

Spring 2011  
Anthropology Department  
American University of Central Asia

**Course Syllabus**  
**HISTORY OF KYRGYZSTAN**  
**HIST 108**

*Instructor:* Cholpon Chotaeva (PhD)

*Lectures:* Monday 10:50 (403), Thursday 10:50 (403)

*Seminars:* Thursday 14:10, Friday 9:25, Friday 10:50, Friday 12:45, Friday 14:10

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**Course Overview**

The history of the Kyrgyz people and Kyrgyzstan is inexhaustibly rich and interesting. The term "Kyrgyz" is one of the most ancient ethnic names in the world. Its first mention can be traced back to 201 B.C. in Chinese sources. There is a continuing research interest in prehistoric rock art of Saymaluu-Tash, realistic medieval Turkic sculptures and nomadic architecture of the 19th century. The contemporary history of Kyrgyzstan, especially the complex political process, is of particular interest and is deeply connected to Central Asian and world history. In this context, the issues such as tribalism and regionalism are highly debated, as well as some of the social and economic consequences of the recent instability.

This course seeks to develop a range of skills fundamental to historical thinking and contextual learning, including a comparative study of Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia, excluding the dogmatism of Soviet history and historians, revealing the general and the particular, evaluating long-term prospects and dealing with complexities. The course also aims to develop critical thinking skills through the reading of primary historical texts and secondary papers and the exchange of ideas during oral presentations and class discussions.

**Course Readings**

Each student will have an access to the electronic copy of Soucek's *A History of Inner Asia* (Cambridge, 2000), the main textbook for the course, which is available in the *H:\Courses Information Support\Anthropology\HIST 108 History of Kyrgyzstan in English* folder. Additional course materials and readings are also provided there.

The following books are recommended on various topics of the course (available at the AUCA library):

Akerov T. *Ancient Kyrgyz and the Great Steppe* (Bishkek, 2007) DK917 A447 2007.  
Anderson John, *Kyrgyzstan. Central Asia's island of Democracy?* (Harwood, 1999) DK918.8757 A53 1999.  
Bregel, Yuri, *A Historical Atlas of Central Asia* (Bloomington, 2003). G 2202.21.S1 B744 2003.  
Christian, David, *A History of Russia, Central Asia and Mongolia* (Oxford, 1998). DK 40C491998.  
Frye, Richard, *The Heritage of Central Asia. From Antiquity to the Turkish Expansion* (Princeton, 1996) DS329.4 F784 1995.  
Grousset, Rene, *The Empire of the Steppes. A History of Central Asia* (London, 1999) DS785 G831 1999.

### **Assignments/Assessment**

#### **Attendance - 10%**

Attendance is required. Attendance will be checked in the beginning of each class period. If you are late you will not be allowed to the class. Or, you can attend the class but will get an absence in the attendance list. Each unexcused absence will reduce your attendance grade by 2%.

If you got sick, you have to notify an instructor or the office manager in advance, and later submit an official document (spravka) from a physician, especially if you are scheduled to make a class presentation. **Four unexcused absences** will result in "X" for the whole course.

#### **Participation – 20%**

Participation means more than good attendance. You must be prepared and actively discuss the course readings as listed on the schedule.

#### **Class Presentation – 10%**

You have to sign up for a topic of the course in the presentations' list provided by an instructor to make a group or individual presentation during a seminar class. It can be oral or power point presentation. Not more than two students could sign up for a topic. Each student should make at least one class presentation. 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.

#### **In-Class Map Quiz – 10%**

You will be tested on your familiarity with the geographic features of Central Asia and must study the interactive maps at: <http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/maps/mapquiz/mapquiz.html> "Water and Mountains-East" and the "Cities of the Silk Road".

#### **Midterm – 20%**

Midterm exam is a take-home exam. It is a reflection paper on primary historical source. In the reflection paper you should demonstrate your ability to interpret the information provided in a primary source and reveal your opinion on that. Reflection paper should be 2-3 pages, double-

spaced. All primary sources are available in the course folder. In case of cheating student will receive a zero for the assignment. The delayed papers are not accepted and graded.

### **Museum Essay – 10%**

The museum essay (2 pages, double spaced) should be written on a topic discussed during the visit to the Kyrgyz Historical museum or Gallery. In the museum essay students should show their ability to combine class lectures and discussions with their museum experience. In case of plagiarism student will receive a zero for the assignment. The delayed papers are not accepted and graded.

### **Final Exam – 20%**

The final exam is in-class written exam of the course. You will receive a question out of those discussed previously during the course (all questions will be provided by the instructor in advance) and write a one-page essay on it. In case of cheating you will receive a zero for the assignment.

### **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

### **Course Policy**

#### **Mobile phones**

Mobile phones and other electronic devices must be off while you are attending the class.

#### **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.

### **Deadlines**

Papers must be submitted to the office manager of Anthropology Department before the deadline. The time you submit will be recorded by the office manager and confirmed by your signature. Papers and assignments submitted beyond the deadline will not be accepted or graded. Deadlines can only be extended upon prior permission request and for medical reasons. Only those late papers with valid or legitimate excuse will be accepted but penalized that will affect the final grade for the assignment.

### **Appeals**

If you don't agree with your grade for an assignment or course, you must submit a written appeal for the name of the Anthropology Department head explaining the reasons of your disagreement. Oral appeals are not considered.

## **Course Schedule**

### **Week 1. Introduction to the course**

#### **Discussion:**

What is History?

Kyrgyz history is part of Central Asian and world history.

#### **Readings:**

1. Edward Carr, *What is History* (N-Y, 1990), pp. 7-30 (in the folder).
2. Soucek, Svat, *A History of Inner Asia, Introduction* (Cambridge, 2000), pp. 3-29.

### **Week 2. Prehistory on the territory of Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia**

#### **Discussion:**

The Stone Age on the territory of Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia.

Bronze era: Andronovo and Chust cultures.

What was the role of art in prehistoric society?

#### **Readings and Film:**

1. Christian, David, *A History of Russia, Central Asia and Mongolia* (Oxford, 1998), pp. 99-121 (in the folder).
2. Some images on rock art of Central Asia are available at: <http://www.centralasian-rockart.org/sites/>, <http://www.artlex.com/ArtLex/c/culture.html>

3. Film: *Tamgaly* (UNESCO project, 2007)

### **Week 3. Interaction of Two Worlds: Nomadic and Sedentary Civilizations**

#### **Discussion:**

Saka-Wusun nomadic civilizations.

Davan State in the history of Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia.

What were the relationships between nomadic and sedentary societies in the ancient period?

#### **Readings:**

1. Christian, David, *A History of Russia, Central Asia and Mongolia* (Oxford, 1998), pp. 123-157 (in the folder).
2. Tashbaeva K. *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. The Rise and Fall of Turkic Empires**

#### **Discussion:**

The ancient Turks and their states.

The role of the Qarakhanids in the History of Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia.

#### **Readings:**

1. Soucek, Svat, *A History of Inner Asia*, pp. 51-69, 83-92 (in the folder).
2. Barfield T. *The Nomadic Alternative* (Prentice Hall, 1993), pp. 136-159 (in the folder).
3. *Turkic inscriptions about the Second Eastern Turkic Kaghanate* at [www.turkicworld.org](http://www.turkicworld.org).

### **Week 5. Ethnogenesis of the Kyrgyz people and Formation of Kyrgyz Statehood**

#### **Discussion:**

Who are the contemporary Kyrgyz people?

Yenisei Kyrgyz Kaganate. Barsbek Kagan.

Great Kyrgyz Statehood in the 9-10th centuries.

#### **Readings:**

1. Akerov T. *Ancient Kyrgyz and the Great Steppe* (Bishkek, 2007), pp. 85-103 (AUCA Library).
2. *The Kül Tigin Inscription (ca 731 AD)* available at: [www.turkicworld.org](http://www.turkicworld.org)
3. Primary source: *Birth of Manas and his Childhood* at <http://www.silkroadfoundation.org/folklore/manas/manasse2.html>

### **Week 6. The Great Silk Road: Exchange of Trades, Religions and Ideas**

**Discussion:**

What was the role of the Silk Road in the past?

Culture of Turks in the 6-12th centuries.

Literature and Science of Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia.

The interaction of Buddhism, Christianity, Islam and local religious beliefs.

**Readings:**

1. Foltz R. *Religions of the Silk Road* (N-Y, 1999), pp. 22-36, 136-144 (AUCA Library).
2. *Atlas of Central Asian Crafts* (Bishkek, 2002), Volume 2, pp. 33-53 (in the folder).
3. Primary source: *Balasaguni, Yusuf, Beneficent Knowledge*, trans. Walter May, (Bishkek, 1998) (AUCA Library).

**Map quiz:** You have to know well the geographic objects of Central Asia. To prepare for a map quiz 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”.

**Week 7. The Mongols in the History of Central Asia****Discussion:**

The Mongols in the history of Central Asia in the 13-14th centuries.

The empire of Chinghiz Khan and his descendants.

Chaghatai Ulus and the Qaidu State in Central Asia.

**Readings and Film:**

1. Morgan, David, *The Mongols* (New-York, 1986), pp. 5-31 (in the folder).
2. Soucek, Svat, *A History of Inner Asia*, pp. 103-122 (in the folder).
3. Christian, David, *A History of Russia, Central Asia and Mongolia* (Oxford, 1998), pp. 326-346 (AUCA Library).
4. Film: *Chinghiz Khan*.

**Week 8. The Timurids in Central Asia****Discussion:**

The Timurids in the History of Central Asia and Kyrgyzstan.

The State of Mogholistan and the relationships of Timurids with Moghul rulers.

**Readings:**

1. Soucek, Svat, *A History of Inner Asia*, pp. 123-148 (in the folder).
2. Primary source: *Clavijo Embassy to Tamerlane in 1403-1406*, trans. Guy Le Strance, (New York & London, 1928) (in the folder). The whole electronic version of this source can be found at: <http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/texts/clavijo/cltxt1.html>

## **Midterm!**

### **Week 9. The Kyrgyzs between Kogand, China and Russia in the 17th - 18th Centuries**

#### **Discussion:**

Jungar invasions to Central Asia in the 15th-18th centuries.

The 'Great Game' in Central Asia: roots and consequences.

The Kogand Khanate and the relationships between Kyrgyzs and Kogand.

The relationships of Kyrgyzs with Russian Empire in the 18-19th centuries and colonization of Kyrgyzs.

#### **Readings:**

1. Soucek, Svat, *A History of Inner Asia*, pp. 177-193 (in the folder).
2. Adeeb, Khalid, *The Politics of Muslim Cultural Reform. Jadidism in Central Asia*, (Berkeley, 1998), pp. 80-113 (AUCA Library).

### **Week 10. Central Asia and the Kyrgyzs under the Russian Rule**

#### **Discussion:**

Central Asia and Kyrgyzs under the Russian Rule in the 19-20th centuries: economic, political and cultural development and its consequences.

The rebellions of 1873-1876, 1898 and 1916 against the Russian colonization.

#### **Readings:**

1. Soucek, Svat, *A History of Inner Asia*, pp. 195-208 (in the folder).
2. Primary source: Schuyler, Eugene, *Turkistan Notes of a Journey in Russian Turkistan, Khokand, Bukhara and Kuldja*, Vol. 2, (New York, 1876), pp.137-142.

**Activity:** Class will be held on the 3rd floor of Kyrgyz State Historical Museum, Ala-Too Square, Bishkek.

### **Week 11. Formation of Soviet Statehood in Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia**

#### **Discussion:**

Formation of the Soviet Statehood in Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia in 1920-30s.

Civil War and the Basmachi movement in Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia.

#### **Readings:**

1. Soucek, Svat, *A History of Inner Asia*, pp. 209-224 (in the folder).
2. Bergne Paul, *The Kokand Autonomy 1917-18*//Central Asia. Aspects of transition (London: Routledge, 2003), pp. 30-44 (AUCA Library).

**Activity:** Lecture will be held at the gallery in front of the Ministry of Culture.

### **Week 12. Development of Kyrgyzstan in the 1940 - 70s**

**Discussion:**

The Great Patriotic War of 1941-5 and contribution of Kyrgyzstan to the war.  
The economic, political and cultural development of Kyrgyzstan in the 1950-70s.

**Readings and Film:**

1. Soucek, Svat, *A History of Inner Asia*, pp. 225-253 (in the folder).
2. Bacon, Elizabeth, *Central Asians under Russian Rule. A Study in Culture Change* (Cornwell, 1996) pp. 189-217 (AUCA Library).
3. Primary source: Aitmatov Ch. *Djamilya*, pp. 4-58.

**Submit the museum essay!**

### **Week 13. Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia in the 1980-90s**

**Discussion:**

How did Perestroika affect the Kyrgyz society and Central Asia?  
What were the changes in the political and cultural landscape across Central Asia?

**Readings:**

1. Soucek Svat, *A History of Inner Asia*, p. 254-262 (in the folder).
2. Roy O. *The New Central Asia. The Creation of Nations* (Tauris Publishers, 2000), pp. 125-142 (AUCA Library).

### **Week 14. Independent Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia in 1991-2010**

**Discussion:**

The politics of independent Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia in 1991-2010.  
The economy of independent Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia in 1991-2010.  
Foreign policy of the Kyrgyz Republic in 1991-2010.  
What were the motives behind the events of 2005 and 2010?

**Readings:**

1. Soucek Svat, *A History of Inner Asia*, p. 275-295 (in the folder).
2. Anderson John, *Kyrgyzstan. Central Asia's island of Democracy?* (Harwood, 1999), pp. 23-63 (AUCA Library).
3. Roy O. *The New Central Asia. The Creation of Nations* (Tauris Publishers, 2000), pp. 161-189 (AUCA Library).



4. Henry E. Hale, *Interpreting the Color Revolutions and Prospects for post-Soviet Democratization*, PONARS Policy Memo No. 373, [http://csis.org/files/media/csis/pubs/pm\\_0373.pdf](http://csis.org/files/media/csis/pubs/pm_0373.pdf)
5. Irina Kobrinskaya, *Russia – NIS Relations Beyond the Color Revolutions*, PONARS Policy Memo No. 373, [http://csis.org/files/media/csis/pubs/pm\\_0375.pdf](http://csis.org/files/media/csis/pubs/pm_0375.pdf)

**Week 15. Final Exam!**