This course examines encounters between Asian and Western peoples from Marco Polo to the present. Focuses on tensions among economic, cultural, and religious aims of Iberian expansion in the East Indies and the Philippines, rising Dutch competition for these territories, and later English and French imperial expansion into southeast and east Asia. Some themes of the course include problems of orientalism/occidentalism and the myth of the Western “impact” on Asia by learning about how Asian peoples understood the West and also about the ways that Europe, too, was affected by these encounters. Thus we are not concerned about how (or whether) the West influenced Asian countries in these encounters, but rather the nature of these contacts and how peoples of different cultures understood those of others.

1. **European Explorations and Missions** 1/16
   “Aguirre, The Wrath of God” (Germany, 1972), 94 mins. Dir. Werner Herzog
   Clifford Geertz, “Common Sense as a Cultural System”

2. **Marco Polo and the Silk Route** 1/23
   Marco Polo, *The Travels*, 7-112, 113-259

3. **Before European Colonialism** 1/30
   Janet Abu-Lughod, *The World Before European Hegemony*
   Charles Ralph Boxer, *The Dutch Seaborne Empire, 1600-1800*, 1-30
   Supplementary readings:
   Hugh Clark, “Muslims and Hindus in the Culture and Morphology of Quanzhou from the 10th to the 13th Centuries,” *Journal of World History* 6 (1995) 1: 49-74
   Louise Levathes, *When China Ruled the Seas*, 19-85

4. **Conversion Encounters** 2/6
   Vincente Rafael, *Contracting Colonialism*, xvii-54
   “The Mission”

5. **European Imaginings of the Orient** 2/13
   David Mungello, “Ricci’s Formulation of Jesuit Accomodation in China” (*Curious Land*), 44-73
   Supplementary readings:
6. Indian Missions 2/20
St. François Xavier, text??

7. Early Modern Travelers 2/27
Dean Mahomet, Travels in the Moghul Empire, 1656-1668,

8. Orientalism 3/6
Edward Said, “The Scope of Orientalism” (Orientalism), 4-15, 1-110; 201-25
film on Edward Said
Supplementary readings:
Gerald M. Ackerman, The Life and Work of Jean-Léon Gérôme: His Life, His Work (Sotheby's Publications, 1986)
Picturing the Middle East: A Hundred Years of European Orientalism,

Ann Stoler, “Sexual Affronts and Racial Frontiers: European Identities and the Cultural Politics of Exclusion in Colonial Southeast Asia” (Becoming National), 286-324
Marguerite Duras, The North China Lover
Supplementary readings:

March 6: RESEARCH PAPER PROPOSAL DUE
thesis statement
paper outline
bibliography (including list of interlibrary loan requests to be submitted before break)

10. Passages 4/3
Uma Chakravarti, Rewriting History: The Life and Times of Pandita Ramabai,
Gauri Vishwanathan, Outside the Fold,
“Passage to India” (Eng., 1984), 163 mins. Dir. David Lean. Based on E. M. Forster’s novel

11. Nineteenth-Century Protestants and Colonialism 4/10
Karl Friedrich August Gutzlaff (1803-1851), The Journals of Two Voyages along the Coast of China in 1831 & 1832, 1-124
Johannese Fabian, “Religious and Secular Colonization” (Time and the Work of Anthropology), 155-169

Supplementary readings:
Toyohiko Kagawa (1888-1960), *Christ and Japan* (New York, Friendship Press, 1934)

12. Finding God in China 4/17

Supplementary readings:

13. Radical Converts 4/24
Jonathan Spence, *God’s Chinese Son: The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom of Hong Xiuquan*

14. Hollywood Views of Colonial Encounters 5/1
“The Bitter Tea of General Yen,” dir. Frank Capra (Columbia Films, 1933)