

**Spring 2013**  
**American University of Central Asia**  
**HISTORY OF KYRGYZSTAN (HIST 208)**  
**Course Syllabus**

**Cholpon Chotaeva**

Professor, Doctor of History

Lectures: Mon 9:25 (403), Tue 10:50 (403)

Seminars: Thu 10:50 (229), Thu 12:45 (225), Fri 10:50 (225), Fri 12:45 (223)

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**Aida Abdykanova**

Associate Professor, Candidate of History

Seminars: Tue 9:25 (119), Wed 9:25 (119), Wed 10:50 (119), Wed 12:45 (119)

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**Description**

This course is required by both the Ministry of Education in Kyrgyzstan and Bard College. You have to pass this course in order to get a Kyrgyz diploma. The study of history is also central to a liberal arts education because history teaches critical thinking, persuasive writing and the cause and effect relation. You have to pass this course to get a Bard accredited degree as well.

Another requirement for receiving a Kyrgyz diploma is to pass the state exam on the History of Kyrgyzstan. This course does not aim to prepare students for the state exam. You may attend review sessions which are scheduled two months prior to the state exam on the History of Kyrgyzstan in May. Nevertheless, this course will cover all material that is required by the state exam.

This course intends to teach students the basics of historical research, the use of primary and secondary sources, analytical thinking and reasoning within the framework of the history of Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia.

**Readings**

Most of reading materials are primary sources. All reading materials will be available on the e-course on History of Kyrgyzstan (Chotaeva). Students will have an access to the e-course.

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

Christian, David. *A History of Russia, Central Asia and Mongolia* (Oxford, 1998).

Soucek, Svat. *A History of Inner Asia* (Cambridge, 2000).

Anderson, John. *Kyrgyzstan. Central Asia's island of Democracy?* (Harwood, 1999).

Adeeb, Khalid. *The Politics of Muslim Cultural Reform. Jadidism in Central Asia* (Berkeley, 1998).

Roy, Oliver. *The New Central Asia. The Creation of Nations* (Tauris Publishers, 2000).

## **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. 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 supposed to make a class presentation or submit a written assignment. **Five unexcused absences** will result in "F" for the whole course.

### Participation – 30%

Participation means more than good attendance. It means to contribute actively to seminar class discussions and writings. You must be prepared to discuss and write on course readings during a seminar class the as listed on the schedule. **Bring your note-book to each seminar class!**

### Class Presentation – 15%

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. Not more than two students could sign up for a topic. You have to choose your topic and make presentation according to the criteria provided by the instructor and available in the e-course. If you fail to make a class presentation on time, you will not be given a second chance to do it and lose 15% assigned for the presentation.

### In-Class Map Quiz – 5%

During the map quiz you have to work with the map of Central Asia and recognize specific locations on it. You will be given a number of questions you have to answer by indicating the correct place on the map provided by the instructor.

### Midterm – 25%

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. The criteria of how to write midterm paper are provided in the e-course. Reflection paper should be 2-3 pages, double-spaced. In case of cheating student will receive a zero for the assignment. The delayed papers are not accepted and graded.

### Museum Essay – 15%

The museum essay is a critique paper (2 pages, double spaced) to be written following the tour to the Kyrgyz National Museum. The tour will take place during a seminar class and will be guided by the instructor. The museum essay should be written in the form of recommendations that you may suggest in order to improve the museum displays. The criteria of how to write

museum essay are provided in the e-course. In case of plagiarism student will receive a zero for the assignment. The delayed papers are not accepted and graded.

## **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

## **Other 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.

### Deadlines

All written assignments must be submitted to the e-course before the deadline. The assignments submitted after the deadline will not be accepted and 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.

### 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 Chair explaining the reasons of your disagreement. Oral appeals are not considered.

## Course Overview

### Week 1. BEFORE THE FIRST WRITTEN RECORD

**Discussion:** What is history? What is a historical source? Why are the Stone and Bronze Ages called prehistory? How do we know about the Stone and Bronze Ages? When did first humans appear in Kyrgyzstan and where did they come from?

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

1. Film: *Tamgaly* (UNESCO project, 2007).
2. Carr, Edward. *What is History* (N-Y, 1990), pp. 7-30.
3. Christian, David. *A History of Russia, Central Asia and Mongolia* (Oxford, 1998), pp. 99-121.

### Week 2. FIRST CIVILIZATIONS, STATES AND POLITIES IN CENTRAL ASIA

**Discussion:** What is civilization? How did Herodotus and Strabo describe Scythians/Sakas? What was their lifestyle and traditions? What were the relationships between the Greeks and Sakas? Are those primary sources written by Herodotus and Strabo reliable?

#### **Readings:**

1. Herodotus, *History*, trans. George Rawlinson, Book IV.
2. Strabo, *Geography*.

### Week 3. TURKS

**Discussion:** Who were Turks? Where did they come from? What life style and economy did they have? Who were Qarakhanids? What were they famous for? What religion did they make the official religion? What progress did Qarakhanids achieve in art, poetry, architecture?

#### **Readings:**

1. Kul Tegin, Tonyukuk Turkic inscriptions.
2. Balasaguni, Yusuf. *Beneficent Knowledge*, trans. Walter May (Bishkek, 1998).
3. Ferdowsi, *Shahname: The Epic of Kings*.

#### **Map quiz!**

### Week 4. THE LEADERSHIP OF YENISEI KYRGYZ IN EURASIA

**Discussion:** What tribes lived on the Yenisei River in 7-13th centuries? Were those Yenisei Kyrgyz the ancestors of present-day Kyrgyzs? What was the role of Barsbek in the political life and diplomacy of Eurasia? What state was the Great Kyrgyz Empire in the 9-10th centuries?

**Readings:**

1. *Birth of Manas and his Childhood.*
2. Syma Tsan, *Historical Notes.*

**Week 5. MONGOLIAN AND POST-MONGOLIAN DYNASTIES IN CENTRAL ASIA**

**Discussion:** Who were Mongols? Why did the Mongols succeed in conquering the Central Asian region and others? What were the implications of the Mongol invasion for Central Asia and other regions affected? What states and identity emerged in Central Asia and Kyrgyzstan as a result?

**Readings and Film:**

1. Film: *Chinghiz Khan.*
2. *The Secret History of the Mongols*, Chapter 1.
3. Clavijo, *Embassy to Tamerlane in 1403-1406*, trans. Guy Le Strance, (New York & London, 1928).
4. Zahiruddin Muhammad Babur, *The Babur-nama*, trans. Annette Beveridge (London, 1921).

**Midterm!****Week 6. KYRGYZ BETWEEN THE MAIN POWERS OF CENTRAL ASIA**

**Discussion:** Who were Jungars? What impact did their invasion have on the Kyrgyz? What relations did the Kyrgyz have with the Koqand Khanate? What were the implications of the Koqand rule for Kyrgyz?

**Readings:**

1. Anthony Jenkinson's Explorations of the Land Route to China, 1558-1560.

**Week 7. "GREAT GAME" AND RIVALRY FOR CENTRAL ASIA**

**Discussion:** What were the aims of the Russian annexation of Central Asia? Was the annexation voluntary or not? What was the impact? What were the consequences of the Russian annexation for the Central Asian region and the Kyrgyz?

**Readings:****Primary source**

1. Schuyler, Eugene. *Turkistan Notes of a Journey in Russian Turkistan, Khokand, Bukhara and Kuldja*, Vol. 2 (New York, 1876), pp.137-142.

**Activity:** Seminar class will be held on the 3rd floor of Kyrgyz National Museum, Ala-Too Square, Bishkek.

### **Week 8. KYRGYZSTAN IN THE 1920-40S**

**Discussion:** What was the result of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution? What movements were resistance movements to the Bolshevik rule in Central Asia? What were the motives of the Bolsheviks for the 1924 national-territorial delimitation of Central Asia? What was the contribution of Kyrgyzstan to the Great Patriotic War?

**Readings:**

1. Chinghiz Aitmatov, *Djamilya*, pp. 4-58.

### **Week 9. KYRGYZSTAN IN THE 1950-1980S**

**Discussion:** What changes took place in the political, economic and cultural development of Kyrgyzstan after the war? Who led the republic during those times? What was Perestroika? What changes did Perestroika bring to Kyrgyzstan? What were the causes of the interethnic conflict between Kyrgyz and Uzbeks in Osh in 1990?

**Readings:**

**Primary source**

1. Gorbachev Michael speeches.

**Museum essay!**

### **Week 10. “CATAPULT TO INDEPENDENCE”**

**Discussion:** What challenges did the newly independent Central Asian states face with after independence? Did they fight them successfully? What factors were behind the revolutions of 2005 and 2010? What changed after?

**Readings:**

1. Martha Brill Olcott ‘Central Asia’s Catapult to Independence’, *Foreign Affairs*, Summer 1992.
1. Johan Engvall, ‘Kyrgyzstan: Anatomy of a State’, *Problems of Post-Communism*, vol. 54, no. 4, July/August 2007, pp. 33-45.