Contact Information and Office Hours (Please attend office hours for in-depth questions)
Koh (akoh@brandeis.edu, 212 Mandel Center for the Humanities): T, Th 12:00-1:00 PM or by appointment

Course Description (fulfills Humanities and Non-Western requirements)
The course is an introduction to the Silk Road as a driving force in history through its role as a facilitator of cross-cultural contacts. For thousands of years (ca. Bronze Age to the fall of Constantinople in 1453 CE), the overland trade routes running from China to the Mediterranean served not only to move goods, but also ideas, peoples, and religions. This course will cover a wide variety of topics ranging from trade and politics to religion and language to art and archaeology. In addition to the Chinese, Romans, and Greeks, attention will be brought to the many intermediaries, including the Mongols, Arabs, and Persians. Due to the breadth of the material, the overarching goal for participants is a general grasp of all the major issues with an in-depth look at specific topics that will become the focus of writing assignments. If enough interest exists, a separate section for graduate students will meet each week for one hour.

Learning Goals
Students should gain a working knowledge of the basic chronological framework and geography pertaining to the Silk Road and the literary and material evidence that has shaped our understanding of it. Students will gain a working knowledge of the basic chronological framework and geography pertaining to the Silk Road and the literary and material evidence that has shaped our understanding of it. Students will understand how humans have always been interdependent and recognize how trade has influenced culture (and vice-versa) throughout history. Students will place the cultural and economic exchange that occurred on the Silk Road into historical context while appreciating the interdependence and diversity of cultures and the benefits of exchange. One of the required essays will be based on a visit to the Boston MFA.

Required Textbooks
Hansen, V. The Silk Road: A New History (Oxford: Oxford University, 2015)
Wood, F. The Silk Road: Two Thousand Years in the Heart of Asia (Berkeley: University of California, 2002)
Liu, X. The Silk Road in World History (Oxford: Oxford University, 2010)

Additional Readings
Liu, X. Silk and Religion: An Exploration of Material Life & the Thought of People, AD 600-1200 (Oxford: Oxford University, 1996)
Whitfield, S. Life Along the Silk Road (Berkeley: University of California, 1999)

Course Website *IMPORTANT* (http://www.brandeis.edu/latte/)
Please check periodically for reading assignments, class slides, etc. Supplementary readings will be uploaded to LATTE as well.

Policies and Expectations
The genuine success of this class depends on sincere, informed participation by its individual members. Therefore, your individual success in this class (as it is measured by a final grade) will depend largely on your attendance, participation, and preparation. Absences will make it much more difficult for you to understand the material presented in the readings and the slides presented in class. Conversely, you cannot engage yourself with the class effectively if you have not carefully read the assigned material before class. Lectures, discussions, and readings go hand in hand and a solid knowledge of all three is needed to succeed. Success in this 4 credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings, papers, discussion sections, preparation for exams, etc.).

*If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me immediately.*

**Enrollment in this course signifies that participants will adhere to Brandeis University policies, including, but not limited to, those set forth in the latest Rights and Responsibilities handbook - http://www.brandeis.edu/studentaffairs/srcs/rr/index.html.**

Grades will be determined according to one of two formulas (choose one by end of Week 3 - grad students will likely choose Formula 2):

**Formula 1**
- 20% Participation (based on attendance and participation in class and on LATTE)
- 15% Six Quizzes (top five quizzes count at 3% each – no makeups due to unexcused absences)
- 40% Two Short Essays (5-6 pages, 20% each) – one essay will require a class visit to the Museum of Fine Arts
- 25% Final Exam (short answer, slide IDs, topical essay)

**Formula 2**
- 20% Participation (based on attendance and participation in class and on LATTE)
- 15% Six Quizzes (top five quizzes count at 3% each – no makeups due to unexcused absences)
- 10% Research Paper Proposal (1-2 pages, 1” margins, double-spaced)
- 15% Class Research Presentation (5 minutes using MS PowerPoint, 10 minutes for graduate students)
- 40% Research Paper (10-15 pages, 1” margins, double-spaced, 15-20 pages for graduate students)
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE (bold readings mandatory, italicized readings mandatory for grad students and optional for undergrads)

1 (Aug. 25 & 30) Introduction to Class
   - Introduction: Geography, Climate, Origins, & Chronology
   - Hansen: Introduction
   - Wood: Chapter 1
   - Christian: Introduction and Chapter 1

2 (Sept. 1 & 6) People: Societies & Nomads and Their Material/Artistic Remains
   - Hansen: Chapter 1
   - Liu (Silk and Religion): Introduction
   - Millward: Chapter 1
   - Christian: Chapter 5 and 6

3 (Sept. 13 & 15) Economy, Commodities, & Exchange: The Flow of Beautiful and Wonderful Things
   - Hansen: Chapter 2
   - Millward: Chapter 2
   - Wood: Chapter 2
   - Christian: Chapter 8

4 (Sept. 20 & 22) There and Back Again: Traveling & Transportation
   - Hansen: Chapter 3
   - Millward: Chapter 3
   - Wood: Chapter 3
   - Bulliet: Excerpts from the Camel and the Wheel (LATTE)

5 (Sept. 27 & 29) China and the East: Its Art & Culture
   - Hansen: Chapter 4
   - Millward: Chapter 4
   - Wood: Chapter 4
   - Liu (The Silk Road in World History): Chapter 1

6 (Oct. 6 & 11) The Mediterranean and the West: Its Art & Culture
   - Hansen: Chapter 5
   - Liu (The Silk Road in World History): Chapter 2
   - Millward: Chapter 5
   - Liu (Silk and Religion): Chapter 3-5

7 (Oct. 13 & 18) Alexander: Conqueror & Captive
   - Hansen: Chapter 6
   - Millward: Chapter 6
   - Christian: Chapter 7

8 (Oct. 20 & 27) Religion: Exchange of Art & Culture
   - Hansen: Chapter 7
   - Wood: Chapter 5
   - Liu (The Silk Road in World History): Chapter 3
   - Liu (Silk and Religion): Chapter 2

   Formula 1 students: Essay 1 due on Oct. 20 (hardcopy in class, softcopy on LATTE)
   Formula 2 students: Research Proposal due on Oct. 20 (hardcopy in class, softcopy on LATTE)

9 (Nov. 1 & 3) Cultural and Economic Exchange on the Silk Road: The Tarim Basin of Western China
   MFA Visit (Nov. 3rd)
   - Wood: Chapter 6
   - Liu (The Silk Road in World History): Chapter 4

10 (Nov. 8 & 10) The Silk Road and Its Periphery
   - Wood: Chapter 7
   - Liu (The Silk Road in World History): Chapter 5
   - Christian: Chapter 13

11 (Nov. 15 & 17) The Mongols, Marco Polo, and the Legacy of the Silk Road
   - Wood: Chapter 8, 9, Epilogue
   - Liu (The Silk Road in World History): Chapter 6
   - Christian: Chapter 15-16

12 & 13 (Nov. 22, 29; Dec. 1, 6) Class PowerPoint Research Presentations by Formula 2 students

   Formula 1 students: Essay 2 due on Tuesday, Nov. 22 (hardcopy in class, softcopy on LATTE)
   Formula 1 Students: Final Exam on Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 6-9 PM
   Formula 2 students: Final Research Paper due on Wednesday, Dec. 14 (hardcopy in mailbox by 5 PM, softcopy on LATTE)