

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

Paper Assignment 3: Critique of Hansen's Thesis

Length: 4 to 7 pages, double-spaced in 12-point font

Due: Monday, Dec. 2

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: In the book *The Silk Road: A New History with Documents*, Professor Valerie Hansen, proposes a thesis that, "Silk Road trade was largely the byproduct of Chinese government spending—not long-distance commerce conducted by private merchants" (*The Silk Road*, p. 175).

Write a critique (positive or negative) of Hansen's thesis in Chapters 1 through 7 of her book. The critique should explain 1) what she means by this thesis, 2) how she uses evidence to defend it, and 3) the degree to which you agree or disagree with her thesis based on evidence presented in her book, other assigned readings, and class lectures and discussions.

Your arguments should be defended with evidence from Hansen, *The Silk Road*, other assigned books by Whitfield, Golden, and Foltz, and class lecture. Additional research in library sources is 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.**

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 critique based on evidence from the readings and lectures.

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 Hansen's thesis: _____ Excellent ___ Good ___ Fair ___ Poor

Understanding of Hansen's evidence defending her thesis: _____ Excellent ___ Good ___ Fair ___ Poor

Positive or negative critique of Hansen's thesis: _____ 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