Objectives
Central Eurasia—stretching from the Caucasus to the Chinese province of Xinjiang—has become 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 western and Chinese colonialism. We will also examine the region in a contemporary international context, particularly the roles of Russia, the United States, and China. 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:
Jeff Sahadeo and Russell Zanca, eds. Everyday Life in Central Asia: Past and Present (Indiana University Press, 2007) (available at university bookstore)

Other readings will be available on Web CT.

Requirements and Grading
Undergraduate Students
Oral Participation: 25%
News Analysis 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 Mar 4, in class) for Major Assignment: 5%
Major Written Assignment (12 pp) (due Apr 2, 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, 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
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 webCT site. 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 Jan 28, the second, Feb 11, third, Mar 4, fourth, Mar 18, and fifth, Apr 2.**

***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 web CT 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 by fax will not be accepted. 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 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)

**Jan 7: Introduction**

**Jan 14:** Great Games, Old and New: Outside Powers and Central Eurasia

(Theory) and 19th Century


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


21st Century


*Jing-Dong Yuan, “China’s Role in Establishing and Building the Shanghai Cooperation Organization”*
Journal of Contemporary China 19 (67) 2010: 855-869

*A. Cooley, “Principles in the Pipeline: Managing Transatlantic Values and Interests in Central Asia”
*International Affairs, 84, no. 6 (2008): 1173-1188

**Recommended:** Roy Allison, “Strategic Reassertion in Russia’s Central Asia Policy” *International Affairs* 80, no. 2 (2004): 277-293


S. Neil MacFarlane, “The United States and Regionalism in Central Asia” *International Affairs* 80, no. 3 (2004): 447-461
Boris Mathieu Petric, “Post-Soviet Kyrgyzstan or the Birth of a Globalized Protectorate” *Central Asian Survey* 24, no. 3 (2005): 319-332


**Jan 21: The Soviet Legacy**

*Adeeb Khalid, *Islam after Communism*, 86-93


*Adeeb Khalid, *Islam after Communism*, 86-93


**Jan 28: 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

Willem van Schendel and E. Zurcher, eds. *Identity Politics in Central Asia and the Muslim World* (2001)


International Crisis Group, “Tajikistan’s Politics: Confrontation or Consolidation?” 24 pages.


Christine Bichsel, *Conflict Transformation in Central Asia: Irrigation Disputes in the Ferghana Valley* (2009)

---

**Feb 4: Gender and Social Issues in Central Asia**


*Madeleine Reeves, “Going to Town: Exploring the Micro-Dynamics of Labour Migration from Southern Kyrgyzstan” draft article, 1-27.*


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


---

**Feb 11: Islam and Central Asia**

*Adeeb Khalid, *Islam after Communism*, 98-139*
*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

Maria Louw, Everyday Islam in Post-Soviet Central Asia (Routledge, 2008)
Dale F. Eickelman, James Piscatori, Muslim Politics (Princeton, 2004),

Feb 18: The Political Economy and the Environment of Central Asia and the Caucasus
*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


Daene C. McKinney “Cooperative Management of Transboundary Water Resources in Central Asia” Burghart and Sabonis-Helf, eds. *In the Tracks of Tamerlane*, 187-220


David S. McCauley, “Environmental Management in Independent Central Asia” Burghart and Sabonis-Helf, eds. *In the Tracks of Tamerlane*, 275-304


**Feb 25: Winter Break**

**Mar 4: Xinjiang: China’s Muslims**


*Joanne Smith Finley, “Chinese Oppression in Xinjiang: Middle Eastern Conflicts and Global Islamic Solidarities among the Uighurs *Journal of Contemporary China* 16, no. 53 (2007): 627-654


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


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


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


*Martin Wayne, “Inside China’s War on Terrorism” *Journal of Contemporary China* 18, no. 59 (2009):
Mar 11: 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


Olivier Roy, Islam and Resistance in Afghanistan (1990)

Mar 18: Debate: Canada, NATO, and Afghanistan
*Details to be announced
*Current news sources (see also websites: http://www.afghanconflictmonitor.org/ and http://aan-afghanistan.com/)

PLUS Read 2-3 of:
Geographies, Conflict Diffusion, and Clusters of Violence” Eurasian Geography and Economics 51, no. 4 (2010): 437-71


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


Olivier Roy, “End the ‘War on Terror’ and Talk to the Taliban” New Perspectives Quarterly 26, no. 2 (2009): 17-19


Barnett R. Rubin “Peace Building and State-Building in Afghanistan: Constructing Sovereignty for


Mar 25: The Transcaucasia

Aviel Roshwald, Ethnic Nationalism and the Fall of Empires: Central Europe, Russia, and the Middle East (2001)

Svante E. Cornell, Small Nations and Great Powers: A Study of Ethnopolitical Conflict in the Caucasus
Alec Rasizade Azerbaijan after Heydar Aliev” Nationalities Papers, 32, no.1 (2004): 137-164
O. Bayulgen, “Facing the dilemma of global capitalism: the case of Azerbaijan” Central Asian Survey,
22, nos. 2-3 (2003): 209-220
Ronald Grigor, Suny, ed., Transcaucasia: Nationalism and Social Change; Essays in the History of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia

International Negotiation 15, no. 1 (2010): Special Issue on Nagorno-Karabakh

Apr 1: Chechnya and the North Caucasus

Moshe Gammer, “Between Mecca and Moscow: Islam, Politics, and Political Islam in Chechnya and Dagestan” Middle Eastern Studies 41, no. 6 (2005): 833-848
Carlotta Gall and Thomas de Waal, Chechnya: Calamity in the Caucasus (1998)
Anna Politkovskaya, A Dirty War: A Russian Reporter in Chechnya (2001)
Anna Politkovskaya, A Small Corner of Hell: Dispatches from Chechnya (2003)
Websites to Consult

Background

**Online Histories of Central Asia**
Excellent resource with units on migration, Islam, and the environment, past and present, with primary source materials and biographies

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.

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

Research and Analysis

**Asian Development Bank - Central and West Asia**

**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

**International Organization for Migration - Central Asia**

**Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe - Central Asia**

**Shanghai Cooperation Organization**

**The World Bank - Europe and Central Asia**

**United Nations Development Program - Europe and the CIS**
Check out the publications, especially the 2005 Central Asia Human Development Report

**Human Rights Watch**

**Economist Intelligence Unit** See Individual Country Reports

**Institute for Public Policy** (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)

**Silk Road Studies Program: Central Asia-Caucasus Institute**
Central Asian History oral histories with Kyrgyz citizens
Caucasian Review for International Affairs: www.cria-online.org
http://www.afghanconflictmonitor.org/
Afghan analysts network http://aan-afghanistan.com/

Blogs
Beyond the River
Central Asian cultures from antiquity to the present day, reviews of recent books about Central Asia, and commentary on current political and social events in post-Soviet Central Asia and the surrounding regions.
New Eurasia
Registan.net
The Roberts Report on Central Asia and Kazakhstan
Roberts has excellent insights on the Uighurs
Silk Road Society

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

Article Databases
Scopus
Historical Abstracts
Social Sciences Fulltext
Ingenta Connect
J-Stor

Academic Accommodations

For students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your request for accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs at least two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by November 16, 2009 for December examinations and March 11, 2011 for April examinations.
For 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).

For 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 include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of “F” for the course.

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Approval of final grades: 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.

Course Requirements: Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.
**Connect Email Accounts:** All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

**Carleton Political Science Society:** The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students in the after-hours academic life at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, or come to our office in Loeb D688.

**Official Course Outline:** The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.