

Spring 2011
Anthropology Program
American University of Central Asia

Course Syllabus
PEOPLES AND CULTURES OF CENTRAL ASIA

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Lectures: Mon 14:10 (312)
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Course Overview

This interdisciplinary course is an introduction to the history, politics and culture of Central Asia from the ancient periods to present days. Ethno-historical and cultural survey will take in those regions, which today comprise Former Soviet Republics (Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan), Mongolia, (Xinjiang), Northern Afghanistan and Northern India. Students will examine ways in which Central Asia and its sedentary and pastoral cultures have been central to the world history and civilizations. Through the primary and secondary readings, class-discussions and audio-visual materials they will also become familiar with various theories and methodologies used to study ethnic and cultural identity of the region.

Course Readings

Each student will have a reader *Peoples and Cultures of Central Asia*. It is available from the AUCA Anthropology program. Additional course materials and readings are in the folder *H:\Courses Information Support\Anthropology\Peoples and Cultures of Central Asia*.

Assignments/Assessment

Attendance and active participation – 30%

Attendance 10% and active participation - 20%. This course makes the assumption that you want to learn and want to discuss the material we will be reading. Active class participation can be realized through the oral or power point presentations. Each student should make at least two class presentations. Each presentation grades 10 %. Three or more absences without medical excuses (spravka) over the course will get an “X” for the course. If you fail to make a class presentation on time, you will not be given a second chance to do it and lose 10% assigned for the presentation.

Criteria for the presentation:

1. the statement of key facts and analysis of readings -5 %

- creativity (used of extra materials and arguable opinions) and implication of cases and theoretical parts to modernity – 5 %

Map Quiz -10%. The student has to know well the geographic objects of Central Asia. For the preparation to this assignment work with the interactive map at: <http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/maps/mapquiz/mapquiz.html> “Water and Mountains-East” and the “Cities of the Silk Road”.

Midterm – 20%. The midterm will be in the form of the multiple choice test. Students will get 40 questions based on the passed topics. Due date listed below.

Research paper with in - class presentation – 40%.

Research paper - **30%** (7 pages, double-spaced, Chicago or APA style). In - class presentation **10%**.

The research topic and date of presentation should be discussed with the professor in advance. It must properly cite sources that have been quoted or referred to. Not to do so is plagiarism. Due date listed below.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism will not be tolerated during the course. Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person’s ideas and representing them as your own original work. You must either paraphrase the sentence by putting it completely in your own words and citing it with the proper footnote, endnote or in text citation, or put the quotation marks or make block quotation if you use the direct words of the source without any change with the following footnote, endnote or other citation after the copied words. All information must be cited. Always cite a legitimate source. Wikipedia is not a legitimate source. Books published by university presses and academic papers found on JSTOR are legitimate sources.

Cheating

Cheating will not be tolerated during the course. Cheating is the use of unauthorized sources during exams such as books, student’s notes, cellular phones, etc.

Grading system

Your final grade will be determined as follows:

100-96 = A

95-91 = A-

90-86 = B+

85-81 = B

80-76 = B-

75-71 = C+

70-66 = C

65-61 = C-

60-56 = D+

55-51 = D

50-46 = D-

45 and lower = F

* By the asterisk is signed the required readings.

Course Schedule

Week 1. Introduction to the course

Readings:

1. *Reader. B.Franz, *the Methods of Ethnology*. pp.134-141.
2. *Reader. M.Mead. *Introduction*, pp.218-224.

Week 2. Territory, Ecology and Formation of Civilizations on the Territory of Central Asia

Readings:

1. *Reader. D. Christian, *The Geography and Ecology of Inner Eurasia*, pp.3-19.
2. Reader. E.Huntington, *The Pulse of Asia, Introduction*, pp.1-16.
3. Some images on rock art of Central Asia are available at: <http://www.centralasian-rockart.org/sites/>

Week 3. Nomadic and Sedentary Civilizations of Central Asia

Readings:

1. *D. Christian, *A History of Russia, Central Asia and Mongolia* (Oxford, 1998), pp. 123-157. (in the folder).
2. K. Tashbaeva, *Localization of the Cities of the Davan State//Civilizations of Nomadic and Sedentary Peoples of Central Asia* (Samarkand-Bishkek, 2005), pp. 155-166 (in the folder).

Week 4. Languages of Central Asia: History of Formation and Development

Readings:

1. *Reader. L. Krader. *Peoples of Central Asia*, pp.33-52.
2. *Turkic inscriptions see at www.turkicworld.org.
3. *Languages in danger, UNESCO project* see at www.unesco.org

Week 5. Formation of Central Asian Peoples and Ethnic Identity

Readings:

1. * Reader. E.Huntington, *Kirghiz nomads and the influence of the high plateaus*, Chapter 5. pp.106-132.
2. T. Akerov, *Ancient Kyrgyz and the Great Steppe* (Bishkek, 2007), pp. 85-103 (AUCA Library).

Week 6. The Role of the GSilk Road in the Development of Central Asia

Readings:

1. R. Foltz, *Religions of the Silk Road* (N-Y, 1999), pp. 22-36, 136-144. (AUCA Library).

2. Primary source: *Balasaguni, Yusuf, Beneficent Knowledge*, trans. Walter May, (Bishkek, 1998) (AUCA Library).

Map quiz!

Week 7. Formation of Empires, Dynasties and Statehoods in Central Asia

Readings and Film:

1. *Reader D. Christian, *Chinggis Khan*, pp. 385-405.
2. D.Morgan, *The Mongols* (New-York, 1986), pp. 5-31 (in the folder).
3. Film: *Chinghiz Khan*.

Week 8. Kinship and Family in Central Asia

Readings:

1. *Reader. *Kinship and Modernity*, pp.3-20.
2. Reader. L. Krader, *The Peoples of Central Asia*, pp. 141-169.
3. *Reader. Werner, Cynthia, *The Rise of Nonconsensual Bride Kidnapping in Post-Soviet Kazakhstan* in *The Transformation of Central Asia*, London, 2004, pp. 68-89.

Midterm!

Week 9. The 19th Century Great Game for Central Asia

Readings:

1. *Reader. P.Hopkirk, *Great Game, The Struggle for Central Asia*. N-Y: Kodansha, 1994, pp.1-8, 123-135.

Week 10. Soviet Central Asia: Changes and Challenges

Readings:

1. E.Bacon, *Central Asians under the Russian Rule. A Study in Culture Change*, Cornell University Press, 1966, pp.189-217.
2. Primary source: Ch. Aitmatov, *Djamilya*, pp. 4-58.

Week 11. Statehood and Nation-Building Process in Central Asia: Theories and Practice

Readings:

1. J. Anderson, *Kyrgyzstan. Central Asia's island of Democracy?* (Harwood, 1999), pp. 23-63 (AUCA Library).
2. H.E. Hale, *Interpreting the Color Revolutions and Prospects for post-Soviet Democratization*, PONARS Policy Memo No. 373, http://csis.org/files/media/isis/pubs/pm_0373.pdf

Week 12. Religious Identity in Central Asia: Past and Present

Readings:

1. *Reader. O.Roy, *The New Central Asia*, London&New York, 2000, ch. 8. Islam, pp.143-160.
2. A. Khalid, *The Politics of Muslim Cultural Reform. Jadidism in Central Asia*, (Berkeley, 1998), pp. 80-113 (AUCA Library).

Week 13. Cultural Identity of Central Asian Peoples: Dwelling, Food and Clothes

Readings:

1. *Reader. *Atlas of Central Asian Artistic Crafts and Trades*, Vol.3, Bishkek, 2002, pp.60-73.
2. *Reader. M.Bikzjanova, *The Clothes of Uzbek Women of Tashkent City. XIX-early XX Century*, pp. 133-150.
3. Reader. S.Abashin, *Tea in Central Asia: its History in XVIII-XIX centuries*, pp, 205-223.
4. *Reader. G.Vasil'eva. *Head Jewelries of Turkmen Women, XIX-early XX century*, pp.174-199.

Week 14. Spiritual Life of Central Asian Peoples: Oral and Writing Traditions

Guest Lecture “Epic Traditions of Central Asia in Contemporary Times”

Readings:

1. *Reader. *The Kyrgyz Epic Manas*, selections translated, introduced and annotated by Elmura Kochumkul kyzy, pp.1-9.

Week 15. In-class Presentations and Final Results