MMW 12: Classical and Medieval Traditions (6 credits)
Professor Ben Van Overmeire, Track 2014
Section B07 and B08

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Course Objective:
Covering ca. 100 BCE to 1200 CE, MMW 12 examines the development of classical empires from China to the West, their collapse, and their transformation into distinct medieval forms. It also examines the rise and spread of Christianity, Islam, and Mahayana Buddhism.

This course is the first of two writing-intensive quarters in the MMW sequence and teaches the skill of writing an academic essay that makes an argument based on critical thinking and engagement with sources.

Section Objective:
The purpose of section is to improve your understanding of and engagement with the course content by giving you an opportunity to exercise critical thinking, writing, reading, studying, listening, and speaking skills in a small, supportive group led by a knowledgeable guide.

When you successfully complete this course, you will be better able to:
• Articulate how classical empires become medieval ones, how major world religions develop in the process, and how multiple factors shape broad cultural changes
• Interpret and analyze course material in its historical context, developing ideas in dialogue with course readings and lectures
• Write coherent academic argument essays that address a significant issue; ask a specific, open-ended arguable question; answer the question by making a claim and backing it up with sufficient, relevant, specific, compelling evidence; consider and rebut counterarguments; demonstrate significance of the argument; and accurately cite sources in MLA format
• Know the difference between primary and secondary sources and how to use them in academic writing
• Engage in substantive and respectful discussion of course concepts with peers

Letter Grade Requirement: You must take MMW courses for a letter grade. If you have selected Pass/No Pass as a grading option for MMW 12, you should immediately change your option to letter grade, or you will not fulfill the ERC General Education Requirement and will have to take MMW 12 again.

Attendance, Participation, and Section Requirements:
Regular attendance and participation in section is mandatory. Students who miss 5 sections—excused or unexcused--will fail section. Students who miss 7 sections—excused or unexcused--will fail the course. Any absence can lower your grade.
You must arrive on time and be prepared to discuss and write about course material. Consistent tardiness will lower your grade.

You are REQUIRED to bring all relevant material (including lecture notes, homework assignments, and readings) to the section each week. We will be working with this material hands-on in the classroom.

In order to participate successfully, you will need to be prepared. Bring your lecture notes and assigned readings to section each week. For each section meeting, you will be responsible for readings and material assigned for all lectures that have already taken place.

Dialogue and even disagreement are encouraged, provided they are done so respectfully. I understand that speaking in a group setting is more difficult for some people. If you are uncomfortable speaking in front of the class, see me and we can work out a way for you to share your ideas.

Homework, Quizzes, In-Class Work:
Section will begin with a short in-class free-writing exercise based on the readings, possibly in response to a prompt. Due to the nature of free-writing, you will get full credit for showing up and engaging with the material. The goal of these free-writing assignments, other than to deviously measure attendance, will be to prod you to have the reading prepared before section, and more importantly, to actually think about it.

Grading:
Section counts for 10% of the overall class grade.

5% will be determined by attending class and completing both in-class and take-home exercises. This is graded entirely on effort. If you show up and do what is asked of you, you will earn full marks. If you miss a section without an approved reason, you will lose 1% of your grade. An excused absence will not directly impact this grade, but it will count towards the 5/7 misses towards auto-failing section/the course.

The final 5% will come from regular participation. Ideally, I would like everyone in section talking equally, voicing their ideas and questions. I will provide opportunities to talk both in class-wide and in small-group settings.

Writing Assignments and Late Policy:
In MMW 12, you are required to complete three structured writing assignments that will build your argumentative writing skills. Assignments will be covered in section, along with the MMW “Style Sheet” for guidelines on how to format and submit your papers. Failure to meet ALL criteria for writing assignments will result in the loss of points.

All papers must be turned in directly as a hard copy to me in section, lecture, or office hours, in addition to an electronic copy uploaded to www.turnitin.com. Papers left in my mailbox or the MMW office will not be graded. You will lose one-third of a letter grade for each day a paper is late (including weekends). If you are unable to attend section the day the paper is due, you must make other arrangements to submit your work. In addition to taking the mid-term and final exams and attending section regularly, you must submit ALL writing assignments (both as a hard copy to me and to turnitin.com) in order to pass the course.
**Classroom Environment:**
Having an open environment for discussion will help to develop a deeper level of understanding of course materials. A friendly, positive, and mutually respectful atmosphere is necessary for effective learning. You are required to be respectful to all views and opinions expressed in class and avoid making offensive comments or being disruptive. Since we have a limited time for each section, avoid discussions that are unrelated to course material or section exercises. Cell phones are not permitted in class at anytime. Laptops and other devices will be permitted ONLY to go over course material via the official course website.

**Communicating with Me/Office Hours/Email/Piazza:**
If you have any brief questions, you may always ask me in person right before or after section or lecture. For more lengthy discussions, or if you need individual help or advice on writing or any other course material, you are always welcome to my office hours on Monday from 2-4 in the MMW TA Suite.

Rather than *emailing* questions to me, I encourage you to post your questions on Piazza. In case you do decide to e-mail me, be aware that it may take 48 hours or more for you to get a response. Weekends are not work days, so plan accordingly.

We will be using Piazza for class discussion and to help you get answers to your questions and concerns fast and efficiently. When you have a question or are struggling to understand a concept or assignment, ask questions on Piazza. Your classmates may be able to help you sooner than I can. I will check the site every 2 days, which is the same time span I require to answer emails, but your classmates may have already answered your question. Every 48 hours (sometimes sooner), I will endorse correct answers and good questions and reflections, and I will edit incorrect information. You may even edit each other’s questions and answers.

Find our class page at: [https://piazza.com/ucsd/winter2014/mmw12/home](https://piazza.com/ucsd/winter2014/mmw12/home)

If you have any problems or feedback for the developers, email team@piazza.com.]

**Course Resources:**
Course Website:


UCSD Writing Center: [http://writingcenter.ucsd.edu/](http://writingcenter.ucsd.edu/)

The Cornell Note-taking System (in case you need help with note-taking):
[http://lsc.sas.cornell.edu/Sidebars/Study_Skills_Resources/cornellsystem.pdf](http://lsc.sas.cornell.edu/Sidebars/Study_Skills_Resources/cornellsystem.pdf)

**Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS):**
College life can be stressful, and it is normal to feel overwhelmed at times. UCSD has a staff of professionals that are available for confidential meetings to discuss any personal concerns you might
have. Feel free to contact CAPS at anytime to set up an appointment:
http://psychservices.ucsd.edu/#students

**Academic Integrity:** You are responsible for the honesty and integrity of your academic work at UCSD. The University has a strict policy prohibiting cheating of any kind. If you are suspected of cheating, you will be required to meet with an academic coordinator, who will then discuss your case with the professor. If the professor charges you with misconduct, the professor will determine the penalty for your grade in the course, which can range from deductions to failing the paper, section, or the course. Then you will have to meet with the Dean of Student Affairs, who will determine additional penalties, which can range from failing the course and taking an academic integrity seminar to suspension to expulsion.

Throughout this process, a hold will be put on your grade. Even a first offense can result in a quarter’s suspension, and the standard sanction for a second offense is suspension or permanent dismissal from the university. Any instance of academic misconduct can be recorded in a student’s file. Such a record might interfere with a student’s acceptance into law, medical, or graduate school, or might make that student ineligible for positions requiring a security clearance, such as a government internship.

In brief, the University’s **Policy on Integrity of Scholarship** states that students are expected to complete the course in compliance with the instructor’s standards. No student shall engage in any activity that involves attempting to receive a grade by means other than honest effort; for example:

1. No student shall knowingly procure, provide, or accept any unauthorized material that contains questions, or answers to any examination or assignment to be given at a subsequent time.
2. No student shall complete, in part or in total, any examination nor assignment for another person.
3. No student shall knowingly allow any examination or assignment to be completed, in part or in total, for himself or herself by another person.
4. No student shall plagiarize or copy the work of another person and submit it as his or her own work.
5. No student shall employ aids excluded by the instructor in undertaking course work or in completing any exam or assignment.
6. No student shall alter graded class assignments or examinations and then resubmit them for regrading.
7. No student shall submit substantially the same material in more than one course without prior authorization.

Please read the full Policy: [http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/policy.html](http://students.ucsd.edu/academics/academic-integrity/policy.html). If you have any questions, ask me.