

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY – CENTRAL ASIA
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE POLITICS
CENTRAL ASIAN POLITICS
ICP 240

FALL SEMESTER 2008

TIME: Lecture CH 2 – Monday, 8:00 AM
Seminar: Wednesday, 9:25 AM, 10:50
Friday 10:50 AM

COURSE INSTRUCTORS:

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I. COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course adopts a historical and comparative approach to the study of contemporary Central Asian politics and society. It seeks to enable students to reflect in an informed and critical way upon the following issues and debates: the legacy of Russian and Soviet rule in the region; the emergence of new political institutions and their potential for fostering democracy; the development of nation-building and the challenge of ethnic diversity; the evolving intra-regional situation and relations with Russia, the CIS and the world. It will help students to place current political developments in the region within their broader historical, geographical and political contexts; it will give them comparative skills to think outside the national frame in assessing the challenges facing the region, and it will afford them the critical skills necessary to assess current policy priorities of domestic and international actors in the region in an informed and analytical manner.

II. COURSE AIM:

The main aim of the course is to introduce students to the course about dynamically developing Central Asian region, and provide a general understanding of the region: its history, geopolitical situation, as well as the sociopolitical processes within it.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES:

By the end of the course students are expected to:

- comprehend the impact of the Russian and Soviet rule on the development of the region in the post-independence period;
- compare social and political changes among the Central Asian countries; and
- analyze the ongoing social and political transformations in the region following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

IV. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

In-class discussion	10%	More than 5 unexcused absences - drop	
Presentation	10%	15-20 min personal presentations will have a place from 2 nd till 15 th week. Presentations will be focused on the theme of the week. Students are free to choose their topic. Chosen topic must be delivered to instructor during the 2 nd week.	
Quiz	15%	Each seminar students will write 10 min quiz on the reading material.	
Essay	20%	Students are free to choose a topic of 2000-2500 words essay from the content of the course. The topic should be proposed to instructor till the end of the second week. The essay must be delivered to instructor before the last week.	
Midterm examination	20%	Test	½
		Open questions	½
Final examination	25%	Test	½
		Open questions	½

V. GRADING SCALE:

100 – 96 = A	“excellent”	70 – 66 = C	
95 – 91 = A –		65 – 61 = C –	
90 – 86 = B+		60 – 56 = D+	
85 – 81 = B	“good”	55 – 51 = D	“poor”
80 – 76 = B –		50 – 46 = D –	
75 – 71 = C+	“average”	45 – lower = F	“failure”

VI. SCHEDULE

Week	Date	Topics	Details	Materials
1	25, 27, 29	Introduction	What is this course about? Why do we need it? What are the main themes? Purposes. Structure.	Isaak, A., <i>Introduction to politics</i> , pp. 4-15, 1987
2	3, 5	Pre-soviet CA	Political, economic picture of CA before 1917	Roy, O., <i>The New Central Asia</i> , p. 25-49
3	8, 10, 12	Soviet CA	Creation of nations. Political, economic picture of CA 1917 – 1990	Roy, O., <i>The New Central Asia</i> , p. 50-84
4	15, 17, 19	Post-1990 CA	Transition	Rumer B., <i>CA at the end of the transition</i> , 2005, p. 3-67
5	22, 24, 26	Political regime and institutions	Neopatrimonialism, authoritarianism.	Ishyama, <i>Neopatrimonialism and the prospects for democratization in</i>

				CA, 2002, 42-57
6	29, 1, 3	Particularities of nation building	Regional splitting up	Collins, <i>Clan politics</i> , 2004
7	6, 8,10	Economic transitions	Liberalization, privatization, IMF-WB, alternative paths.	Pomfret, <i>The CA economics since independence</i> , 2006
8	13, 15, 17	Midterm review and exam		
9	20 – 24	FALL Break		
10	27, 29, 31	Environment: issues of security and cooperation	Water	Karaev Z., <i>Water diplomacy</i> , 2005
11	3, 5,	Security	Border delimitation, border local conflicts, terrorism, CSTO/SCO	Soderblom, <i>The Eurasian security complex and comprehensive security cooperatives</i> , 2004
12	10, 12,14	CA dis/integration	Is CA union possible?	UNDP, <i>Regional cooperation</i> , 2005
13	17, 19, 21	Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan	KR: still the island of democracy? RK: economic miracle?	ICG, <i>Kyrgyzstan: A Deceptive Calm</i> , 2008 Hill, <i>Whither Kazakhstan ?</i> , 2005
14	24, 26, 28	Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan	RU: Karimov and his regime Turkmenistan after Niazov	ICG, <i>UZ: stagnation and uncertainty</i> , 2007 ICG, <i>Turkmenistan after Niyazov</i> , 2007
15	1, 3, 5	Tajikistan and Afghanistan	RT: the country of warlords? Afghanistan: the prospects for peace	Nourjanov, <i>Warlord politics in TJ</i> , 2005, 109-130 ICG, <i>Afghanistan: the need for international resolve</i> , 2008
16	10, 12	Geopolitics of CA	US, RF, EU, China	Weitz, R., <i>Averting a New Great Game</i> , 2006, p. 155-167
17	15, 17	Final Exam		

Additional readings:

1. Roy, Oliver. "History and Identity" in Roy, Oliver. *The New Central Asia: The Creation of Nations*, London: I.B. Tauris Publishers, 2000.
2. Soucek, Svat. "Introduction" in Soucek, Svat. *A History of Inner Asia*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.
3. Roy, Oliver. "The Russian Conquest" in Roy, Oliver. *The New Central Asia: The Creation of Nations*, London: I.B. Tauris Publishers, 2000.
4. Brower, Daniel. "Turkestan and the Fall of the Russian Empire" in Brower, Daniel. *Turkestan and the Fate of the Russian Empire*, London: Routledge, 2003.
5. Roy, Oliver. "The Sovietisation of Central Asia" in Roy, Oliver. *The New Central Asia: The Creation of Nations*, London: I.B. Tauris Publishers, 2000.
6. Soucek, Svat. "From Governorates-General to Union Republics" in Soucek, Svat. *A History of Inner Asia*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.
7. Roy, Oliver. "The Recomposition of Solidarity Groups During the Soviet Period" in Roy, Oliver. *The New Central Asia: The Creation of Nations*, London: I.B. Tauris Publishers, 2000.
8. Rumber, Boris. "Central Asia at the End of the Transition" in Rumber, Boris. *Central Asia: At the End of the Transition*, Armonk: M.E. Sharpe, 2005.
9. Roy, Oliver. "From Nationalism to Independence" in Roy, Oliver. *The New Central Asia: The Creation of Nations*, London: I.B. Tauris Publishers, 2000.
10. Jones Luong, Pauline. "Institutional Change Through Continuity" in Jones Luong, Pauline. *Institutional Change and Political Community in Post-Soviet Central Asia: Power, Perceptions, and Pacts*, Cambridge University Press, 2002.
11. Collins, Kathleen. "The Logic of Clan Politics: Evidence from the Central Asian Trajectories", *World Politics*, 2004, 56. pp. 224-261.
12. Ishiyama, John. "Neopatrimonialism and the Prospects for Democratization in the Central Asian Republics" in Cummings, Sally (eds). *Power and Change in Central Asia*, London: Routledge, 2002.
13. Jones Luong, Pauline. "Economic Decentralization in Kazakhstan: Causes and Consequences" in Jones Luong, Pauline. *The Transformation of Central Asia: States and Societies from Soviet Rule to Independence*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2004.
14. Murphy, Jonathan. "Illusory Transition? Elite Reconstitution in Kazakhstan, 1989-2002", *Europe-Asia Studies*, June 2006, 58:4, pp. 523-554
15. Kangas, Robert. "Uzbekistan: The Karimov Presidency – Amir Timur Revisited" in Cummings, Sally (eds). *Power and Change in Central Asia*, London: Routledge, 2002.
16. Hill, Fiona and Jones, Kevin. "Fear of Democracy or Revolution: The Reaction to Andijon", *The Washington Quarterly*, Summer 2006, 29:3, pp. 111-125
17. Huskey, Eugene. "An Economy of Authoritarianism? Askar Akaev and Presidential Leadership in Kyrgyzstan" in Cummings, Sally (eds). *Power and Change in Central Asia*, London: Routledge, 2002.
18. Radnitz, Scott. "What Really Happened in Kyrgyzstan", *Journal of Democracy*, April 2006 17:2, pp. 132-146
19. Cummings, Sally and Ochs, Michael. "Turkmenistan: Saparmurat Niyazov's Inglorious Isolation" in Cummings, Sally (eds). *Power and Change in Central Asia*, London: Routledge, 2002.
20. Edgar, Adrienne L. "Introduction: Tribe, Class and Nation in Turkmenistan" in Edgar, Adrienne L. *Tribal Nation: The Making of Soviet Turkmenistan*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004.
21. Edgar, Adrienne L. "Sources of Identity among the Turkmens" in Edgar, Adrienne L. *Tribal Nation: The Making of Soviet Turkmenistan*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004.
22. Edgar, Adrienne L. "Conclusion: From Soviet Republic to Independent Nation-State" in Edgar, Adrienne L. *Tribal Nation: The Making of Soviet Turkmenistan*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004.
23. Nourzhanov, Kirill. "Saviours of the Nation or Robber Barons? Warlord Politics in Tajikistan", *Central Asian Survey*, June 2005, 24:2, pp. 109-130
24. Atkin, Muriel. "Tajikistan: A President and His Rivals" in Cummings, Sally (eds). *Power and Change in Central Asia*, London: Routledge, 2002.
25. Clarke, Michael. "Xinjiang and China's Relations with Central Asia, 1991-2001: Across the Domestic-Foreign Frontier?", *Asian Ethnicity*, June 2003, 4:2, pp. 207-224

26. Goodhard, Jonathan. "From War Economy to Peace Economy?: Reconstruction and State Building in Afghanistan", *Journal of International Affairs*, Fall 2004, 58:1. pp. 155-174
27. Megoran, Nick. "The Critical Geopolitics of the Uzbekistan-Kyrgyzstan Ferghana Valley Boundary Dispute", *Political Geography*, 2004, 23, pp. 731-764
28. Sievers, Eric W. "Water, Conflict and Regional Security in Central Asia", *New York University Environmental Law Journal*, 2002, 10, pp. 356-402.
29. Glenn, John. "The Economic Transition in Central Asia: Implications for Democracy", *Democratization*, 10:3, Autumn 2003, pp.124-147.
30. Blackman, Paul. "Back to the USSR: Why the Past Does Matter in Explaining Differences in the Economic Reform Processes of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan", *Central Asian Survey*, December 2005, 24:4, pp. 391-404.
31. Weitz, Richard. "Averting New Great Game in Central Asia", *The Washington Quarterly*, Summer 2006, 29:3, pp. 155-167.
32. Jonson, Lena. "The Policy Change of 1999" in Jonson, Lena. *Vladimir Putin and Central Asia: The Shaping of Russian Foreign Policy*, London: I.B.Tauris & Co. Ltd., 2004.
33. Zhuangzhi, Sun."New and Old Regionalism: The Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Sino-Central Asian Relations", *Review of International Affairs*, 2003/2004, 3:4, pp. 600-612
34. Starr, Frederick. "A Partnership for Central Asia" , *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2005 (to be handed out)