

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY – CENTRAL ASIA
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE POLITICS

Politics of Kyrgyzstan
ICP 346 (Prerequisite ICP 240)

Fall 2007

Lecture: Tuesday, 9:25

Seminar: Friday, 9:25

Instructors:

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Office hours:

By appointment

Brief course description:

This course is planned to be a collective attempt to review the state of politics in Kyrgyzstan with limited time, energy and information available and still address some of the questions that are always asked about this country. It is designed to leave the students with a better understanding of how the state is run in Kyrgyzstan and what mechanisms stand behind such surface elements of Kyrgyz politics as elections, public political struggle and media discourse. Throughout the course, in exploring diverse topics, from general political framework of the country through real and perceived clan structures to foreign policy, we will try to provide a balanced mix of theory and factual information.

Assessment:

10% - participation in class discussions and attendance

10% - quiz

10% - seminar presentation

20% - reflection paper

20% - mid-term exam

30% - final exam

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”

Special clauses:

Participation and attendance

Attendance of classes is mandatory. Students are allowed five documentary valid absences. Each additional absence will negatively affect your final grade.

You are expected to do all the reading for the week before class, and come prepared to actively discuss the material. All students are expected to actively contribute to class discussions.

Mobile phones and other potentially disturbing devices must be turned off during the class. Please inform your friends and relatives about your class schedule to prevent 'missed calls.'

Plagiarism

Plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. If you are unfamiliar with the definition of plagiarism, please read AUCA Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities and Conduct at: http://www.auca.kg/search/word/cms_page/83.html.

Instances of plagiarism will result in an immediate F on the assignment and a possible F for the course. The university retains the right to impose further penalties, which may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

Schedule of the course

Part I. Introduction

Week 1: 26 and 29 August

Introduction to the course and political history of Kyrgyzstan

Part II. Kyrgyzstan as a Nation-State

Week 2: 2 and 5 September

Territory and Population

Week 3: 9 and 12 September

Executive power: President and Government

Week 4: 16 and 19 September

Legislative power: Jogorku Kenesh

Week 5: 23 and 26 September

Judiciary power

Week 6: 30 September and 3 October
Public management

Week 7: 7 and 10 October
Political parties and party politics in Kyrgyzstan

Week 8: 14 and 17 October
Civil society: evolution, agenda and problems

Week 9: 21 and 24 October FALL BREAK

Week 10: 28 and 31 October
Review and Midterm exam

Part III. Economic policy

Week 11: 4 November
Shock therapy

Week 12: 11 and 14 November
Water and energy issues

Part IV. Social policy

Week 13: 18 and 21 November
Social policy

Part V. Foreign policy

Week 14: 25 and 28 November
Kyrgyzstan and Central Asian countries

Week 15: 2 and 5 December
Kyrgyzstan and the “Big Powers”

Part VI. Critical issues in Kyrgyz state-building

Week 16: 9 and 12 December
March 2005 and aftermath

Week 17: 16 and 19 December
Review and final exam