HIS 383: Selected Asian Studies Topics: Silk Road Warriors, Monks and Merchants
Prof. Jonathan Skaff

Paper Assignment 1

Length: 4 to 8 pages, double-spaced in 12-point font

Due: Monday, Oct. 7
　　　Hard copy due in class with the grading sheet on the reverse attached
　　　Electronic Copy submitted to the D2L Dropbox in .doc, .docx, or .rtf file format

Topic: Write a paper in which you argue whether Sören Stark in "Nomads and Networks" or Susan Whitfield in "A Pair of Steppe Earrings" explains more effectively how goods and technologies were transferred around Eurasia in the last centuries BCE. The paper should compare and contrast the methodologies that the two authors use to explain how goods arrived in "Xiongnu" graves in Xigoupan in the northeastern Ordos and "Scythian" kurgan tombs in the Altai Mountains. In determining their methods, consider how the authors use archaeological evidence, analyze the materials and designs of objects, and take advantage of historical sources to reach conclusions.

The paper should clearly articulate a thesis arguing which author's methodology is more successful. The thesis should be defended with evidence from the two chapters. Supporting evidence may be derived from other assigned readings, and class lectures and discussions. Additional research in library sources is discouraged, and not necessary to obtain a good grade. If you choose to carry out additional research, you must utilize books and databases obtained through Ezra Lehman Library. NO INTERNET SITES ARE ALLOWED UNLESS LEHMAN LIBRARY PROVIDES DATABASE LINKS TO THEM. Cite all sources in proper Chicago A or B format. Non-history majors may use MLA.

Citations: The paper should include citations and a bibliography with references to the class readings and lectures. History majors should use Chicago A (Turabian notes-bibliography) or Chicago B (Turabian author-date) format. Students who are not history majors have the option of using MLA.

Evaluation: 80% of the grade will be based on content. Grades of A will be awarded to papers that persuasively defend a thesis based on evidence from the two books.

The other 20% will be based upon grammar and word usage (4%), spelling, capitalization and punctuation (4%), organization (4%), readability (4%), and bibliography and citations in MLA or Chicago A or B format (4%).

Grading sheet (attach to paper)

Name: _____   Major: _____

I. Content (80%)

Understanding of Stark's methodology: ___Excellent ___Good ___Fair ___Poor

Understanding of Whitfield's methodology: ___Excellent ___Good ___Fair ___Poor

Defense of thesis with evidence from readings & lecture: ___Excellent ___Good ___Fair ___Poor

A=72-80, B=64-71, C=56-63, D=48-55, F=47 or lower   _____

II. Writing mechanics (20%)
A=4, B=3.5, C=3, D=2.5, F=2 or lower

Grammar and word usage (4%)   _____

Spelling, capitalization, and punctuation (4%)   _____

Organization (4%)   _____

Readability (4%)   _____

Citations and bibliography (Chicago A/B or MLA, 4%)   _____

Total   _____

Correction Symbols Used in Grading Paper
agr   wrong agreement (noun-verb or noun-noun)
awk   awkward sentence
cit   citation needed
frag   sentence fragment (usually a sentence that lacks a verb)
org   organization problems
redun   redundant (using different words to say the same thing more than once)
rep   repetitious use of the same word
run-on   run-on sentence
sp   wrong spelling
trans   poor transition (between sentences or paragraphs)
tn   wrong verb tense
unc   unclear phrase, sentence, or paragraph
wf   wrong grammatical form of word
ww   wrong word usage
¶   new paragraph needed