

Prof. Michael R. Drompp  
Clough 309  
(843)-3655

Office Hours: M & W 2:00 — 3:00 PM, Th 3:00 — 4:00 PM, and by appointment

**HISTORY 103.1: INTRODUCTION TO HISTORICAL INVESTIGATION: THE MONGOL WORLD EMPIRE**  
**E Hour: MWF, 12:40 — 1:40 PM, Clough 313**

**Required texts for purchase:**

Storey, William K. *Writing History.: A Guide for Students*

Morgan, David. *The Mongols*

Kahn, Paul. *The Secret History of the Mongols*

Juvaini, A. *Genghis Khan: The History of the World Conqueror*

Dawson, Christopher. *Mission to Asia*

Halperin, Charles. *Russia and the Golden Horde*

The world's largest contiguous land empire was created by a people whose history is little known and whose way of life would not immediately suggest the likelihood of such an achievement. Yet the Mongol conquest affected most of Eurasia, including China, Korea, Japan, Southeast Asia, Tibet, Inner Asia, Iran, the Middle East, Russia, and Europe. Armies under Mongol leadership battled armored knights in Poland, Japanese samurai on the coast of Kyushu, elephant-mounted warriors in the jungles of Burma, Chinese ships on the Yangzi River, and the armies of Islam, as well as rival nomadic tribes. Who were these people, and what caused them to burst out of their remote homeland to overthrow the great states of Eurasia? What factors allowed such a small and thinly-scattered population to conquer much of the known world, and what finally stopped them? This course will examine these questions and more as we seek to understand the Mongol Empire and its impact on world history. As a course in historical investigation, we will also seek to understand sources and their use, and how/why history is written.

**Requirements for the course include:**

1. Regular class attendance and alert participation
2. Evidence of thoughtful, serious reading of assigned materials
3. A map quiz and a genealogy quiz
4. Two short essays (each a minimum of 1500 words)
5. One medium-length research paper (a minimum of 4000 words)
6. A midterm exam and a final exam

Additional readings, quizzes (including unannounced quizzes) and short assignments may also be given. Exams will cover the texts as well as materials presented in lectures, handouts, and audiovisual materials. Papers are due in class at the beginning of the class period. **Late work will not be accepted.** For papers, correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation are essential. **Errors of this type will be penalized.** If you use a computer to write your papers, be certain that you know how to use it before entrusting it with your paper. Always keep a hard copy (a

copy on paper) of each draft of your papers. Computer malfunctions are not acceptable excuses for sloppiness or tardiness.

Thoughtful classroom participation is vital to this course, and will constitute a significant portion of the final grade. **For this reason, you must bring each day's assigned reading(s) with you to class.** Excessive absences and/or disruptive behavior in the classroom may result in a lower grade for classroom participation. Three (3) unexcused absences are allowed; excessive absences (i.e., 9 or more) may result in the student being dropped from the course or in an "F" for the final course grade. Final grades will be based approximately 60% on written work and approximately 40% on classroom participation. Extra credit will not be permitted. Make-up exams will be given only in cases of legitimate, documented reasons; if you are wondering if your reason is legitimate, it probably is not. Note that "W" (Withdrawal) will be given only when the student has followed official withdrawal procedures by the stated deadlines.

**All students are expected to abide by the Rhodes Honor Code.** Infractions will be dealt with according to the rules of the college. In your papers, be certain to avoid plagiarism (the use of someone else's information/material without properly citing the source of that information/material). **You must indicate the sources of your information and ideas through proper citation, whether the source is quoted directly or not.** Also, be certain to avoid the appearance of collusion in written assignments and exams. Studying together can be an excellent way to learn, but can (in extreme cases) lead to disconcerting similarities. Extreme instances of similarities in exams or papers may result in a lowering of the grade for that assignment.

## **SYLLABUS**

The syllabus indicates which pages are to be completed PRIOR TO that day's class.

### Week 1

Jan. 12 W Introduction to the course and texts

**Plan ahead:** You have a map quiz on Friday, 21 January. To prepare for it, you will be given a blank map of Eurasia and a list of geographical and political features to learn. Make copies of the blank map that you are given today. Find the geographical and political features from the list in atlases, encyclopedias, etc., and place them on one of the copies. Use the other copies to test yourself.

Jan. 14 F Beginning: Why are the Mongols important?

### Week 2

**Jan. 17 M Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observance — No Class**

Jan. 19 W Getting a grasp on Mongol history  
READING: Morgan, pp. 1-54

Jan. 21 F Eurasia on the eve of the Mongol conquest  
**Map Quiz**

### Week 3

Jan. 24 M Who was Chinggis Khan?

READING: Morgan, pp. 55-83

Jan. 26 W The oral tradition of *The Secret History of the Mongols*

READING: Kahn, pp. ix-xxvi and 3-39

Jan. 28 F A Persian source: *The History of the World Conqueror*

READING: Juvaini, pp. xvii-xlvi and 3-48

**Plan ahead:** You have a short paper due on Monday, 7 February. This paper is to be a minimum of 1500 words in length, and is to be an essay on how *The Secret History of the Mongols* presents one of the following persons: Hogelun, Bogorchu, Jamugha, Borte. Do not focus on that person's life or acts, but rather on how that person is presented in *The Secret History*, and how s/he functions in the drama of Chinggis' story.

### Week 4

Jan. 31 M Chinggis Khan's rise to power

READING: Kahn, pp. 40-113

Feb. 02 W The expansion of Chinggis' power

READING: Kahn, pp. 114-165

Feb. 04 F Another view

READING: Juvaini, pp. 61-128

**Plan ahead:** You have a genealogy quiz on Friday, 11 January. This will require you to replicate, from memory, the chart that appears on p. 222 of Morgan's book. For the quiz, you will be given a blank sheet of paper on which to put the genealogical chart of the great khans.

### Week 5

**Feb. 07 M** The organization of the empire

READING: Morgan, pp. 84-111

**First short paper due**

Feb. 09 W The last days of Chinggis Khan

READING: Juvaini, pp. 128-178

**Feb. 11 F** Guest Speaker: Prof. Esther Jacobson-Tepfer, University of Oregon

**Genealogy quiz**

**Plan ahead:** Your second short essay (again a minimum of 1500 words) is due on Wednesday, 23 February. This essay is to be a comparison of *The Secret History of the Mongols* and Juvaini's history as sources for the history of the Mongol Empire.

Week 6

Feb. 14 M Wrapping up *The Secret History*

READING: Kahn, pp. 166-190

Feb. 16 W The expansion of the Mongol Empire: An overview

READING: Morgan, pp. 112-174

Feb. 18 F The expansion of the Mongol Empire: Two secondary studies

READING: Fletcher, "The Mongols: Ecological and Social Perspectives"

Smith, "Mongol Campaign Rations: Milk Marmots, and Blood" (handouts)

**Plan ahead:** Your paper topic is due in class on Monday, 28 February (the day of the midterm exam). You may give me your topic earlier if you wish. Your choice of topic should show that you have investigated the topic to the degree that you are aware that there are enough sources available to write such a paper.

Week 7

Feb. 21 M Juvaini on the successors of Chinggis Khan: Ogedei

READING: Juvaini, pp. 178-248

**Feb. 23 W** Continued: Güyük

READING: Juvaini, pp. 248-276

**Second short paper due**

Feb. 25 F Continued: Möngke

READING: Juvaini, pp. 555-640

Week 8

**Feb. 28 M MIDTERM EXAM**

**Paper topic due**

Mar. 01 W Writing a research paper

READING: Storey, pp. 1-63

Mar. 03 F Continued

READING: Storey, pp. 65-90

**Plan ahead:** Your research paper is due on Monday, 17 March. This paper is to be a minimum of 4000 words, typed, and double-spaced with endnotes (not parenthetical annotation) and bibliography in proper form as set forth in Storey's book. Your paper must have an original and meaningful title (with the final word count on the title page) and a well-supported thesis/argument with a conclusion.

**Mar. 06 M Spring Recess — No Class**

**Mar. 08 W Spring Recess — No Class**

**Mar. 10 F Spring Recess — No Class**

Week 9

**Mar. 13 M** Using the library

**Meet in library with Mr. Bill Short. Take notes.**

**Mar. 15 W No Class — Work on research paper**

Mar. 17 F The Mongols and the West:

READING: Grigor of Akanc', *History of the Nation of the Archers* (handout)

*The Chronicle of Novgorod* (handout)

Week 10

Mar. 20 M John of Plano Carpini

READING: Dawson, pp. vii-xxxv and 2-86

Mar. 22 W William of Rubruck

READING: Dawson, pp. 88-149

Mar. 24 F Continued

READING: Dawson, pp. 149—237

Week 11

**Mar. 27 M** Wrapping up the papal missions

**Research paper due**

Mar. 29 W Another Western source

READING: Joinville, *The Life of St. Louis* (handout)

Mar. 31 F Marco Polo and the discovery of the world

READING: Polo, *The Travels* (handout)

Week 12

Apr. 03 M The mystery of Prester John

Apr. 05 W Why is Marco Polo important?

Apr. 07 F Revising a research paper

READING: Storey, pp. 91-107

**Note that the final revision of your research paper is due on Monday, 17 April.**

Week 13

Apr. 10 M Some important secondary studies on the Mongol empire

READING: Jackson, "From Ulus to Khanate: The Making of the Mongol States, c. 1220 - c. 1290" (handout)

Apr. 12 W Continued

READING: McNeil, "The Impact of the Mongol Empire on Shifting Disease Balances, 1200-1500" (handout)

**Apr. 14 F Presidential Inauguration — No Class**

Week 14

**Apr. 17 M** The Mongols in Russia: A case study

**Revised research paper due**

Apr. 19 W Continued

READING: Halperin, pp. 1-43

**Apr. 21 F Easter Recess — No Class**

Week 15

Apr. 24 M Continued

READING: Halperin, pp. 44- 86

Apr. 26 W Continued

READING: Halperin, pp. 87-130

Apr. 28 F Conclusion: Why are the Mongols important?

**Exam Week**

**May 05 F Final Exam, 1:00 - 3:30 PM**