Course Code: HUMA 6002U  
Course Title: Marco Polo and Eurasian Globalization  
Course Offered in: Spring 2024  
Course Instructor: Dr. Marco Caboara

Course Description:
Marco Polo’s travel to China 700 years ago led to the first reliable account of Central and East Asian economies and cultures to circulate in Europe. This course will focus on a complete reading Marco Polo’s short book in English translation accompanied by selected readings situating Marco Polo in his historical context, discussing his connections with the Silk Road and the first Eurasian Globalization as well as the debates surrounding the reliability of his account.

Course Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs):

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<th>On successful completion of the proposed course, students will be able to:</th>
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Course Outline:

| Week | Introduction: The World of Marco Polo  
The Travels, xi–xxxix and Prologue (1-15)  
Haw 2006 ch.3 “The Journey and the writing of the book”, 40-51 |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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| 2 | Journey through the Middle East | The Travels Ch. 1 (pp. 16-45)  
| 3 | The Road to Cathay | The Travels ch.2 (46-86)  
Rong Xinjiang 2015, 161-174.  
Favereau 2022, ch 6 (206-246), “The Northern Road” |
| 4 | Khubilay Khan | The Travels ch. 3 (87-140)  
Rossabi 2012, ch. 4 (60-84) “The Mongols and their world”  
McCausland 2014, ch. 1 (23-50) “Dadu: Eurasia’s Metropolis” |
| 5 | From Beijing to Bengal | The Travels ch. 4 (141-174)  
Haw 2006, ch. 6-8 (82-123), “Marcos’ journey into China”  
Wade 2009, 17–42. |
| 6 | From Beijing to Quanzhou | The Travels ch. 5 (175-224)  
Caramello & Schmitz 2022, 210-228.  
Guy 2010, 158-77. |
| 7 | Debates about the book- did Marco Polo go to China? | Haw 2006, ch. 4 “No Great Wall?”, 52-67  
Yang, 1998, 98-123  
| 8 | From China to India | The Travels ch. 6 (225-245)  
Gunn, 2021, ch.4 (Geographic Imaginaries from the Chinese Tradition) |
| 9 | India | The Travels ch. 7, 246-282  
Gunn, 2021, ch.2 (An Indian Imaginary), 41-62  
Ristuccia, 2013, 170–204. |
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| 10 | The Arabian Sea  
The Travels ch. 8, 283-301  
Gunn, 2021, ch.3 (Arab Geographic Imaginaries), 63-84  
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11 | The Western Hordes  
The Travels, 309–41.  
Borbone, 2008, 221–42. |
| 12 | Who invented Spaghetti?  
Serventi & Sabban 2002, ch 1(1-40) and ch. 9 (271-303) |
| 13 | Scholars on the Silk Road (von Richthofen, Pelliot, Tucci)  
Waugh 2007: 1-10 |

### Planned Assessment Tasks:

- **Presentations:** 25%
- **Final written assignment (3500 words):** 50%
- **Course participation/ reading comprehension:** 25%

### Readings:


Other assigned readings

2. Bernardini, Michele, Marco Polo, Encyclopedia Iranica, 2008  
https://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/polo-marco


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for Europeans in Yuan China and their Paleographic Analysis. medieval worlds, 2022, 210-228.


17. Wade, Geoff. ‘An Annotated Translation of the Yuan Shi Account of Mian (Burma),’ in The Scholar’s Mind: Essays in Honor of Frederick W. Mote (Hong Kong, 2009), 17–42.


**Supplementary readings**

**Other editions of Marco Polo’s Travels**


Moule, A. C., and PELLIOT, P. Marco Polo; the Description of the World (London, Routledge, 1938).

**A fundamental tool**

Paul Pelliot, Notes on Marco Polo (Paris, 1959-73, 3 vols)

**Fundamental collection of related travel accounts**

Sir Henry Yule, Cathay and the way thither, new edn. by Henri Cordier (Hakluyt Society, 2nd series, xxxin, xxxvii, xxxvii, XLII, London, 1913-16, 4 vols)

**Other references**
Leonardo Olschki, Marco Polo's Asia, (tr.) J. A. Scott, Berkeley and Los Angeles, 1960.

Vogel H. U. Marco Polo was in China: new evidence from currencies, salts and revenues. Brill, 2013.