

Contemporary Central Asia

NEHC 20762, HIST 25600, HIST 35600, NEHC 30762, SLAV 30400, SLAV 20400

Time & Room: Wednesdays 1:30-4:20, Pick 222.

Instructor: Dr. Kagan Ark

Mailbox: Center for Middle East Studies, Pick Hall 2nd floor.

Office Hours: By appointment (email).

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Scope:

An introduction to the historical and cultural anthropology of contemporary Central Asia, including present day Kazakstan, Kirghizstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan, neighboring Xinjiang Province of China, Mongolia, and parts of the Russian Federation (Caucasus, Volga-Ural, Siberia).

The course follows "Introduction to the Turkic Peoples of Central Asia" (which emphasizes ancient and medieval Central Asia and is offered on alternating years), but focuses on the contemporary and early modern periods and their immediate historical antecedents. We examine the languages and peoples, and the historical relationship between sedentary and nomad. We survey the earlier history of Central Asia, leading to its current ethno-cultural landscape. We look at the colonial expansion into Central Asia by Russia and China. We examine the transformations which occurred in Central Asia in the 20th Century, culminating in the establishment of the new independent republics upon the dismantling of the USSR. Current affairs and topics that are important to the area (ecology, energy issues, cultural issues etc.) will be highlighted in the readings and discussions.

The course emphasises in-class discussion of readings (on reserve at Regenstein library, except for occasional materials handed out in class). There is a take-home midterm essay, 2 internet research assignments, and a term paper (10-20 p.). Students are encouraged (but not required) to write conference-quality papers to be presented at the Middle East History and Theory Conference here at the U of C in May, at the panel(s) dedicated to Central Asia.

The course may feature guest speakers, and presentation of films and other audio-visual materials. Participation in the bi-monthly meetings of the Central Asian Studies Society is highly encouraged, as these will feature talks and films that complement the class curriculum and are of interest to the students.

Requirements (grade %):

1. Attendance, Readings and Class Discussion (25%)
2. Two Internet Projects (10%)
3. Take-home Midterm Essay, choice of topics (25%)
4. Final Paper (40%)

Paper:

The 10-20 page paper is due on the last day of classes (Friday). Please choose a topic that interests you, and relates directly to Central Asia. The specific region, time period, and disciplinary approach is your choice. Discuss your choice of topic by the 4th week of class with instructor--the earlier, the better.

Graduate students are especially encouraged to produce presentable or publishable work. You will be asked to present a 5 to 10 minute oral summary of your paper in front of the class during the last week of class.

Internet Project 1:

1. Locate maps of each of the 5 republics of Central Asia and Azerbaijan on the Internet and print one copy of each.
2. Please give a one page factual information summary for each of these 6 republics.

Internet Project 2:

1. Locate maps of each of the following partially sovereign or semi-autonomous divisions of the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China on the Internet and print one copy of each:
Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, Altai Republic, Tuvan Republic, Sakha Republic, Chuvashia, Khakassia, Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, Kabardino-Balkar AND Karachay-Cherkes republics.
2. Select ONE of the above regions and prepare a 1-2 page summary of its recent history (last 2 centuries). You will be asked to present your summary in class, in week 9.

Required Text:

Central Asia, 130 years of Russian dominance : a historical overview, ed. Edward Allworth, Durham : Duke University Press, 1994.

Readings on Reserve:

Adshead, Samuel Adrian M., *Central Asia in world history*, New York : St. Martin's Press, 1993.

DS329.4.A370 1993

Aitmatov, Chingiz, *Farewell Gul'sary! (Proshchai Gul'sary!)*, trans. John French, London, Hodder & Stoughton, 1970.

PG3505.I86P91F8

Allsen, Thomas T., *Mongol imperialism : the policies of the Grand Qan Möngke in China, Russia, and the Islamic lands, 1251-1259*, Berkeley : University of California Press, c1987.

DS22.3.A450 1987

Central Asia, 130 years of Russian dominance : a historical overview, ed. Edward Allworth, Durham : Duke University Press, 1994.

DK851.C460 1994

Bacon, Elizabeth E., *Central Asians under Russian rule; a study in culture change*, Ithaca, N.Y., Cornell University Press [1966]

DK855.2.B16

Barfield, Thomas J., *The perilous frontier : nomadic empires and China*, Cambridge, Mass. : B. Blackwell, 1989.

DS329.4.B370 1989

Russia's Orient : imperial borderlands and peoples, 1700-1917, ed. Daniel R. Brower and Edward J. Lazzerini, Bloomington : Indiana University Press, c1997.

DK33 .R88 1997

Dawson, Christopher, *Mission to Asia*, Toronto ; Buffalo : University of Toronto Press in association with the Medieval Academy of America, c1980.

DS798.2.M63 1980

DeWeese, Devin A., *Islamization and native religion in the Golden Horde : Baba Tükles and conversion to Islam in historical and epic tradition*, University Park, Pa. : Pennsylvania State University Press, c1994.

BP63.A4S66440 1994

Frye, Richard Nelson, *Bukhara, the medieval achievement*, Norman, University of Oklahoma Press [1965]

DK876.F91

Golden, Peter B., *An introduction to the history of the Turkic peoples : ethnogenesis and state-formation in medieval and early modern Eurasia and the Middle East*, Wiesbaden : O. Harrassowitz, 1992.

DS26.G64 1992

Muslims in Central Asia : expressions of identity and change, ed. Jo-Ann Gross, Durham : Duke University Press, 1992.

DS328.4.M87M870 1992

Halperin, Charles J., *Russia and the Golden Horde : the Mongol impact on medieval Russian history*, Bloomington : Indiana University Press, c1985.

DK90.H280 1985

Central Asia, ed. Gavin Hambly, New York, Delacorte Press [1969]

DS785.H1902

Hopkirk, Peter, *The great game : on secret service in high Asia*, Oxford : New York Oxford University Press, 1991.

D378.H675 1991

Khalid, Adeb, *The politics of Muslim cultural reform : jadidism in Central Asia*, Berkeley : University of California Press, c1998.

BP63.A34 K54 1998

Levin, Theodore Craig, *The hundred thousand fools of God : musical travels in Central Asia (and Queens, New York)*, Bloomington : Indiana University Press, c1996.

ML3758.A783L480 1996

McChesney, R. D., *Waqf in Central Asia : four hundred years in the history of a Muslim shrine, 1480-1889*, Princeton, N.J. : Princeton University Press, c1991.

BP187.55.A3B3450 1991

Olcott, Martha Brill, *Central Asia's new states : independence, foreign policy, and regional security*, Washington, D.C. : United States Institute of Peace Press, 1996.

DK859.5.O430 1996

Central Asian monuments, ed. Hasan B. Paksoy, Beylerbeyi, Istanbul : Isis Press, 1992.

DS329.4.C460 1992

Central Asia reader : the rediscovery of history, ed. Hasan B. Paksoy, Armonk, N.Y. : M.E. Sharpe, 1994.

DK857.C450 1994

Ratchnevsky, Paul, *Genghis Khan, his life and legacy*, trans., ed. Thomas N. Haining, Oxford, UK ; Cambridge, Mass., USA : B. Blackwell, 1991.

DS22.R37130 1991

Reichl, Karl, *Turkic oral epic poetry : tradition, forms, poetic structure*, New York : Garland, 1992.

PL28.2.R450 1992

Rywkin, Michael, *Moscow's Muslim challenge : Soviet Central Asia*, Armonk, N.Y. : M.E. Sharpe, c1990.

DK859.R980 1990

The Cambridge history of early Inner Asia, ed. Denis Sinor, Cambridge [Cambridgeshire] ; New York : Cambridge University Press, 1990.

DS329.4.C350 1990

Soucek, Svatopluk, *A history of inner Asia*, Cambridge ; New York : Cambridge University Press, 2000.

DK856 .S66 2000

Tekin, Talât, *A grammar of Orkhon Turkic*, Bloomington, Indiana University [1968]

PL1.A1I4 v.69

The Baburnama : memoirs of Babur, prince and emperor, ed. Wheeler M. Thackston, Washington, D.C. : Freer Gallery of Art : Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, 1996.

DS461.1.B232130 1996

Winner, Thomas Gustav, *The oral art and literature of the Kazakhs of Russian Central Asia*, Durham, N.C. : Duke University Press, 1958.

PL65.K45W7

Yusuf, khass-hajib, *Wisdom of royal glory : a Turko-Islamic mirror for princes*, trans. Robert Dankoff, Chicago : University of Chicago Press, 1983.

PL55.U539Y87130 1983

Schedule:

Week 0: Introduction to the Field (Jan 4th)

Allworth, 1-130

Week 1: Peoples, Languages, Geography and Migrations (Jan 11th)

Bacon, 1-28

Gleason, 1-47

Soucek, 1-45

Allworth, 131-171

Week 2: Early Central Asia up to the Mongol Conquest (Jan 18th)

Bacon, 28-91

Soucek, 1-45, 46-101

Hambly, 1-77

Week 3: Central Asia After the Mongol Conquest (Jan 25th)

Soucek, 103-122, 123-143, 144-175

Hambly, 86-174

Week 4: The Russian and Chinese Conquests (Feb 1st)

Soucek, 177-208

Bacon, 92-115

Hopkirk, *The Great Game*

Allworth, 172-265

FILM: Descent of the Snow Leopard (TBA)

Week 5: Reform Movements (Feb 8th)

Soucek, 209-224

Bacon, 116-201

Khalid, A. (*in toto*)

MIDTERM due on Friday

Week 6: Soviet Central Asia (Feb 15th)

Allworth, 266-348

Gleason, 48-81

Soucek, 225-253

Bacon, 202-217

Internet Project 1 due on Wednesday
FILM: A Wolf Cub Among Men (TBA)

Week 7: Post-Soviet Central Asia (Feb 22nd)

Gleason, 82-135, 136-186
Soucek, 254-295
Allworth, 349-433, 434-526

Week 8: The Non-sovereign Neighborhood of Central Asia (Mar 1st)

FILMS : Herders, The Herders of Mongun-Taiga, The Lost Land of Tannu Tuva (TBA)

Week 9: The Future of Central Asia (Mar 8th)

PAPER due on Friday March 10th.

* The readings listed on this schedule are minimum suggested readings. Other materials will be distributed in class, and students are encouraged to further explore the works listed on the reserve materials list on their own.

** The appearance of guest speakers is TBA. Please also watch for announcements on the Central Asian Studies Society email list (join now!)