

# Introduction to the Musical Folklore of Central Asia

Spring Quarter 2005

## Dr. Kagan Arak

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**Disciplinary approaches within this course:** anthropology, folklore, ethnomusicology.

**Geographical areas covered:** the spaces ranging from Xinjiang province (Uyghur Autonomous Region) in China to the Republic of Tatarstan in the Russian Federation (East to West), and from the Saxa Republic in the Russian Federation to the northern provinces of Afghanistan. Broadly speaking, this area can be called Central Eurasia. Attention will also be paid to the Caucasus and to Anatolia.

**Topics covered:** instrumental “folk” traditions, “folk” song genres, “classical” genres, differences and similarities between regional and ethnic musical genres and playing styles, relationships between musical genres and religious-spiritual practices, healing with music, integration of music and music-related topics into the larger context of culture and tradition. Oral epic, also within the scope of this course, will be treated in greater detail in next year’s course on shamans and oral poets of Central Asia.

**In-class activities:** lectures & discussions, listening to recorded music and viewing of video materials.

**Outside course activities:** readings, personal listening & viewing of performances, written performance reviews (2), written reports on selected readings and/or audio-visual presentations. No exam. One Paper/Final Project. We hope to attend some performances of live music too (dates TBA).

**Audio materials:** compilation CD will be made available to the students.

**Main Reading:** Levin, Theodore. 1998. *One Hundred Thousand Fools of God*

### Some Suggested Readings (on reserve at Regenstein):

Slobin, Mark. 1976. *Music in the Culture of Northern Afghanistan.*

Sakata, H. Lorraine. 1983. *Music in the Mind: the Concepts of Music & Musician in Afghanistan*

(Other readings may be added during the course of the quarter)