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History 4468

Islam and Society in Modern Central Asia

University of West Georgia

Draft Syllabus for Spring 2017: Dr. Elaine MacKinnon

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This course will introduce students to the history of modern Central Asia from the time of the Russian conquest and colonization of the 19th century to the post-1991 period of independent states. The first part of the course will provide an overview of the political, social and economic history from earliest times, but with primary focus on the period beginning in 1800. The second half of the course will examine specific themes related to Islam and society, including gender, the construction of national identities, literature, music and daily life. The geographic scope will include those regions that today comprise the former Soviet Central Asian republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Although not our primary focus, we will also venture into neighboring areas of Russia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Mongolia, Siberia, Iran, Afghanistan, and China. Of special interest will be the dynamic relationship over time between nomadic and sedentary peoples and societies in this region, and between the Russian (and Soviet) empire and its subjects. **We will also examine the influence of Soviet Socialism in the process of political transformation this region has undergone in the modern era.**

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to:

- 1) Place Central Asia in the broader historical context of modern world history.
- 2) Identify on a map the five countries of former Soviet Central Asia, and the states surrounding them.
- 3) Analyze the political, social and cultural impact of Central Asia in world history.
- 4) Explain the political, economic, social, and cultural legacy of the Silk Road for world history both in pre-modern and modern times.
- 5) Explain and analyze the patterns of historical change in modern Central Asia from 1800 to the present.
- 6) Explain the political, economic and cultural transformations brought to the region by Russian Tsarist colonization and Soviet rule.
- 7) Analyze and explain the legacy of Soviet rule for the modern states of Central Asia.
- 8) Explain the factors shaping modern political consciousness in the states of Central Asia, including Islam and the construction of national identities in the Soviet period.
- 9) Identify and analyze the differences and commonalities found among Central Asian cultures, both in the traditional formations and their modern contours.
- 10) Analyze the historical, economic, social, and cultural significance of gender in Central Asian societies.
- 11) Understand the geopolitical "Great Game" then and now in its historic context.
- 12) Understand the contemporary geopolitical importance of the region and the politics of the three great powers (US, Russia and the PRC).

Students will demonstrate their achievement of these outcomes through a written examination, a research essay, short analytical papers, oral presentations, map and pop quizzes, in-class writing assignments and discussions.

Format: The format for the course is a seminar, organized around weekly discussions of assigned readings, supplemented by informational and background lectures. In order for the class to succeed, everyone must be ready to discuss the texts and ask questions. **This means that you must do the readings each week and be prepared to take part in class.** Lectures will provide chronology, basic facts and historical background, while readings and class discussions will give you a deeper understanding of Central Asian societies and their historical development.

Required Texts:

All of the following are available for purchase in the campus bookstore or can be ordered from online vendors.

- Rafis Abazov, *The Palgrave Concise Historical Atlas of Central Asia* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008)
- Svat Soucek, *A History of Inner Asia* (Cambridge University Press, 2000)
- Richard Foltz, *Religions of the Silk Road. Second Edition* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2010)
- Jeff Sahadeo and Russell Zanca, eds. *Everyday Life in Central Asia: Past and Present* (Indiana University Press, 2007)
- Chingiz Aitmatov, *Jamilia*, trans. James Riordan (Telegram Books, 2008)
- Adeeb Khalid. *Islam After Communism: Religion and Politics in Central Asia* (University of California Press, 2007)

For purchase after the first class:

On the first day of class you will either choose or be assigned to read one of the following memoirs. Do not purchase both; you will only need one. Both books will also be on reserve in the library.

- Yelena Khanga and Susan Jacoby, *Soul to Soul: A Black Russian Jewish Woman's Search for Her Roots* (W.W. Norton and Company, 1994)
Mukhamet Shayakhmetov, *The Silent Steppe: The Memoir of a Kazakh Nomad under Stalin*, transl. Jan Butler (Overlook/Rookery, 2007)

Additional readings have been placed into Course Den.

Grading:

Your grade will be based on a combination of graded writing assignments, a final essay exam, group work and discussion, class participation, pop quizzes, and a map quiz. The breakdown is as follows:

Final Exam: 25%; Research Paper 25%; Two Short Response Papers 20%; Memoir Analysis Paper and Group Presentation 15%; Map and pop Quizzes, Class Blog, Class Participation 15%

Research Paper

It is a requirement of this course that you submit a research paper that is a minimum of eight pages, exclusive of notes and bibliography and title page, due in class on the first day of the fourteenth week of the course, as specified in the syllabus below. Research papers must incorporate a critical analysis of at least three secondary sources (books) and three primary sources. Additional instructions for this assignment will be distributed in class. At the beginning of Week Twelve, you must turn in a rough draft which you will revise and resubmit.

Grades will be based not only on content, but also on grammar and your correct use of formal writing style. Papers should be typed and double-spaced in 10 or 12-point font, and they should include footnotes or endnotes, a title page and a bibliography. Points will be deducted for improper footnote and bibliographic style. Internet sources must be cited with the proper http address and date the site was last updated, or if that is not available, the date you accessed the site.

Short Response Papers:

You will also turn in two three to five-page response papers based on your analysis of assigned sources. The first critical response paper is an analysis of the historical meaning and significance of a set of assigned primary sources. You will choose a set of assigned sources, and the paper is due on the day that particular set of sources are to be discussed. The second response paper is a critical analysis of the assigned literary source *Jamilia*. The paper will be turned in on the day designated for the discussion of *Jamilia*. More information will be given to you in class about these papers and about their due dates.

Map Quiz

In the fourth week of the semester you will be required to take a map quiz. You will be provided with a list of geographical terms, ten of which you will be required to locate on a blank map in class. I will post blank maps of Central Asia to Course Den. You will also have a map section on your final exam.

Memoir Analysis Assignment:

You will be assigned to read either the memoir *Soul to Soul* or *Silent Steppe*. You will write individually a five page memoir response paper answering questions that will be given to you in class. You will work together as a group on a class presentation in which you will summarize the main points from your assigned memoir, and explain to your classmates what you have learned from the memoir about the author's experience of life in Soviet Central Asia. You should include how the memoir informs you about important historical developments in Central Asia, such as the impact of Soviet rule and industrialization. You will need to explain the historical significance of the author's life experiences (for example, one memoir informs us about the tragic famine in Kazakhstan during the Stalinist period while the other is about an African-American family relocating to Uzbekistan to be part of the "Soviet experiment" and help in the cultivation of cotton). The presentation must have visual components as well as an oral narrative. Each group's presentation should be fifteen to twenty minutes in length. The individual papers will be due on the day scheduled for the presentations.

Class Participation: Written Discussion Questions and Leading a Discussion: I will expect everyone to turn in **two discussion questions or topics** from the readings **each class period**. I will collect them at the beginning of the class. I may ask you to lead discussion of your question, so be prepared!

Class Participation -- Class Blog on Central Asia:

You are to submit at least two postings to our class blog, *Central Asia Today*. You will be divided into five groups, and each assigned a particular Central Asian independent state: Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. The deadline will be posted later. You will submit your blog posts to the Course Den Dropbox. Your blog post should be a minimum of 600 words. It is to include a link to a substantive news article (published in the last twelve months) that brings you up to date about current political, economic, social, or cultural issues in your assigned state. Your blog posting should provide a review of the article summarizing its main points and explaining how it relates to our study of Central Asia this semester. You are to analyze the current event or historical issue and discuss how it updates us on key issues we have read about and discussed in class, such as the levels of authoritarianism in politics, state policies towards Islam, economic viability, environmental problems, current gender demographics and status of women, popular engagement in Islam and other religions, etc. If you are uncertain about the article you are considering, then speak with me about it.

Once I have posted to the blog all of the student submissions, then you will be required to read at least two fellow student's postings (from outside of your group) and write commentaries for each. This commentary should be a minimum of 300 words. It should be analytical and substantive, not just expressing agreement or disagreement. Provide comparison with your own understanding of your assigned state and its current situation. The quality of your two comment posts will factor into your final grade for the blog. The comments on two other students' blog will be due prior to the last two classes.

Be prepared on the last two class days for discussion of your postings and what you have learned about the current situation in Central Asian states.

Assignments:

Students are expected to have completed the assigned readings in advance of each class session and to be able to discuss them. Some of the readings are lengthy, so plan ahead and budget your time accordingly. Try not to fall behind! **All written assignments are due on the specified date; unexcused late work will lower the grade by one grade level for each late weekday.**

Student Rights and Responsibilities:

Students, please carefully review the following information at this link:

http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

It contains important material pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class, and to your rights and responsibilities as a student of the University of West Georgia. It contains information on ADA (see below), UWG Email Policy, Credit Hour Policy, and the Honor Code. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.

DISABILITY SERVICES AND ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act):

The Office of Disability Services will help you understand your rights and responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act and provide you further assistance with requesting and arranging accommodations. If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please notify me at my West Georgia email address by the end of the second full week of class and attach a PDF copy of your SAR (Available from the Office of Disability Services).

Cheating Policy and Plagiarism:

I expect each student to understand and to comply with the University of West Georgia's policies on Academic Honor and Academic Dishonesty. They and other policies important to you as a student may be found in the Student Handbook, on the web at the URL given above; the Honor Code is to be found specifically at <http://www.westga.edu/handbook/59.php>. Anyone caught cheating or helping someone to cheat will be asked to leave the class and will receive a course grade of "F." Plagiarism, or claiming someone else's work as your own, will result in failure. This rule is in effect for all assignments, examinations, quizzes, and extra credit work.

KEY QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

What is Central Asia? What does this term or phrase mean? What various meanings do scholars impart to this term?

How have Russification, politicization, and industrialization affected the belief system of the peoples of Central Asia?

What is the legacy of Soviet rule for the modern states and societies of Central Asia?

What is the significance of Central Asia for world history? For the world today?

What role is religion playing in Central Asia today?

What role have different forms of cultural transmission and expression (literature, music, art, film, etc.) played in promoting nationalism and in constructing national identity?

How has the status of women changed in modern Central Asian history?

Tentative Course Outline and Readings Schedule

WEEK ONE: INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY OF CENTRAL ASIA

Required Readings:

Mon: Soucek, *Inner Asia*, "Introduction," 1-45

Wed: *Historical Atlas*, Maps 1-5; Course Den Readings—Peter Golden, *Central Asia in World History*, "Introduction: A Layering of Peoples," and Chapter One, "The Rise of Nomadism and Oasis City-States," 1-20 and Muriel Atkin, "Religious, National and Other Identities in Central Asia," in Jo-Ann Gross, ed., *Muslims in Central Asia: Expressions of Identity and Change*, 46-72

WEEK TWO: RELIGION AND TRADE/ISLAM IN CENTRAL ASIA

Required Reading:

Mon: *Historical Atlas*, Maps 6, 12, and 13/*Religions of the Silk Road*, Chaps 1-4

Wed: *Religions of the Silk Road*, Chaps 5-7 and Epilogue/Khalid, *Islam After Communism*, Chapter 1, "Islam in Central Asia," 19-33

WEEK THREE: CENTRAL ASIA FROM THE MONGOLS TO THE UZBEKS

Required Reading:

Mon: Soucek, *Inner Asia*, Chapters 7 and 8; Sahadeo and Zanca, *Everyday Life in Central Asia*, "Turks and Tajiks in Central Asian History," 15-32;

Wed: Soucek, *Inner Asia*, Chapters 9-11; *Historical Atlas*, Maps 22-28

Primary Sources (Course Den): "Juzjani: Changatay the Accursed!", in Scott C. Levi and Ron Cela, eds., *Islamic Central Asia: An Anthology of Historical Sources*, 135-137; "Nava'i: A Comparison Between Persian and Turk," in same, 184-187; "Babur: Description of the Farghana Valley and Babur's Ejection from Samarquand," in same, 208-215 and "Anthony Jenkinson: An English Merchant in Central Asia," in same, 215-221

WEEK FOUR: CENTRAL ASIA IN THE 17TH AND 18TH CENTURIES/RUSSIAN EXPANSION

***Map Quiz on Monday!**

Required Reading:

Mon: Soucek, *Inner Asia*, Chapters 12-14; *Historical Atlas*, Maps 29 and 30

Wed: Course Den Reading—Isenbike Togan, "Islam in a Changing Society: The Khojas of Eastern Turkistan," in Jo-Ann Gross, ed., *Muslims in Central Asia: Expressions of Identity and Change*, 134-147

Primary Sources (Course Den): Ivan Khokhlov: "A Russian Envoy to Central Asia," in Scott C. Levi and Ron Cela, eds., *Islamic Central Asia: An Anthology of Historical Sources*, 230-233; "Majma'al-arqam: An Administrative Manual from Bukhara," in same, 270-272; "A Collection of Royal Decrees from Khiva," in same, 272-274

WEEK FIVE: RUSSIAN CONQUEST OF CENTRAL ASIA AND THE GREAT GAME

Required Reading:

Mon: Soucek, *Inner Asia*, Chapter 15; *Historical Atlas*, Maps 30-33

Wed: **Primary Sources (Course Den)** Edward Curzon, "Samarkand and Tashkent," and "The Anglo Russian Question" in *Russia in Central Asia*, Vol. V, ; Alexander Burnes: "The Importance of Bukhara in Great Game Politics," in Scott C. Levi and Ron Cela, eds., *Islamic Central Asia: An Anthology of Historical Sources*, 281-287; Nikolai Ignatiev, "Russia's Agenda in Central Asia," in same, 295-300

WEEK SIX: REVOLUTIONS IN CENTRAL ASIA

Required Reading:

Mon: Soucek, *Inner Asia*, Chapter 16; *Everyday Life in Central Asia*, Adrienne Edgar, "Everyday Life among the Turkmen Nomads," 37-57; *Historical Atlas*, Maps 34-36

Wed: Khalid, *Islam After Communism*, Chapter 2, "Empire and the Challenge of Modernity," 34-50 and Chapter 3, "The Soviet Assault on Islam," 50-83

Course Den Reading--Christopher Murphy, "Abdullah Qadiriy and the Bolsheviks: From Reform to Revolution," in Jo-Ann Gross, ed., *Muslims in Central Asia: Expressions of Identity and Change*, 194-202

WEEK SEVEN: SOVIET CENTRAL ASIA

Required Reading:

Mon: Soucek, *Inner Asia*, Chapter 17; *Historical Atlas*, Maps 37-39

Wed: Khalid, *Islam After Communism*, Chapter 4, "Islam as National Heritage," 84-115

For Wednesday--Islamic architecture assignment: Preview the collection of photographs in the [Ernst Cohn-Wiener Collection \(ArchNet\)](#) (a digital collection of hundreds of photographs taken 1924-1925 of architectural monuments in West Turkestan) and choose five images to discuss in class. Choose images that you find interesting visually or that display a particular condition relative to the history of Central Asia in the 1920s.

WEEK EIGHT: INDEPENDENCE AND BEYOND

Required Reading:

Mon: Soucek, *Inner Asia*, Chapters 18 and 20; *Historical Atlas*, Maps 40-46

Wed: Khalid, *Islam After Communism*, Chapters 5--7

WEEK NINE: GENDER AND ISLAM IN SOVIET CENTRAL ASIA

Required Reading:

Mon: Course Den Reading-- **Kamp, *The New Woman in Uzbekistan*, introduction and chapters 6 and 7: 123-186.**

Wed: Sahadeo and Zanca, *Everyday Life in Central Asia*, Gender, 85-140

Primary Source Assignment (Course Den): Read through the brochure *Soviet Kazakhstan* and answer the questions given in Course Den. Compare the portrayal of women in the brochure to that provided by your other readings. How do you think Khalid would respond to the claims made by the brochure?

WEEK TEN: EXPLORING GENDER, IDENTITY AND THE STALINIST PERIOD THROUGH LITERATURE AND MEMOIR

Required Reading:

Mon: Aitmatov, *Jamilia*, all

Response Paper on *Jamilia* due by the beginning of class on Monday

Wed: **Course Den Reading**—"Female Rituals," Chapter 10 in Razia Sultanova, *From Shamanism to Sufism: Women, Islam and Culture in Central Asia*, 145-186

Group discussions/Work in class on your Group Presentation of *Silent Steppe* and *Soul to Soul*

WEEK ELEVEN: GROUP PRESENTATIONS/RELIGION AND IDENTITY

Required Reading:

Mon: Group Presentations on *Silent Steppe* and *Soul to Soul*

Individual Memoir Analysis Papers due

Wed: *Everyday Life in Central Asia*, Chapters 19-22

WEEK TWELVE: NATION, STATE AND SOCIETY IN THE EVERYDAY

Rough Draft of Research Essay Due Monday by the beginning of class

Required Reading:

Mon: *Everyday Life in Central Asia*, Chapters 10-12

Wed: *Everyday Life in Central Asia*, Chapters 15-18

WEEK THIRTEEN: CULTURAL EXPLORATIONS OF IDENTITY IN CENTRAL ASIA

Required Reading:

Mon: *Everyday Life in Central Asia*, Chapters 13-14/Course Den Reading—Cloè Drieu, “Birth, death and rebirth of a nation: national narrative in Uzbek feature films,” in Michael Rouland, Guinara Abikeyeva and Birgit Beumans, eds., *Cinema in Central Asia*, 45-56

Wed: Course Den Reading—Theodore Levin, *The Hundred Thousand Fools of God: Musical Travels in Central Asia*, Preface and “Bukhara,” 85-130

Class Discussion of Film Clips and of Music from Theodore Levin’s music CD and the Music of Central Asia: 4 Bardic Divas

WEEK FOURTEEN: CENTRAL ASIA, ISLAM, AND GLOBALIZATION/A NEW GREAT GAME?

Final Draft of Research Essay Due Monday by beginning of class

Required Reading:

Mon: **Course Den Reading**—Hans Beld, “Disjuncture 2.0: Youth, Internet, and Cultural Identity in Bishkek,” *Central Asian Survey*, Vol. 29, No. 4 (December 2010), 521-535 and Stefan B. Kimse, “In the Marketplace for Styles and Identities: globalization and youth culture in southern Kyrgyzstan,” in same, 389-403; *Historical Atlas*, Maps 47-50

Wed: Khalid, *Islam After Communism*, Chapter 7 and Conclusion, 168-203/**Course Den Reading**—Alexander Cooley, *Great Games, Local Rules*, Chapters 1-2

Class Discussion of Readings and Blog Postings

WEEK FIFTEEN: FINAL EXAM

Mon: Discussion of Class Blog Posts/Review for Final

Wed: Final Essay Exam with Map section

WORKING BIBLIOGRAPHY: BOOKS AND JOURNAL ARTICLES

History of Central Asia from Earliest Times to 1991:

Adsheed S.A.M. *Central Asia in world history* / S.A.M.. London : Macmillan, 1993.

Allworth, Edward, ed. *Central Asia, 130 years of Russian dominance : a historical overview*. 3rd ed. Durham : Duke University Press, c1994.

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Baumer, Christoph. *The History of Central Asia: The Age of the Silk Roads*. I.B. Taurus, 2014.

Beckwith, Christopher I. *Warriors of the Cloisters: The Central Asian Origins of Science in the Medieval World*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2012.

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Brower, Daniel, and Edward Lazzerini, eds. *Russia's Orient: Imperial Borderlands and Peoples, 1700-1917*. Bloomington & Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1997.

Burg, Steven. "Central Asian Elite Mobility and Political Change in the Soviet Union." *Central Asian Survey* 5, no. 3/4 (1986): 77-90.

Carlisle, Donald. "The Uzbek Power Elite: Politburo and Secretariat (1938-83)." *Central Asian Survey* 5, no. 4 (1986): 91-132.

Cassi, Laura. *Rediscovering the abode of snow. Filippo De Filippi and the italian scientific expeditions to Central Asia (1909 and 1913-14)*. Pacini Editions, 2012.

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Critchlow, James. *Nationalism in Uzbekistan: Soviet Republic's Road to Sovereignty*: Westview Press, 1991.

Dave, Bhavna. "National Revival in Kazakhstan: Language Shift and Identity Change." *Post-Soviet Affairs* 12, no. 1 (1996): 51-72.

Di Cosmo, Nicola, ed. *Warfare in Inner Asian History: 500-1800*. Leiden: Brill, 2002.

d'Encausse, Helene Carrere. *Islam and the Russian Empire: Reform and Revolution in Central Asia*. London: I.B. Tauris & Co., 1988.

Dragadze, T. "The Domestication of Religion under Soviet Communism." In *Socialism: ideals, ideologies and local practice*, edited by C. M. Hann. London: Routledge, 1993.

Dudoignon, Stephane, and Komatsu Hisao, eds. *Islam in Politics in Russia and Central Asia (Early Eighteenth to Late Twentieth Centuries)*. London and New York: Kegan Paul, 2001.

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Fierman, William, ed.. ***Soviet Central Asia : the failed transformation.*** With a foreword by Teresa Rakowska-Harmstone. Boulder : Westview Press, 1991.

Fierman, William. "The Communist Party, "Erk," and the Changing Uzbek Political Environment." *Central Asian Survey* 10, no. 3 (1991): 55-72.

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Frye, Richard Nelson, ***The heritage of Central Asia from antiquity to the Turkish expansion*** /Princeton, N.J. : Markus Wiener Publishers, 1996.

Geiss, Paul Georg. ***Pre-tsarist and tsarist Central Asia : communal commitment and political order in change*** / London ; New York : RoutledgeCurzon, 2003.

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Grousset, René, ***Empire of the steppes; a history of central Asia.*** Translated from the French by Naomi Walford. New Brunswick, N.J., Rutgers University Press [1970]

Halback, Uwe. "'Holy War" against Czarism: The Links between Sufism and Jihad in the Nineteenth Century Anticolonial Resistance against Russia." In *Muslim Communities Reemerge: Historical Perspectives on Nationality, Politics, and Opposition in the Former Soviet Union and Yugoslavia*, edited by Andreas Kappeler, Gerhard Simon, Georg Brunner and Edward Allworth, 251-276. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1989.

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