

THE SILK ROAD



Travel Itinerary and Study Guide
May - June, 2014

Professor Todd M. Johnson

WEEK 1

Uzbekistan:

*Tashkent, Samarqand, Nurata,
Bukhara*



Day 1- Friday, May 23rd

Arrive in Tashkent at 6:30 am.

- Breakfast at Hotel
- Excursion in Tashkent with bus and guide (5-6 hours)

Accommodation at the **Shodlik Palace Hotel**

Tashkent

- ♦ Capital of Uzbekistan
- ♦ Was trade center between Sogdian and Turkic nomads in 7th century

Day 2- Saturday, May 24th

- Breakfast at Hotel
- Lectures in conference hall

Day 3- Sunday, May 25th

- Breakfast at Hotel
- Transfer to Samarqand by bus
- Visit village deep in the hills

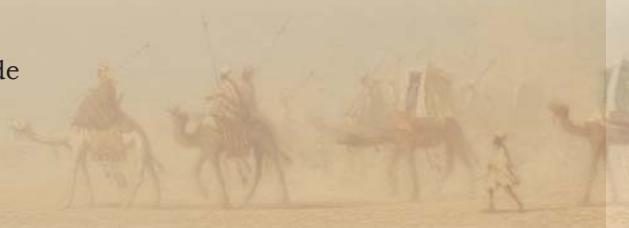
Accommodation at the **Royal Palace Hotel**

Samarqand

- ♦ One of the oldest inhabited cities in the world (founded in 700 BC by Sogdians)
- ♦ Under Sassanian rule (AD 260) the city was an important site for Manichaeism

Day 4- Monday, May 26th

- Breakfast at Hotel
- Excursion with guide



NOTES:



Day 5- Tuesday, May 27th

- Breakfast at Hotel
- Lectures in conference hall

Day 6- Wednesday, May 28th

- Breakfast at Hotel
- Transfer to Nurata by bus
- Camel's Trek to Aydarkul lake
- Picnic at lake
- Lively music around the fire

Accommodation at the **Aydar Yurt camp**

Nurata

- ♦ Was founded in 327 BC by Alexander the Great (can still see remains of his military fortress)
- ♦ Is an important location for Islamic pilgrimage

Day 7- Thursday, May 29th

- Breakfast at Yurt
- Program around the lake
- Old villages, monuments

Day 8- Friday, May 30th

- Breakfast at Hotel
- Transfer to Bukhara city
- Excursion in Bukhara with guide

Accommodation at the **Farkhad & Maya Hotel**

Bukhara

- ♦ Is more than 2,000 years old
- ♦ Was a major Islamic cultural center

WEEK 2

Uzbekistan:

Bukhara, Khiva, Tashkent



Day 9- Saturday, May 31st

- Breakfast at Hotel
- Guide in Bukhara

Day 10- Sunday, June 1st

- Breakfast at Hotel
- Lectures in conference hall

Day 11- Monday, June 2nd

- Breakfast at Hotel
- Transfer to Khiva by bus

Accommodation at the **Islambek Hotel**

Bukhara

- ♦ Buddhism, Zoroastrianism and Nestorian Christianity were the main religions before Islamic conversion (also Bukharan Jews, who have been there since the Babylonian conquest of Israel)

Khiva

- ♦ Was founded in 5th or 4th century BC
- ♦ Earlier inhabitants were Iranian, until Turks became ruling class in 10th century
- ♦ Used to be slave trading post

Day 12- Tuesday, June 3rd

- Breakfast at Hotel
- Guide in Khiva

Day 13- Wednesday, June 4th

- Breakfast at Hotel
- Excursion around Khiva (old fortress)



ISLAM

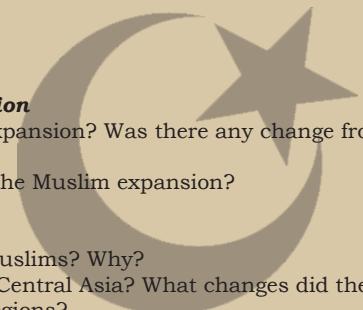
Synopsis

- The problem is self-sufficiency.
- The solution is submission.
- The technique for achieving paradise is “performing the religion” through the practice of the five pillars.
- The exemplars who chart this path are Mohammad, saints, people who perform the hajj.

Questions

I. Muslim Expansion and Religious Rebellion

- What was the main reason for Muslim expansion? Was there any change from the early to the later periods?
- What played the most important role in the Muslim expansion?



II. Islam in Iran

- How did the Iranian world react to the Muslims? Why?
- What was the process of Islamization in Central Asia? What changes did the Muslims bring to the newly conquered regions?

III. Islam and Other Religions on the Silk Road

- What other religions were flourishing on the Silk Road of Central Asia during the Muslim expansion in the 7th-9th centuries?
- What influence did the other religions have on Islam?
- What was the relationship like between Muslims and other religious people?

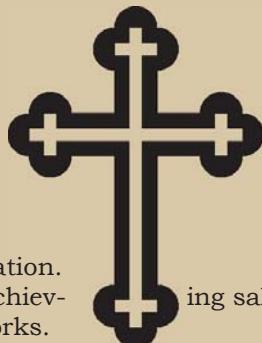
IV. Islamization of Turk-Mongol

- What were the religions in the Tarim basin before the arrival of Islam?
- What is pax monglica? What position did Muslims take in this pact? Was there bloodshed and, if so, why?

IV. Islam in China

- Who were the Hui? How did they settle and live in China?
- How did China react to other cultures or religions, especially Islam, coming through the Silk Road?

CHRISTIANITY



Synopsis

- The problem is sin.
- The solution is salvation.
- The technique for achieving salvation is a combination of faith and good works.
- The exemplars who chart this path are the saints in Roman Catholicism and Orthodoxy, and ordinary people of faith in Protestantism.



Questions

I. Christian Beliefs and Spread

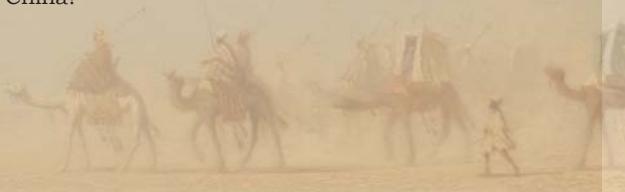
- What were the main divergences in the interpretation of Christian theology?
- Describe the spread of Christianity in Asia. Who brought Christianity to China?

II. Christianity in Iran

- What was the Zoroastrian attitude towards Christians? Christian attitude towards Zoroastrians?
- What effect did the adoption of Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire have on Iranian Christianity?
- What was it like for Iranian Christians under Muslim rule? Positive aspects? Negative?

III. Nestorian Christianity

- What did the Nestorian Christians believe? How did Nestorian Christianity spread along the Silk Road?
- How did the Turks view the first Nestorian Christians in their midst? How was Nestorian Christianity treated over the centuries by the Mongol empire?
- How did the Chinese view Nestorian concepts and values? What are some Nestorian monuments in China?



Day 14- Thursday, June 5th

- Breakfast at Hotel
- Transfer to Urgench Airport
- Flight to Tashkent

Accommodation at the **Shodlik Palace Hotel**

Day 15- Friday, June 6th

- Breakfast at Hotel
- Transfer to Fergana city
- Excursion in Fergana with guide

Fergana

- ♦ First settlements were 5-6 thousand years ago
- ♦ Around 2nd c. BC onwards it was part of the North Silk Road (connecting Chinese capital Xi'an to Kashgar and then Parthia)

Day 16- Saturday, June 7th

- Breakfast at Hotel
- Excursion in Fergana valley

Tashkent

- ♦ Genghis Khan destroyed the city in 1219 (but it recovered to continue to be a part of Silk Road trade)

Day 17- Sunday, June 8th

- Breakfast at Hotel
- Excursion in Fergana valley
- Return to Tashkent

Accommodation at the **Shodlik Palace Hotel**

Day 18- Monday, June 9th

Transfer to airport.



WEEK 3

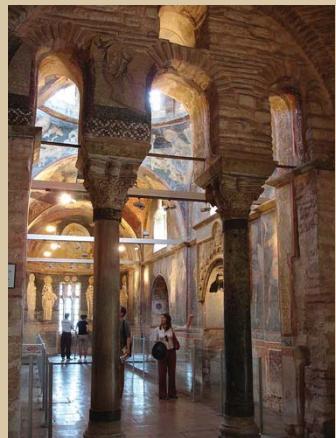
Istanbul, Turkey

- ◆ Founded around 660 BC as Byzantium, then became Constantinople in 330 AD
- ◆ Is Turkey's economic, cultural, and historic heart
- ◆ Transcontinental city

Day 18- Monday, June 9th

Arrive in Istanbul at 6:30 am

- Meet tour guide at customs and baggage claim, transfer to the Old City
- Walking tour in Istanbul (Hippodrome Square, Underground Cistern, Archaeology Museum, optional Blue Mosque visit)



Accommodation at the **Golden Horn Hotel**

Day 19- Tuesday, June 10th

- Breakfast at Hotel
- Drive to Chora Church for morning, visit the Orthodox Patriarchate on the way
- Return to the Old City and visit the Hagia Sophia Church

Day 20- Wednesday, June 11th

- Breakfast at Hotel
- Walk to Eminonu to visit Spice Bazaar
- Private Boat Tour to visit European and Asian shores of Istanbul
- Beyoglu district: visit St. Antoine Church and Galata Tower



Synopsis

- The problem is exile (distance from God and what we ought to be).
- The solution is to return (back to God).
- The technique for achieving it is to tell the story and follow the law (remember and obey).
- The exemplars who chart this path are the rabbis.

Questions

I. Growth and Decline of Judaism

- What played an important role to bring many converts to Judaism in their early years?
- What is assumed was a factor of its decline?

II. The Encounter of Iranian and Judean Religion

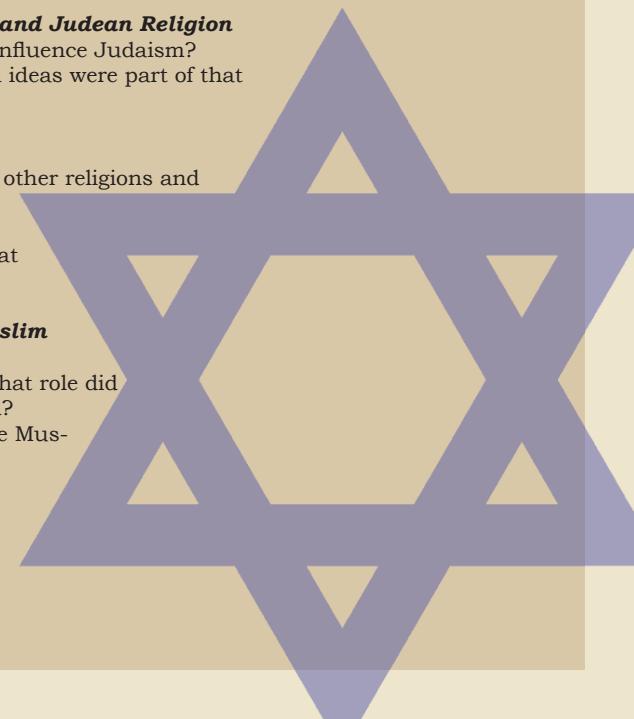
- How did Iranian religions influence Judaism?
- What beliefs, concepts and ideas were part of that influence?

III. Judaism in East Asia

- How did Judaism relate to other religions and cultures in China?
- Was this interaction positive or negative, and in what ways?

IV. Jewish Traders in the Muslim World

- Who are the Radanites? What role did they have on the Silk Road?
- How did they survive in the Muslim world?



BUDDHISM



Synopsis

- The problem is suffering.
- The solution is nirvana.
- The technique for achieving nirvana is the Noble Eightfold Path, which includes practices such as chanting and meditation.
- The exemplars who chart this path are *arhats* (Theravada), *bodhisattvas* (Mahayana), or *lamas* (Tibetan).

Questions

I. Doctrine

- Do you think the teaching of Siddhartha Gautama is really universal? In what sense (as related to Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path)?
- Is Buddhism a religion? What are the major features of Buddhism and how do these compare with other religions?

II. Buddhist Schools on the Silk Road

- What is the main belief of the Great Vehicle? Do you think its belief impacts its survival on the Silk Road? Why?
- Why is the Great Vehicle called a “Pan-Buddhist Movement”?



V. Buddhist Pilgrims

- Who is Xuanzang? What was his traveling route on the Silk Road?
- What influence did his journey have on the Silk Road and on Buddhism in China?

III. Cross-cultural Influence

- What other Silk Road cultures impacted the Buddhist development of arts and literature?
- What impact did these cultures and their religions have on Buddhist stories?

IV. Buddhism in China

- Buddhism started in India, but it flourished in China.
- What is the major school of Buddhism in China and why do you think it did so well?



Day 21- Thursday, June 12th

- Breakfast at Hotel
- Depart at 10:30 am

Transfer to Istanbul Airport for TK 81 departing at 2:00pm

Return to Boston

Hagia Sophia

- ♦ Built in 527 AD as an Eastern Orthodox cathedral
- ♦ Was a mosque from 1453 to 1931
- ♦ Now is a museum
- ♦ Is considered the epitome of Byzantine architecture



CALENDAR

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
May			
morning			
evening			
May	25	26	27
	Tashkent/ Samarqand	Samarqand	Samarqand
morning	Breakfast at Hotel	Breakfast at Hotel	Breakfast at Hotel
evening	Transfer to Samarqand by bus	Excursion with guide	Lectures in conference hall
	Visit to village deep in the hills		



CHINESE RELIGION: CONFUCIANISM

木

Synopsis

- The problem is chaos.
 - The solution is social order.
 - The technique for achieving it are ethics and ritual learned through proper education, studying the ancient classics, emulating the sages.
- The exemplars who chart this path are *junzi* (profound person, noble man) whose influence and example have the power to improve society.

Questions

I. Belief and Practice

- In what ways is Confucianism a religion? A philosophy? A way of life?
- What requirements or preparations are necessary to become a *junzi*? What are some characteristics of a *junzi*?

II. Confucianism in China

- How did Confucianism impact daily life in China?
- How did Confucianism become a defining characteristic of Chinese identity?



孔子
名丘
字仲尼
山東
鄒曲阜人

CHINESE RELIGION: DAOISM

Synopsis

- The problem is we let life slip away.
- The solution is to live life to its fullest.
- The technique for achieving this are dietary regimes, breath control, various physical exercises to preserve and circulate our qi (life force) and balance our yin and yang.
- The exemplars who chart this path are spontaneous sages also known as 'genuine persons' who break free of social shackles and rely on intuitive wisdom.

Questions

I. Belief and Practice

- How does being one with the Tao differ from similar concepts in Hinduism or in theistic religions?
- What is Daoism's attitude toward nature?

II. Daoism and Other Religions

- What aspects of Daoism were easily shared with other religions on the Silk Road?
- How did Daoism interact with Buddhism and Confucianism in Chinese society?



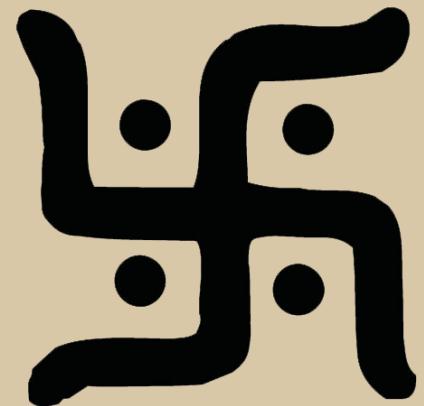
WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
21	22	23	24
		Tashkent	Tashkent
		Breakfast at Hotel	Breakfast at Hotel
		Excursion in Tashkent with bus and guide	
Boston-Istanbul-Tashkent			
28	29	30	31
Samarqand/ Nurata	Nurata	Nurata/ Bukhara	Bukhara
Breakfast at Hotel	Breakfast at Yurt camp	Breakfast at Yurt camp	Breakfast at Hotel
Transfer to Nurata by bus	Fried fish lunch at lake	Transfer to Bukhara city	Guide in Bukhara
Camel Trek to Aydarkul lake	Program around lake, old villages, monuments		
Lively music around the fire			

CALENDAR

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
June	1	2	3
	Bukhara	Bukhara/ Khiva	Khiva
morning	Breakfast at Hotel	Breakfast at Hotel	Breakfast at Hotel
evening	Lectures	Transfer to Khiva by bus	Guide in Khiva
June	8	9	10
	Fergana/ Tashkent	Tashkent/ Istanbul	Istanbul
morning	Breakfast at Hotel	Transfer to airport, arrive in Istanbul at 6:30 am	Breakfast at Hotel, Chora Church, Patri- archate
evening	Excursion in Fergana valley	Walking tour in Istanbul	Hagia Sophia
	Return to Tashkent		

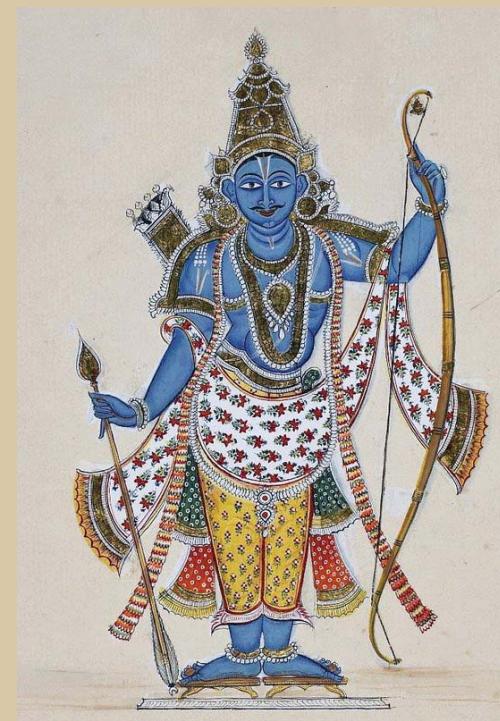


HINDUISM



Synopsis

- The problem is *samsara* (*a vicious cycle of life, death and rebirth*).
- The solution is *moksha*.
- The technique(s) for achieving moksha are the disciplines of ritual action, wisdom, and devotion (to the god of your choosing).
- The exemplars who chart this path are *priests, gurus and sanyasis*.



Questions

I. Early Hindu Beliefs

- What are vedas? What kinds of stories or lessons did they contain?
- What do vedas reveal about early Hindu values?

II. Gods

- What are some Hindu gods and their roles?
- How has the hierarchy of gods changed over the centuries?

III. Other Religions

- What are some influences on Hinduism from other religions?
- How does Hinduism relate to and react with other religions?

SHAMANISM

Synopsis

- The problem is angry spirits.
- The solution is appeasing these spirits.
- The technique for achieving this is contacting these spirits through a medium to find out what they require.
- The exemplars are the shamans who have the ability to communicate with the spirits.

Questions

I. Ancient Belief and Practice

- How did ancient Iranians believe the universe was created?
- What was their explanation for natural phenomena? And how did a dualistic struggle fit with this belief?

II. Shamanism and Other Religions

- What aspects of Shamanism influenced Zoroastrianism?
- How did ancient Shamanistic practices relate to early Hindu belief?
- What role did shamans have in relation to other religions on the Silk Road?

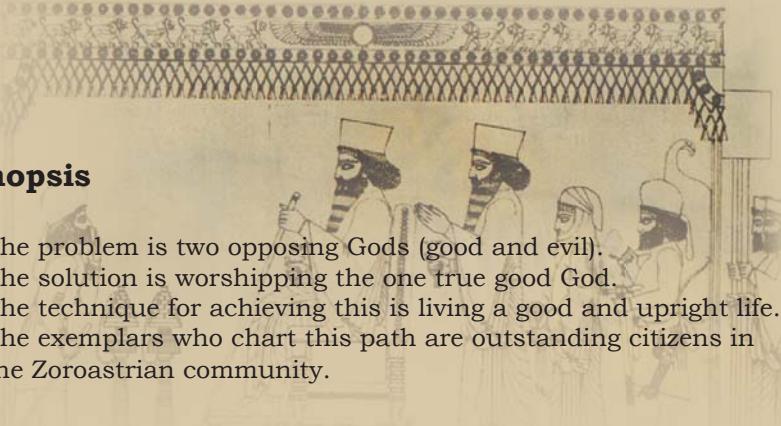
III. Nomads

- How did Shamanism impact the lives of nomads, especially the Mongols?



WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 Khiva	5 Khiva / Tashkent Breakfast at Hotel Excursion around Khiva (old fortress)	6 Tashkent / Fergana Breakfast at Hotel Transfer to Urgench Airport Flight to Tashkent	7 Fergana Breakfast at Hotel Transfer to Fergana city Excursion in Fergana valley with guide
11	12		
Istanbul	Istanbul Breakfast at Hotel, Eminonu (Spice Bazaar)		
Private Boat Tour, Beyoglu district	Depart at 10:30 am		
St. Antoinne Church, Galata Tower	Transfer to Istanbul Airport		
	Flight TK 81 departs at 2:00 pm		

ZOROASTRIANISM



Synopsis

- The problem is two opposing Gods (good and evil).
- The solution is worshipping the one true good God.
- The technique for achieving this is living a good and upright life.
- The exemplars who chart this path are outstanding citizens in the Zoroastrian community.

Questions

I. Belief of Zoroastrianism

- What is the main feature of Zoroastrianism?
- What are some similarities and differences between Zoroastrianism and Judaism?

II. Zoroastrianism and Iranian Religions

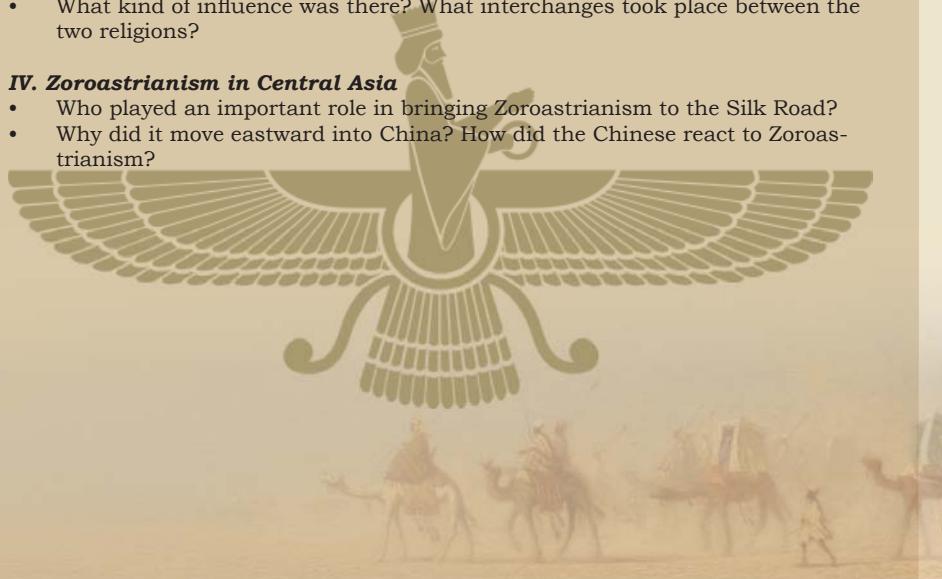
- How did Zoroastrianism relate with other Iranian religions?
- Was anything adopted or abandoned?

III. Zoroastrianism – Relationship with Buddhism

- What was the relationship like between Zoroastrianism and Buddhism in Central Asia?
- What kind of influence was there? What interchanges took place between the two religions?

IV. Zoroastrianism in Central Asia

- Who played an important role in bringing Zoroastrianism to the Silk Road?
- Why did it move eastward into China? How did the Chinese react to Zoroastrianism?



MANICHAEISM



Synopsis

- The problem is the struggle between the spiritual world of light and the material world of darkness.
- The solution is releasing light in the present world.
- The technique for achieving this is to follow carefully proscribed rules that govern the light.
- The exemplars are the Elect, those who take vows to live in harmony with the light.

Questions

I. Foundation of Manichaeism

- What other religions influenced Mani as he founded Manichaeism?
- What aspects from these other religions became a part of Manichaeism?

II. Teaching of Mani

- In his universal teachings, how did Mani accept and synthesize other religions?
- What did Mani mean by his message, “to speak their language”?

III. Relationship with Other Religions on the Silk Road

- As it spread along the Silk Road, how did Manichaeism relate and react to other religions it encountered? In particular, Christianity and Buddhism?
- How did Manichaeist teachings function in the spread of the religion?

IV. Manichaeism in China

- What was the general reaction of China to other religions? How did the Chinese react to Manichaeism?
- How did Manichaeans seek favor from the Chinese?

