan. (Rossabi’s other book, the Mongols and Global History, is a book of primary sources that will be very useful for preparing the term paper.)

### **September**

5 Introduction to course; who and what were the “barbarians”? Morgan, 1-29

### **PART I: THE GROWTH OF THE EMPIRE**

10, 12 Pre-Mongol barbarian empires; Morgan, 30-48  
 The Mongol world empire: overview; Rossabi, 1-21  
 The Mongol world empire: overview (cont’d.)

17, 19 The origins of Chinggis Khan; Morgan, 49-73; Kahn, xi-xxix, 3-113  
 The life and exploits of Chinggis Khan; Morgan, 61-73; Kahn, 114-190  
 Chinggis Khan in the hearts and minds of Mongols today (no reading assignment)

24, 26 The Mongol conquest of Islamic Central Asia; Morgan, 74-98  
 Persia and the Fertile Crescent; Morgan, 128- 151; Jackson, 1-209

The Mongols and the Crusaders (no reading assignment)

## October

1, 3

**First midterm examination (October 1 only)**

Mongol campaigns against northern China; Kahn, 182-193

8, 10

The Mongol conquest of Russia; Morgan, 120-139

The Mongol invasion of Europe; Morgan, 152-173

The travels of John of Plano Carpini (no reading assignment)

15, 17

The travels of William of Rubruck (no reading assignment)

The Mongols and Christendom; review Morgan, 183-187

Mongolian religion and attitudes towards religion (no reading assignment)

22, 24

The invasion and conquest of (Southern) Sung China; Rossabi, 22-114

## PART II: THE SEPARATE DESTINIES OF THE KHANATES

### *A. Mongol institutions*

**Paper prospectus due (October 24)** Mongol law; Morgan, 96-99

Mongol taxation; Morgan, 100-103

The Mongol armies; Morgan, 84-96, 103-107

29, 31

### *B. The Golden Horde*

Mongol rule in Russia; Halperin 1-60

The “Tartar yoke”; Halperin, 61-130

The dissolution of the Golden Horde; Morgan, 136-145

## November

5, 7

**Second midterm examination (November 5 only)**

**Term papers due (November 5) for those wanting early marking**

### *C. The Il Khanate*

The Middle East and Persia before Ghazan; Morgan, 120-151

The Il Khanate from the reign of Ghazan; Jackson, 210-418

### *D. The Chagadai Khanate*

12, 14

**Term break; no class meeting**

19, 21 Mongol domination of Turkestan (no reading assignment)

*E. Yuan China*

The reign of Khubilai Khan; Morgan, 112-126; review Rossabi, 22-75  
Mongol governance in China; Morgan, 99-119; Rossabi, 115-231

26, 28 The travels and (tall?) tales of Marco Polo; review Rossabi, 147-152  
The travels and (tall?) tales of Marco Polo (cont'd.)  
The Mongol invasions of Japan (no reading assignment)

**December**

3, 5

***Term paper due (December 3); marks available at final exam.***

Yuan China after Khubilai; Morgan, 132-135  
Mongolia: 1368 to present; Morgan, 199-206

***Final examination time and place TBA***

**Program Advising and Student Information Resources:**

- **Attention history majors: History 300 is a required course for all history majors. You should normally take it in your second year.**
- For program advising in the Faculty of Arts, contact the Arts Students Centre (ASC) in SS 102, call 403-220-3580, email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca), or book an appointment with an ASC advisor at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate>.
- For further information on academic advising and degree planning for arts students, see <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/current-students/undergraduate/academic-advising>.
- For registration issues, paying fees, and assistance with MyUofC, contact Enrolment Services in MacKimmie Library Block (MLB), call 403-210-ROCK (7625), or visit <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/>.
- Registration changes and exemption requests: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/appeals>.

**Departmental Grading System:**

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme is used in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses, except for HTST 200.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
90-100	A+	4.00	Outstanding
85-89	A	4.00	Excellent—superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
80-84	A-	3.70	
77-79	B+	3.30	
73-76	B	3.00	Good—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
70-72	B-	2.70	
67-69	C+	2.30	
63-66	C	2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.
60-62	C-	1.70	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation.
56-59	D+	1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
50-55	D	1.00	
0-49	F	0	Fail—unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

### Writing:

All written assignments and written exam responses are assessed partly on writing skills. Writing skills include surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) and general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly referenced.

### Red Box Policy:

Essays and other assignments may be dropped into the red box located outside of the History Department office (Social Sciences, Room 656). Please include the following information on your assignment: 1) **course name and number**, 2) **instructor**, 3) **your name**, and 4) **your student number**. Assignments received after 4:00 p.m. are date stamped the next business day.

We do not time stamp any papers. Please do not bring your paper into the office to be stamped. The box is emptied at 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

**Plagiarism:**

Plagiarism occurs when one submits or presents one's work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. As noted in *The History Student's Handbook*

<https://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/history-students-handbook-2019.pdf>

Plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failing to cite sources properly
- Submitting borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers
- Submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved
- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources, even when referenced properly, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works
- Using notes does not justify the sustained presentation of another author's language and ideas as one's own

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work is reported to the Faculty of Arts' associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the *University of Calgary Calendar, Section K*.  
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

**Copyright:**

Instructors in all University of Calgary courses strictly adhere to the Copyright Act regulations and educational exceptions permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. No copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. In some cases, you may be required to purchase a print course pack from the University of Calgary bookstore or consult books on reserve at the library. For more information on the University of Calgary's copyright policy, see  
<http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>.

**Academic Accommodations (implemented July 1, 2015):**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should contact Student Accessibility Services (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an accommodation based on a protected ground other than disability should



contact, preferably in writing, the course instructor.

**Other Useful Information:**

- Department Twitter @ucalgaryhist

Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for information on:

- Wellness and Mental Health
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

*Fall 2019*