Cultural History of the Eastern Silk Road

絲綢之路東段文化簡史

FH2CM03M

Briefing

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Dr. SHI Ying

What is the subject about?

- key features of the cultural history of the eastern portion of The Silk Road across the Han and Tang Dynasties
- Explore the transformation the Silk Road throughout early and medieval China
- Culture life and cosmopolitanism in imperial China: history, religion, ritual, art, architecture, archaeology, music and dance
- <u>Discover the relics of Han and Tang empire in Xi'an, by visiting the sites in person</u>

Overview

- 8 July 19 July (12 days)
- Destination: Xi'an 西安, Shaanxi Province陝西, China
- Partner University: Xi'an Jiaotong University 西安交通大學
- Hotel: 3 stars, near the campus of XJU
- Students: 30 PolyU, ≤30 XJU
- Group study with students in Xi'an
- Medium of instruction and assessment: English
 - 2 guest lectures, one in Chinese

Course Outline

- The Silk Road since Han Dynasty: Interaction with the Hu and the states in the "Western Region"
- The Cosmopolitan Terminus of Silk Road: Historical Chang'an and Modern Xi'an
- The Silk Road and the influx of foreign religions
- The Time Capsule of Silk Road: Dunhuang Frescoes
- Dances and Music on the Silk Road

- 2 guest lectures: scholars in Xi'an
 - Dunhuang Academy China 敦煌研究院
 - Northwest University in Xi'an 西北大學

Guest Lecturer

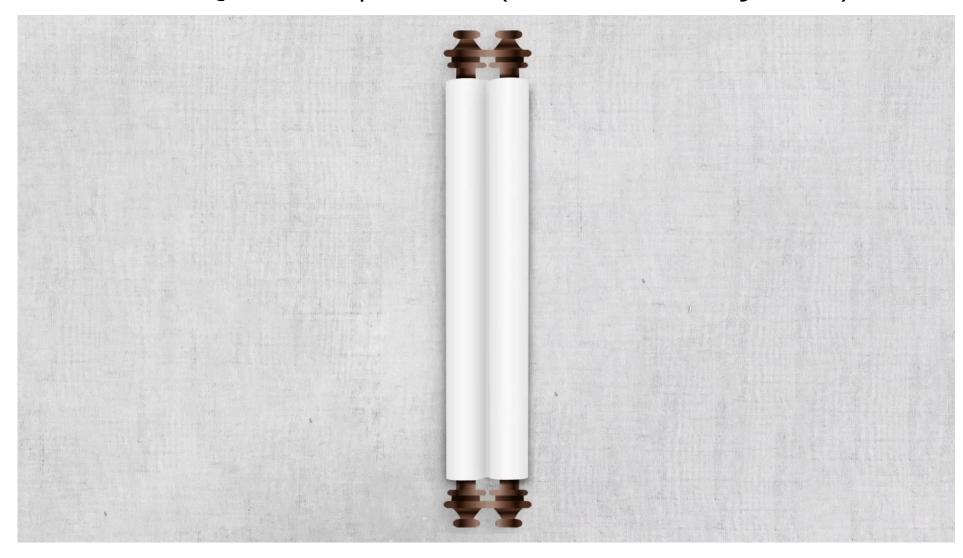
- 張元林 ZHANG Yuanlin
- Associate Head of Dunhuang Academy
- Research interest: visual art of Buddhism in Dunhuang, Buddhist History
- Topic: How to analysis the Buddhist murals in Dunhuang?



Schedule

- Morning: Lectures (Dr. Shi/ Guest lecturer) Tutorials after lectures
- Afternoon:
 Visit museums and historical sites in Xi'an
- Evening: dinner at local popular restaurants, free time

Study tour: Terracotta Army in the Mausoleum of the First Qin Emperor (3rd century BC)



Study tour: Tang West Market Museum & Giant Wild Goose Pagoda (7th century)



Shaanxi History Museum

 one of the largest museums in China featured with relics of 3rd century BC-10th century AC China (Han to Song Dynasty)





Qian Ling 乾陵 (7th century)

- mausoleum of the first and only empress regnant WU Zetian 武則天 and her husband
- Stone statues of 61 Foreign Officials
- Wordless Stele of Wu Zetian



Famen Temple 法門寺 (3rd century BC)

- Buddhist temple with 1000+ years of history
- Important royal temple in Tang Dynasty
- Śarīra 舍利子, Relics of the Buddha after cremation





Assessment

Attendance 10%

- students should attend each lectures, tutorials and study tour
- Absence and late without requesting leave in advance will result in point deductions

Oral group presentation 30%

- no script allowed
- 3 or 4 students/group
- present on the last day of the trip
- 20 minutes/ group (5-6 minutes/person)

Assessment

- Final quiz 20%
- Open book
- closed & open questions
- Individual Final Term Paper 40%
 - deadline: 1 week after the trip
 - 1500-2000 words