

PSCI 4503A/EURR 4207A
Politics of Central Eurasia
Thursday 8:35-11:25
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

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Objectives

Central Eurasia—including the former Central Asian territories of the Soviet Union, Afghanistan and East Turkestan, now the Chinese province of Xinjiang— is a geopolitical hotspot, even as its peoples struggle to overcome poverty, corruption and repression. This course will analyze these regions, states and societies across eras, from the nineteenth-century “Great Game” to the present. We will investigate the legacies of colonialism as well as examine the region in a contemporary international context. The course will emphasize the relationships between local, regional, and international politics, identities, and societies in such fields as: political power; the impact of oil and gas; authoritarian rule and “clans”; the philosophy and practice of Islam; the rise of radicalism; poverty and underdevelopment; gender and the roles of women; and, certainly not least, everyday life.

Required Texts:

Texts will be made available through the CULearn website. We will be reading several chapters from Jeff Sahadeo and Russell Zanca, eds. *Everyday Life in Central Asia: Past and Present* (Indiana University Press, 2007).

Requirements and Grading

Undergraduate Students

Oral Participation:	25%
Presentation and Role Play:	10%
2 Short Papers (1-2 pp) (see due dates below)	10%
2 Medium Papers (3-4 pp) (see due dates below)	20%
Proposal (2 pp) (due Oct 30, by email) and mini-draft (due Nov 16):	10%
Major Written Assignment (10 pp) (due Dec 7, in class):	25%

Students will be graded on in-class participation and written assignments. Consistent class participation is VITAL to succeeding in this class. **Attendance is mandatory:** penalties for not attending (without medical attestation) are: 1 absence= 10% deduction of *entire* participation grade; 2 absences= 30% deduction; 3 absences= 50% deduction; 4 absences= 100% deduction from participation grade. Each **late arrival** (after 8:40) will cost 25% of that day’s attendance/ participation grade for every 15 minutes late. Ringing cellphones, note passing, under (or over) the table texting and other disruptions will also result in a loss of the participation mark on the same scale as absences.

Participation grades will be determined based on: (a) attendance and attention level and (b) active participation that (i) displays awareness of the subject (ii) contributes to the flow of conversation (iii) shows knowledge of the readings (iv) offers critical analysis of the readings and topic.

Each student will give one short (5 minute) presentation over the semester. This may take one of two forms. The first is a news analysis. This will consist of an analytical briefing of an important current event in the region, based on news sources. This emulates a briefing that an area-studies expert would give to a politician, minister, NGO director etc. The second form will be to present an “artefact”—e.g. a song, image of a monument, map, short video clip—and briefly discuss its importance. Students will sign up for individual weeks.

The short and medium discussion papers will analyze the readings for individual weeks (**only one paper may be handed in for each week**). They will discuss the authors’ arguments and pinpoint major issues within the selected theme. Samples will be posted on the course website. The medium papers are expected to be structured around a thesis, supported with evidence from the readings (further details in class). Papers will be due on the day of discussion, or one week later; in the latter case, the student will not receive credit for ideas discussed in class. Papers may be handed in on any week, BUT **the first short/medium paper must be handed in ON OR BEFORE Sep 28, the second, Oct 12, third, Nov 2, fourth, Nov 16.**

***Students may, with permission of the instructor, substitute a **short (10 minute) oral presentation** on the topic of their choice (related to the week’s themes) in place of a medium paper.

The long paper will be an original piece of research using at least eight sources. The topic will be developed in consultation with the instructor, but can cover any region or theme within Central Eurasia from the nineteenth century to the present. Papers will be graded on effectiveness of writing as well as analysis. Further details will be posted on the course website in advance of the deadline for the proposal and bibliography. Students will be commenting on “mini-drafts” of one-two pages in mid-November.

Do **NOT** cite wikipedia in your written work, and be very careful of websites not included on the list at the end of the syllabus.

Late papers will be penalized one letter grade (i.e. A- to B+) per day late. No work will be accepted after the end of classes.

Assignments sent electronically will not be accepted without prior consent of the instructor. It is not acceptable to hand in the same assignment for two or more courses. To obtain credit in a course, students must meet ALL the course requirements for **attendance**, term work, and examinations.

Note: no laptops/ tablets/ phones will be allowed for use in class, except as needed during news or oral reports.

Class Schedule

(I reserve the right to make minor changes to the schedule/ readings over the course of the semester)

Sep 7: Introduction

Sep 14: Central Eurasia in the World and Early History

International Context

Michael Clarke, "Beijing's March West: Opportunities and Challenges for China's Eurasian Pivot" *Orbis*, 60, no. 2 (2016): 296-313

Marlene Laruelle, "The US Silk Road: Geopolitical Imaginary or the Repackaging of Strategic Interests" *Eurasian Geography and Economics* 56, no. 4 (2015): 360-75

Ian Bond, "The EU, The Eurasian Economic Union and One Belt, One Road: Can They Work Together?" Centre for European Reform Policy Brief

http://www.cer.eu/sites/default/files/pb_eurasian_IB_16.3.17_0.pdf (accessed 27 July 2017)

Imperial Histories

Ania Loomba, *Colonialism/ Postcolonialism*, 1-12

Adeeb Khalid, *Islam after Communism* (2007), 8-11

Jeff Sahadeo, "Tashkent before the Russians and the Dynamics of Conquest" *Russian Colonial Society in Tashkent, 1865-1923* (2007), 22-31

Adeeb Khalid "Representations of Russia in Central Asian Jadid Discourse" Daniel R. Brower and Edward Lazzerini, *Russia's Orient: Imperial Peoples and Borderlands, 1700-1917*, 188-202

Sep 21: Central Asia in the Soviet Union

Madeleine Reeves, "A Weekend in Osh" *London Review of Books* 8 July 2010

Douglas Northrop, "The Limits of Liberation: Gender, Revolution, and the Veil in Everyday Life in Soviet Uzbekistan" *Everyday Life in Central Asia*, 89-102

Marianne Kamp, "The Wedding Feast: Living the New Uzbek Life in the 1930s" *Everyday Life in Central Asia*, 103-114

Kate Brown, "Gridded Lives: Why Kazakhstan and Montana Are Nearly the Same Place" *American Historical Review* 106 no. 1 (2001): 17-48 (READ 17-22, 30-37)

Jeffrey L. Taylor, "Letter from the Aral Sea: All Dried Up" *American Scholar* Winter 2016, 6-11

James Critchlow, "Corruption, Nationalism, and the Native Elites in Soviet Central Asia" *Journal of Communist Studies* (1988) 4(2): 142-161.

Jeff Sahadeo, "History and Memory: Implications for Pluralism in Kyrgyzstan and the Ferghana Valley" Global Centre for Pluralism, April 2015 (READ 1-9, 12-17)

Sep 28: Identities and Politics in Central Asia

Kathleen Collins, "The Political Role of Clans in Central Asia" *Comparative Politics* 35, no. 2 (2003): 171-190

Edward Schatz, "Transitional Image Making and Soft Authoritarian Kazakhstan" *Slavic Review* 67, no. 1 (2008): 50-62

John Heathershaw, "Of National Fathers and Russian Elder Brothers: Conspiracy Theories and Political Ideas in Post-Soviet Central Asia" *Russian Review* 71, no. 4 (2012): 610-29

Greta Uehling, "Dinner with Akhmet" *Everyday Life in Central Asia*, 127-140

Madeleine Reeves, "Travels in the Margins of the State: Everyday Geography in the Ferghana Valley Borderlands" *Everyday Life in Central Asia*, 279-293

Sarah Kendzior, "'Recognize the Spies:' Transparency and Political Power in Uzbek Cyberspace" *Social Analysis* 59, no. 4 (2015): 50-65

Oct 5: NO CLASS: Professor attending conference

Assignment: WATCH "Bride Kidnapping in Kyrgyzstan"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKAusMNTNnk>

READ Cynthia Werner, "Bride Abduction in post-Soviet Central Asia: Marking a Shift towards Patriarchy through Local Discourses of Shame and Tradition" *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 15 (2009): 314-331 AND <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication/the-rise-non-consensual-bride-kidnapping-kazakhstan-developing-culturally-informed-and>

You may also do your own background research.

Then POST a ~300-500 word reaction to the CULearn forum (and you may react to others' posts also). We will begin the Oct 12 class with discussion of this phenomenon.

Oct 12: Social Issues and Gender in Central Asia

Juliette Cleuziou, "A Second Wife is Not Really a Wife: Polygyny, Gender Relations and Economic Realities in Tajikistan" *Central Asian Survey* 35, no. 1 (2016): 76-90

Aksana Ismailbekova "Migration and Patrilineal Descent: The Role of Women in Kyrgyzstan" *Central Asian Survey* 33, no. 3 (2014): 375-89

Morgan Liu, "A Central Asian Tale of Two Cities: Locating Lives and Aspirations in a Shifting Post-Soviet Cityscape" *Everyday Life in Central Asia*, 66-84

David Montgomery, "Relations Made over Tea: Reflections on a Meaningful Life in a Central Asian Mountain Village" *Central Asian Survey* 32, no. 4 (2013): 475-486

Madeleine Reeves "Clean Fake: Authenticating Documents and Persons in Migrant Moscow" *American Ethnologist* 40 no. 3 (2013): 508-524

Oct 19: Islam and Central Asia

David Montgomery, *Namaz, Wishing Trees, and Vodka: The Diversity of Everyday Religious Life in Central Asia*, *Everyday Life in Central Asia*, 353-368

David Abramson and Elyor Karimov, Sacred Sites, Profane Ideologies: Religious Pilgrimage and the Uzbek State, *Everyday Life in Central Asia*, 317-336

David Montgomery, "Islam beyond Democracy and the State in Kyrgyzstan" *Central Asian Affairs* 2, no. 1 (2015): 35-55

Svetlana Peshkova, "Leading against Odds: Muslim Women Leaders and Teachers in Uzbekistan" *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion* 31, no. 1 (2015): 23-44

Manja Stephan Emmrich and Abdullah Mirzoev, "The Manufacturing of Islamic Lifestyles through the Prism of Dushanbe's Bazaars" *Central Asian Survey* 35, no. 2 (2016): 157-77

OCTOBER 26: NO CLASS- FALL BREAK

Nov 2: Afghanistan: Legacies from Empire to the Taliban

Nazif M. Shahrani, "War, Factionalism, and the State in Afghanistan" *American Anthropologist* 2002 104(3): 715-722

Thomas Barfield, "Afghanistan is not the Balkans: Ethnicity and Its Political Consequences in Comparative Perspective" *Central Eurasian Studies Review* 4, no. 1 (2005): 2-8 (**READ 5-8**)

Ahmed Rashid, *Taliban: Militant Islam, Fundamentalism, and Oil in Central Asia* (2000) 1-7, 17-30, 82-8, 128-40,

Valentine M. Moghadam, "Patriarchy, the Taleban, and the Politics of Public Space in Afghanistan" *Women's Studies International Forum* 25, no. 1 (2002): 19-31

Jonathan Goodhand, "Corrupting or Consolidating the Peace: The Drugs Economy and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding in Afghanistan" *International Peacekeeping* 15, no. 3 (2008): 405-423

Nov 9: Debate: The Future of Afghanistan

*Details to be announced

*Current news sources, including:

-Afghan Analysts Network <https://www.afghanistan-analysts.org/>

-Eurasianet: <http://www.eurasianet.org/resource/afghanistan>
[Afghan Research and Evaluation Unit](#)

*Supplementary Readings will be posted on CULearn

Nov 16: NO CLASS: (Professor attending conference)

ASSIGNMENT: Meet in small groups to discuss “mini-drafts” of student essays. Each student will submit a 2-3pp section of her/his essay to the group and present it in an informal meeting. Students will post a short (150 word) reaction to their colleagues’ drafts and then to what they learned from feedback received

Nov 23: Xinjiang/ East Turkestan: China’s Muslims

Angel Ryono and Matthew Galway, “Xinjiang under China: Reflection on the Multiple Dimensions of the 2009 Urumqi Uprising” *Asian Ethnicity* 16, no. 2 (2015): 235-255

Martin Purbrick, “Maintaining a Unitary State: Counterterrorism, Separatism and Extremism in Xinjiang and China” *Asian Affairs* 48, no. 2 (2017): 236-56

Nathan Light, “Uyghurs and Chinese Social Networking Sites: The Creation and Destruction of Ethnic Youth Culture” *Central Asian Affairs* 2, no. 2 (2015): 264-286

Adila Erkin, “Locally Modern, Globally Uyghur: Geography, Identity, and Consumer Culture in Contemporary Xinjiang” *Central Asian Survey* 28 no. 4 (2009): 417-428

James Leibold and Timothy Grose, “Islamic Veiling in Xinjiang: The Political and Societal Struggle to Define Uyghur Female Adornment” *The China Journal* 76, no. 3 (2016): 78-102

Nov 30: The Political Economy and the Environment of Central Asia

*Haik Burak Sakal, “Natural Resource Policies and Standard of Living in Kazakhstan” *Central Asian Survey* 34, no. 2 (2015): 237-54

*Asel Doolot and John Heathershaw “State as Resource, Mediator and Performer: Understanding the Local and Global Politics of Gold Mining in Kyrgyzstan” *Central Asian Survey* 34, no. 1 (2015): 93-109

*Christopher White, “Nature-Society Linkages in the Aral Sea Region” *Journal of Eurasian Studies* 4 (2013): 18-33

*Aisalkyn Botoeva and Regine A. Spector, “Sewing to Satisfaction: Craft-Based Entrepreneurs in Contemporary Kyrgyzstan” *Central Asian Survey* 32, no. 4 (2013): 487-500

Svetlana Ancker and Bernd Rechel, “‘Donors are Not Interested in Reality’: The Interplay between International Donors and Local NGOs in Kyrgyzstan HIV/AIDS Sector” *Central Asian Survey* 34, no. 4 (2015): 516-30

Dec 7: Central Asia: Power- Violence- Terror?

John Heathershaw and David Montgomery, “The Myth of Post-Soviet Muslim Radicalization in the Central Asian Republics” *Russia and Eurasia Research Program*, 2014, 16pp

Edward Lemon and Helene Thibault, “Counter-Extremism, Power and Authoritarian Governance in Tajikistan” *Central Asian Survey* (2017): DOI: 10.1080/02634937.2017.1336155

David Lewis, "'Illiberal Spaces:' Uzbekistan's Extraterritorial Security Practices and the Spatial Politics of Contemporary Authoritarianism" *Nationalities Papers* 43, no. 1 (2015): 140-159

Christian Bleuer, "To Syria, Not Afghanistan: Central Asian Jihadis 'Neglect' Their Neighbor" *Afghan Analysts Network* October 2014 <https://www.afghanistan-analysts.org/to-syria-not-afghanistan-central-asian-jihadis-neglect-their-neighbour/>

Websites to Consult

Current news sources

Eurasianet:

Sponsored by George Soros' Open Society Institute, Eurasianet publishes a broad range of news from the

entire former Soviet Union, has special reporting and ongoing research projects on Central Asia, and covers some more unusual topics such as arts and culture in some depth.

Ferghana.ru Information Agency

A Moscow-based site publishing reporting by Central Asian correspondents. Articles are available in both English and Russian, but the Russian coverage is usually better (the English articles are sometimes awkwardly translated from the Russian).

Institute for War and Peace Reporting - Central Asia

IWPR is a non-profit international organization that publishes fairly in-depth reports by local journalists.

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL)

Excellent reporting and in-depth coverage of Central Asia. US-funded organization uses local stringers in reporting.

Transitions Online - Central Asia and Mongolia

An online news magazine covering the formerly communist world.

Afghanistan news.net

Aggregates various news sources on Afghanistan

IRIN news Asia

United International Integrated Regional Information Network: some news on Afghanistan

AKI Press

Independent News Agency covering Central Asia

Research and Analysis

www.centralasiaprogram.org

New website; policy briefs, forum- an excellent starting point

Central Asia Caucasus Analyst

Analytical reporting on Central Asia and the Caucasus, mostly from a security perspective.

Human Rights Watch - Europe and Central Asia

International Crisis Group - Central Asia

In-depth journalistic reporting on key regional issues, aimed at policy makers and the broader public

Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Official Website

World Bank: Europe and Central Asia Research

Central Asian Regional Economic Cooperation (Asian Development Bank)

Research and Policy Briefs: OSCE Academy, Bishkek

Economist Intelligence Unit See Individual Country Reports

[Institute for Public Policy](#) (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)
[Silk Road Studies Program: Central Asia-Caucasus Institute](#)
[Caucasian Review for International Affairs:](#)
[Afghan analysts network](#)
[Afghan Research and Evaluation Unit](#)

Blogs

[New Eurasia](#)
[Registan.net](#)
[Exeter Central Asian Studies Network](#)

Journals

Ab Imperio
Anthropology of East Europe Review
Caucasian Review for International Affairs (online only)
Central Asian Survey
Central Asia and the Caucasus (online only)
Central Asia-Caucasus Analyst (online only)
Communist and Post-Communist Studies
Demokratizatsiia
Eurasian Geography and Economics
Europe-Asia Studies
Nationalities Papers
Journal of Eurasian Studies
Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs
Slavic Review
China and Eurasia Forum Quarterly
Post-Soviet Affairs
Problems of Post-Communism

Article Databases

Scopus
Historical Abstracts
Social Sciences Fulltext
Ingenta Connect
J-Stor

Academic Accommodations:

The Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS) is a centralized collection of learning support services designed to help students achieve their goals and improve their learning both inside and outside the classroom. CSAS offers academic assistance with course content, academic writing and skills development. Visit CSAS on the 4th floor of MacOdrum Library or online at: www.carleton.ca/csas.

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at

613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send the instructor your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). **Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.** After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with the instructor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website (www.carleton.ca/pmc) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism:

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own”. This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

All suspicions of plagiarism will be dealt with according to the Carleton’s Academic Integrity Policy (<http://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/>). The Associate Dean of the Faculty will conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of F for the course.

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Submission, Return and Grading of Term Work:

Written assignments must be submitted directly to the instructor(s) according to the instructions in the course outline. If permitted in the course outline, late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside room 3305 River Building. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructors. For written assignments not returned in class please attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Carleton E-mail Accounts: All email communication to students from the Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and university information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to EURUS website is the official course outline.