

COURSE CONTENT

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| Course Code | DD3027 (DD9010) |
| Course Title | Maritime Silk Roads: Heritage and Media |
| Pre-requisites | NIL |
| No of AUs | 3 |
| Contact Hours | 39 hours |

Course Aims

In this course, you will adopt a multicultural approach to heritage and media in contemporary and future global societies to discuss the maritime silk roads "as a metaphor for the on-going flow of [goods,] ideas and knowledge in Afro-Eurasia, which in turn contribute to the reconfiguration of global economic and diplomatic relationships" (van der Ploeg, J. - G. A. Persoon & H. Liu, p. 6). This course will challenge the monocultural bias of common perceptions and expand your awareness towards a multicultural perspective. This broader knowledge will provide a valuable contribution to other studies of the Afro-Eurasia context.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO)

By the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Apply appropriate research methods to discuss monoculturalism, multiculturalism, and transculturalism as different approaches to the heritage of the maritime silk roads.
2. Describe the heritage of the maritime silk roads.
3. Evaluate and reflect on how media products address and interpret the heritage of the maritime silk roads.
4. Present and discuss how public and private institutions use media to preserve, interpret and communicate the heritage of the maritime silk roads.
5. Contribute to critique and class discussion on a range of aspects of the maritime silk roads.

Course Content

In this course you will explore an interdisciplinary introduction to heritage and media related to the maritime silk roads with a focus on pre-modern medieval Afro-Eurasia. This special geographical and chronological focus shows the world before the modern European expansionism in the Oceans. Crossing regions and continents in theory and practice, an online field work component will use the facilities and tools of the interactive system Engineering Historical Memory to review media and institutions that contribute to the discourse on the maritime silk roads.

World Maps and Travel Accounts

The course surveys the cartography of Afro-Eurasia (art, science, and ideology) and travel accounts in Western and Asian traditions (1100-1500 CE), with focus on the so-called maritime silk roads. The course introduces a series of geographical mind sets, which still pervade the contemporary 21st century global system of world ontologies, essentially based on both ancient Greek *kósmos*, Christian *mundus*, and Muslim دار الإسلام (Dar-al-Islam). Using the maritime silk roads as a showcase, the course examines the geographical, cultural, socio-political, and economic contexts, through which the art/science of cartography and the travel accounts served both the need of thinking about the world, describing geographic factors, aggregating and navigating ethnographical knowledge, imaging geopolitical realities, and supporting expansionistic strategies. As a methodological *leitmotif* the in-class investigation of case studies includes the discussion/interpretation of representations and

models of maritime silk roads.

Media and Institutions

In class sessions, you will be guided in the review and critique of media products and institutions related to the maritime silk roads in contemporary Afro-Eurasia.