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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:
Other readings will be available electronically or on reserve.

Requirements and Grading

Undergraduate Students

- **Oral Participation:** 25%
- **News Analysis (see below) and Role Play:** 10%
- **3 Short Papers (1-2 pp) (see due dates below):** 15%
- **2 Medium Papers (3-4 pp) (see due dates below):** 20%
- **Proposal and Bibliography (2 pp) (due Nov 3, by email) for Major Assignment:** 5%
- **Major Written Assignment (10 pp) (due Dec 4, in class):** 25%

Students will be graded on in-class participation and written assignments. Active and consistent class participation is VITAL to succeeding in this class. **Attendance is mandatory:** penalties for not attending (without medical documentation) 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 present one short (5 minute maximum) news analysis over the semester. Students will sign up for individual weeks and offer an analytical briefing of one important current event in the region. This emulates a briefing that an area-studies expert would give to a politician, minister, NGO director etc.

The short and medium discussion papers will analyze the readings for individual weeks (only one paper may be handed in for each week), discussing the authors’ arguments and pinpointing 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 Oct 2, the second, Oct 16, third, Oct 23, fourth, Nov 6, and fifth, Nov 20.

***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 late 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.

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.)
(note: readings with * are REQUIRED readings)

Sep 11: Introduction

Sep 18: Central Eurasia in the World and Early History
International Context
Imperial Histories

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

Jing-Dong Yuan, “China’s Role in Establishing and Building the Shanghai Cooperation Organization” *Journal of Contemporary China* 19 (67) 2010: 855-869
Roy Allison, “Strategic Reassertion in Russia’s Central Asia Policy” *International Affairs* 80, no. 2 (2004): 277-293
Andrei Kazantsev “Russian Policy in Central Asia and the Caspian Sea region” *Europe-Asia Studies* 60, no. 6 (2008);
Paolo Sartori, *Explorations in the Social History of Modern Central Asia* (19th-early 20th century) (Brill, 2013)

**Sep 25: Central Asia in the Soviet Union**
*Madeleine Reeves, “A Weekend in Osh”* London Review of Books 8 July 2010
*Marianne Kamp, “The Wedding Feast: Living the New Uzbek Life in the 1930s”* Everyday Life in Central Asia, 103-114
*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)

Adeeb Khalid, *Islam after Communism: Religion and Politics in Central Asia*

**Oct 2: Identities and Politics in Central Asia**


*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*

Filippo Menga, “Building a Nation through a Dam: the Case of Rogun in Tajikistan” Nationalities Papers 43, no. 3 (2015): 479-494


Alisher Ilkhamov, “Neopatrimonialism, Interest Groups, and Patronage Networks: The Impasses of the
Willem van Schendel and E. Zurcher, eds. *Identity Politics in Central Asia and the Muslim World* (2001)
Christine Bichsel, *Conflict Transformation in Central Asia: Irrigation Disputes in the Ferghana Valley* (2009)
International Crisis Group Reports on Central Asia

**Oct 9: Social Issues and Gender in Central Asia**
*Paula A. Michaels “Kazakh Hospitality in Ethnohistorical Perspective,” Everyday Life in Central Asia, 145-159
*Madeleine Reeves “Clean Fake: Authenticating Documents and Persons in Migrant Moscow” American Ethnologist* 40 no. 3 (2013): 508-524

Madeleine Reeves, Staying Put? Towards a Relational Politics of Mobility at a Time of Migration” *Central Asian Survey* 30, nos. 3-4 (2011): 555-576
Meghan Simpson, “Local Strategies in Globalizing Gender Politics: Women’s Organizing in
Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan” *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs* 26, no. 1 (2006): 9-31
Colette Harris, *Muslim Youth: Tensions and Transitions in Tajikistan* (Westview, 2006)
Kelly M. McMann, “The Civic Realm in Kyrgyzstan: Soviet Economic Legacies and Activists’ Expectations” In Jones Luong, *Transformation of Central Asia*, 213-245

**Oct 16: Islam and Central Asia**

*Eric McGlinchey, “Competing Islams: The Everyday Struggle for Faith in Uzbekistan” Everyday Life in Central Asia, 303-316
*David Abramson and Elyor Karimov, Sacred Sites, Profane Ideologies: Religious Pilgrimage and the Uzbek State, Everyday Life in Central Asia, 317-336


Oct 23: The Political Economy and the Environment of Central Asia

David Gullette and Jeanne Feaux de la Croix, “Mr. Light and People’s Everyday Struggles in Central Asia and the Caucasus” Central Asian Survey 33, no. 4 (2014): 435-448
Marlene Laruelle and Sebastien Peyrouse, Globalizing Central Asia: Geopolitics and the Challenges of Economic Development (2013)
Erica Weinthal and K. Watters, “Transnational Environmental Activism in Central Asia: The Coupling of Domestic Law and International Concerns” Environmental Politics 19, no. 5 (2010): 782-807
Richard Pomfret, “Kazakhstan’s Economy Since Independence: Does the Oil Boom Offer a Second Chance for Sustained Development?” Europe-Asia Studies 57 no. 6 (2005): 859-76
Daene C. McKinney “Cooperative Management of Transboundary Water Resources in Central Asia” Burghart and Sabonis-Helf, eds. In the Tracks of Tamerlane, 187-220

OCTOBER 30: NO CLASS- FALL BREAK

Nov 6: Afghanistan: Legacies from Empire to the Taliban
*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,
*Jonathan Goodhand, “Corrupting or Consolidating the Peace: The Drugs Economy and Post-Conflict Peacebuilding in Afghanistan” International Peacekeeping 15, no. 3 (2008): 405-423

System (2002)

**Nov 13: Debate: The Future of Afghanistan**
*Details to be announced*
*Current news sources, including:*
- Afghan Analysts Network [https://www.afghanistan-analysts.org/](https://www.afghanistan-analysts.org/)

**PLU**S **Read 2-3 of:**
Meirav Marshali Ram, “When Ethnicity and Religion Meet: Kinship Ties and Cross-Border Dynamics in the Afghan-Pakistani Conflict Zone” *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 17, no. 3 (2011): 257-275
S. Worden, An Election Gone Awry” *Journal of Democracy* 21, no. 3 (2010): 11-25
Najibullah Lafraye, “NATO in Afghanistan: Perilous Mission, Dire Ramifications” *International Politics*


Juan Cole, “Pakistan and Afghanistan: Beyond the Taliban” *Political Science Quarterly* 124, no. 2 (2009): 221-249


**Nov 20: NO CLASS:** (Professor attending conference)

**Nov 27: Xinjiang: China’s Muslims**


Enze Han, “From Domestic to International: The Politics of Ethnic Identity in Xinjiang and Inner Mongolia” *Nationalities Papers* 39, no. 6 (2011): 941-962


Michael A. Clarke, *Xinjiang and China’s rise in Central Asia: a history* (2011)

Xiaowei Chang, “Gender Roles and Ethnic Income Inequality in Urumchi” *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 35,


Michael L. Zukovsky, “Quality, Development Discourse, and Minority Subjectivity in Contemporary Xinjiang” Modern China 38 no. 2 (2012): 233-264


The Uyghurs in China: Questioning the Past and Understanding the Present: Central Asian Survey Special Issue no. 4 (2009)

Dru Gladney, Dislocating China: Muslims, Minorities, and Other Subaltern Subjects (2003)

S. Frederick Starr, Xinjiang: China’s Muslim Borderland (2003)


Eric Schluessel, “‘Bilingual’ Education and Discontent in Xinjiang” Central Asian Survey 26, no. 2 (2007): 251-277


Dec 4: Central Asia: Power- Violence- Terror?


*current news articles

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) Central Asia in Focus
Excellent reporting and in-depth coverage of Central Asia. US-funded organization uses local stringers in reporting.
Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) Newsline - Transcaucasia and Central Asia
Brief wire stories on Central Asia

Transitions Online - Central Asia and Mongolia
An online news magazine covering the formerly communist world.

Caucasian Knot:
English version of Russian website with news from around the Caucasus: treat with caution!

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
Academic Accommodations:

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 me 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). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website 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.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. 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. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside 3304 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:

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<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>67-69</td>
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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.