History 4485  
Islam and Society in Modern Central Asia  
University of West Georgia

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PLEASE NOTE: MY PREFERRED EMAIL ADDRESS IS  
emcclarn@westga.edu;  
DO NOT USE COURSE DEN EMAIL TO CONTACT ME. EMAIL ME AT MY  
WESTGA.EDU ADDRESS—emcclarn@westga.edu

Office Hours:  
My office is Room 3222 in the Technology Learning Center. I will be available in my office on Mondays and Wednesdays, 11:00 am to 12 noon, and again from 3:30 to 4:00 pm. or by appointment. I will be available for online office hours (conducted via email or Google groups) Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11 am to 1:00 pm (these hours may vary from week to week—I will provide announcements through Course Den if the hours will be different for a particular week). My office phone number is 678-839-6048; my e-mail address is emcclarn@westga.edu. If my office hours are not convenient for you, then make an appointment with me for a different time.

This course will introduce students to the history of modern Central Asia from the time of the Mongol invasion through the Russian conquest and colonization of the 19th century, the incorporation into the Soviet Union after 1917, and finishing with the post-1991 period of independent states. The course will provide an overview of the political, social and economic history from earliest times, but with primary focus on the period beginning in 1800. During the second half of the course, we will examine specific themes related to Islam and society, including gender, the construction of national identities, literature, music and daily life. The geographic scope will include those regions that today comprise the former Soviet Central Asian republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Although not our primary focus, we will also venture into neighboring areas of Russia, Azerbaijan, Turkey, Mongolia, Siberia, Iran, Afghanistan, and China. Of special interest will be the dynamic relationship over time between nomadic and sedentary peoples and societies in this region, and between the Russian (and Soviet) empire and its subjects. We will also examine the legacy of Soviet rule for the process of political transformation this region has been undergoing in the modern era.

Learning Outcomes: Students will be able to:
1) Place Central Asia in the broader historical context of modern world history.
2) Identify on a map the five countries of former Soviet Central Asia, and the states surrounding them.
3) Analyze the political, social and cultural impact of Central Asia in world history.
4) Explain the political, economic, social, and cultural legacy of the Silk Road for world history both in pre-modern and modern times.
5) Explain and analyze the patterns of historical change in modern Central Asia from 1200 to the present.
6) Explain the political, economic and cultural transformations brought to the region by Russian Tsarist colonization and Soviet rule.
7) Analyze and explain the legacy of Soviet rule for the modern states of Central Asia.
8) Explain the factors shaping modern political consciousness in the states of Central Asia, including Islam and the construction of national identities in the Soviet period.
9) Identify and analyze the differences and commonalities found among Central Asian cultures, both in the traditional formations and their modern contours.
10) Analyze the historical, economic, social, and cultural significance of gender in Central Asian societies.
11) Analyze the historical, economic, social, and cultural significance of religion in Central Asian societies.
12) Understand the geopolitical “Great Game” then and now in its historic context.
13) Understand the contemporary geopolitical importance of the region and the politics of the three great powers (US, Russia and the PRC).

Students will demonstrate their achievement of these outcomes through written and oral assignments and activities.

**Format:** The format for the course is a seminar, organized around weekly discussions of assigned readings, supplemented by informational and background lectures. In order for the class to succeed, everyone must be ready to discuss the texts and ask questions. This means that you must do the readings each week and be prepared to take part in class. Lectures will provide chronology, basic facts and historical background, while readings and class discussions will give you a deeper understanding of Central Asian societies and their historical development.

**Required Texts:**
All of the following are available for purchase in the campus bookstore or can be ordered from online vendors.


*Additional readings have been placed into Course Den.*
Grading:
Your grade will be based on a combination of graded writing assignments, including a midterm essay assignment, a takehome final exam, quizzes, assignments, and response papers based on assigned readings, group project and presentation, class writing assignments and participation, pop quizzes, and map quizzes. The breakdown is as follows:

Midterm Essay 15%
Final Exam 30%
Group Project and Presentation 20%
Readings Quizzes, Assignments, Response Papers 15%
Map and Pop Quizzes 5%
Class assignments/Presentations/Participation 15%

Midterm and Final Exam
On the date designated in the syllabus, you will write an in-class essay using assigned course materials, which will count as a midterm exam. At the end of the semester, you will be given a final exam which will consist of an in-class map quiz (taken during the last class period, May 1) and take-home sections of identification, short response and essay questions.

Readings Quizzes and Response Papers:
For the assigned books in the course, there will be readings quizzes, class activities, and/or response papers.
You will write a response paper analyzing one of the assigned sets of primary sources. The paper will be due on the date that the primary sources are to be discussed.

More information will be given to you in class about these assignments.

Group Project: Central Asia Today
You will be divided into groups, and each assigned a particular Central Asian independent state: Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, or if you choose the Human Rights Watch (see options below), you will cover all five states. You will do research into your chosen state and present to the class on how its society, economy, and government have developed over the past two years. You will update the class on the “state of the state” at the present time.

You are to present this information in one of the following formats:

1) State Department Analysis--A five-page briefing paper analyzing trends in society, government, and the economy, along with powerpoint slides illustrating key developments focused on in your report. Include in your analysis coverage of current US interests in your state, such as whether or not there are US military bases, key natural resources that the US imports, etc.
2) Five-page Travel brochure and Exhibit (Poster or tabletop) on popular tourist sites, historical monuments, natural wonders, major cities, religious and cultural practices designed to
encourage Americans to travel to your chosen state.
4) Secondary School Teaching Curriculum Project: Design at least a five-to seven page curriculum project for teaching a high school geography or world politics class about your assigned country. You will need to provide readings, activities, visual sources, and demonstrate to the class at least two components of your project.
5) Studying Central Asia Through Food: Design an exhibit (preferably with some examples of prepared dishes) that presents an overview of culinary specialties, favorite foods, food rituals, etc. for your specific country and what the culture associated with food in your country reveals about its history, its people, etc.
6) Devise your own project; speak with me about this option.

Periodically throughout the semester we will devote class time to working on your project but you will also need to be working outside of class with your partner or partners. We will schedule the presentations during the last two weeks of the semester. The written work, exhibit, or brochure are due on the day you are scheduled to present.

**Map Quizzes**
On Monday, February 13, you will be required to take a map quiz. You will be provided with a list of geographical terms, ten to fifteen of which you will be required to locate on a blank map in class. You will also have a map quiz as part of your final exam.
I will post blank maps of Central Asia to Course Den. There will be a module in Course Den entitled “Course Maps,” and this will include maps for you to study and blank maps for writing in specific locations. I will also give out map handouts in class.

**Class Participation:**
During the semester you will have class writing assignments that will be collected and graded. These are explained in the syllabus and below.

**Class Assignment for Wednesday March 1: Islamic architecture:** Preview the collection of photographs in the Ernst Cohn-Wiener Collection (ArchNet) (a digital collection of hundreds of photographs taken 1924-1925 of architectural monuments in West Turkestan) and choose five images to analyze; this collection is accessible at [http://archnet.org/collections/9](http://archnet.org/collections/9). For each image you will write a paragraph (200 word minimum) explaining why you have chosen your particular image. Choose images that you find interesting visually or that display a particular feature that illuminates the history, culture, economy, etc. of Central Asia either prior to Soviet rule or during the 1920s. Explain the cultural significance or meaning of the architectural styles you see. You might wish to look up photographs of Moscow and Leningrad during the 1920s, and then compare the style of architecture you see in the Russian cities to the Central Asian locations, or compare the Central Asian architecture to that of American cities in the 1920s. Bring your written analyses of the five images to class on March 1.
Class Assignment Due April 12: Listen to collection of audio recordings in Course Den (module entitled “Central Asian Musical Recordings”), write a 300-word response to the music answering the following questions:
How would you categorize this music? What does the music sound like to you?
Can you compare it to any genre of music you are familiar with in the West? Can you recognize any of the instruments?
What images does this music bring to mind?
Bring your written response/analysis to class on April 12.

Class Assignment Due Wednesday April 19: Film Response Paper
This assignment will require you to choose a feature film (not a documentary) either about Central Asia or one that has been made by a Central Asian film director. There are some Central Asian films which are available through Youtube and that are subtitled, and I will provide you with a list of some of these. You may also find one on your own, but please check with me about the film before watching it. You will then write a response paper that answers a list of questions I will give you in advance.
Bring this paper with you to class on April 19 and be prepared to discuss it.

Written Discussion Questions and Leading a Discussion: I will expect everyone to turn in two discussion questions from the readings each class period. I will collect them at the beginning of the class. You will get extra points if I ask you to lead discussion of your question, so be prepared!

I will also be assigning students to lead discussions of the chapters from Daily Life in Central Asia. You will submit a written summary/analysis (1 page) of the article on the day you are presenting.

Make-up Exams:
Under no circumstances will you be allowed to make up a missed exam without notifying me in advance and without bringing a note from a physician or an approved excuse from the Dean's office. Students missing an exam who do not have a valid excuse or who did not contact me in advance will receive a zero, no makeup allowed. Makeup exams are essay-based exams and if not made up within a week of the originally scheduled exam, must be taken at the end of the semester.

Assignments:
Students are expected to have completed the assigned readings in advance of each class session and to be able to discuss them. Some of the readings are lengthy, so plan ahead and budget your time accordingly. Try not to fall behind! All written assignments are due on the specified date; unexcused late work will lower the grade by one grade level for each late weekday.

Student Rights and Responsibilities:
Students, please carefully review the following information at this link:
http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf
It contains important material pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class, and to your rights and responsibilities as a student of the University of West Georgia. It contains information on ADA (see below), UWG Email Policy, Credit Hour Policy, and the Honor Code. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.

**DISABILITY SERVICES AND ADA** (Americans with Disabilities Act):
The Office of Disability Services will help you understand your rights and responsibilities under the Americans with Disabilities Act and provide you further assistance with requesting and arranging accommodations. If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability or chronic illness, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please notify me at my West Georgia email address by the end of the second full week of class and attach a PDF copy of your SAR (Available from the Office of Disability Services).

**Cheating Policy and Plagiarism:**
I expect each student to understand and to comply with the University of West Georgia’s policies on Academic Honor and Academic Dishonesty. They and other policies important to you as a student may be found in the Student Handbook, on the web at the URL given above; the Honor Code is to be found specifically at [http://www.westga.edu/handbook/59.php](http://www.westga.edu/handbook/59.php). Anyone caught cheating or helping someone to cheat will be asked to leave the class and will receive a course grade of "F." Plagiarism, or claiming someone else’s work as your own, will result in failure. This rule is in effect for all assignments, examinations, quizzes, and extra credit work.

**Note:** Please show courtesy to your fellow students. Disruptive behavior (read: eating and drinking, smoking, carrying on conversations, reading the newspaper, etc.) will not be tolerated and will count as an unexcused absence. Cell phones, pagers, headphones, and all other electronic devices must be turned off during class. I will confiscate any that I hear going off. During exams, if you have an electronic device that goes off or that you bring out for any reason, you will receive an automatic failure for the exam and you will be asked to leave.

**Let me Repeat:** Cell phones, pagers, headphones, and all other electronic devices must be turned off during class. The instructor will confiscate such items. The instructor reserves the right to ban laptop computers if students use these for any purpose other than to type notes.

**ADDITIONAL NOTE:** I reserve the right to modify this syllabus at any time during the course of the term, particularly regarding the course readings, assignment, and exam schedules. If I need to make major changes then I will issue a new or revised syllabus.
KEY QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:
What is Central Asia? What does this term or phrase mean? What various meanings do scholars impart to this term?
How have Russification, politicization, and industrialization affected the belief system of the peoples of Central Asia?
What is the legacy of Soviet rule for the modern states and societies of Central Asia?
What is the significance of Central Asia for world history? For the world today?
What role is religion playing in Central Asia today?
What role have different forms of cultural transmission and expression (literature, music, art, film, etc.) played in promoting nationalism and in constructing national identity?
How has the status of women changed in modern Central Asian history?

Tentative Course Outline and Readings Schedule


Mon Jan 9: Introduction to the History and Geography of Central Asia
Historical Atlas of Central Asia Maps Introduction Handout

Wed Jan 11: Central Asia in Historical Perspective
Required Readings:
Scott Levi, “Turks and Tajiks in Central Asian History,” available in Course Den (see Module “Course Readings”)
Golden, Central Asia in World History, Introduction and Chapter 1, “The rise of Nomadism and Oasis City-states”

Mon Jan 16: NO CLASS: MLK Jr. Holiday!

Wed Jan 18: Introduction to Islam
Required Readings:

Mon Jan 23: Religion and Trade in the History of Central Asia
Required Readings:
Foltz, Religions of the Silk Road, chapters 1-4
Recommended Reading: Golden, Central Asia in World History, Chapters 2-3
Historical Atlas of Central Asia Maps on Trade and Religion Handout
Wed Jan 25: Islam comes to Central Asia

**Required Readings:**
Foltz, *Religions of the Silk Road*, chapters 5-7 and Epilogue
Recommended Reading: Golden, *Central Asia in World History*, Chapters 4-5

***Responses to Questions for *Religions of the Silk Road* due at the beginning of class, Wednesday January 25

Mon Jan 30: Central Asia from the Mongols to the Uzbeks

**Required Readings:**
Golden, *Central Asia in World History*, Chapters 6-8

**Primary Sources (see module in Course Den “Primary Sources”):**
- “Nava‘i: A Comparison Between Persian and Turk,” in same, 184-187

Historical Atlas of Central Asia Maps Handout

Wed Feb 1: Central Asia through the lens of Samarkand and Commerce

**Required Readings:**

**Primary Sources (see module in Course Den “Primary Sources”):**
- read primary sources at the end of Dr. Hanks’ article (see above)

Mon Feb 6: Continued Islamization of Central Asia and the Expansion of Russia, 1600-1800

**Required Readings:**

**Primary Sources (Course Den):**
- “A Collection of Royal Decrees from Khiva,” in same, 272-274

Wed Feb 8: Russian Conquest of Central Asia

**Required Readings:**
Golden, Chapter 9, “The Problems of Modernity”

Historical Atlas of Central Asia Maps Russian and Colonization Conquest Handout

Mon Feb 13: Central Asia under Russian Rule/the Great Game

**Required Readings:**
Anthology of Historical Sources, 281-287; Nikolai Ignatiev, “Russia’s Agenda in Central Asia,” in same, 295-300

***IN-CLASS MAP QUIZ

Wed Feb 15: Life and Religion in Central Asia under Russian Rule

**Required Readings:**

Mon Feb 20 **Library Research Day (meet in library for research assignment and orientation on locating resources and materials on Central Asia)**

Wed Feb 22: Midterm Essay (you will write an essay in class, open book but no electronic devices allowed—blue book required)

Mon Feb 27: The Russian Revolutions and Central Asia

**Required Readings:**
Svat Soucek, “From Governorates-General to Union Republics,” in *A History of Inner Asia* (Cambridge University Press, 2000), pp. 209-224, available in Course Den (see Module “Course Readings”)
Historical Atlas of Central Asia Maps Soviet Central Asia Handout

Wed March 1: Soviet Central Asia

**Required Readings:**

**Class Assignment for Wednesday March 1: Islamic architecture:** Preview the collection of photographs in the [Ernst Cohn-Wiener Collection (ArchNet)](http://archnet.org/collections/9) (a digital collection of hundreds of photographs taken 1924-1925 of architectural monuments in West Turkestan) and choose five images to analyze; this collection is accessible at [http://archnet.org/collections/9](http://archnet.org/collections/9). For each image you will write a paragraph (200 word minimum) explaining why you have chosen your particular image. Choose images that you find interesting visually or that display a particular feature that illuminates the history, culture, economy, etc. of Central Asia either prior to Soviet rule or during the 1920s. You might wish to look up photographs of Moscow and Leningrad during the 1920s, and then compare the style of architecture you see in the Russian cities to the Central Asian locations, or compare the Central Asian architecture to that of American cities in the 1920s. **Bring your written analyses of the five images to class on March 1.**

Mon March 6: Islam under Soviet Rule

**Required Readings:**
Khalid, *Islam After Communism*, Chapters 3-4
Primary Sources:
Examine this collection of Soviet propaganda posters from the 1920s and 1930s aimed at Muslim populations in Central Asia: “Central Asia: Propaganda Show Spotlights Soviet Push in Muslim Lands,” accessible online at http://www.eurasianet.org/node/67527

Wed March 8: Gender, Islam, and Modernity under Russian and Soviet Rule
Required Readings:
Kamp, The New Woman in Uzbekistan, Introduction and Chapters 1-3

Mon March 13: Unveiling and Resistance to Unveiling
Required Readings:
Kamp, The New Woman in Uzbekistan, Chapters 4-8
Be prepared for a Readings quiz on Kamp Chapters 1-8 on Monday March 13

Wed March 15: Women’s Experiences of Soviet Modernity
Required Readings:
Aitmatov, Jamilia, all
Kamp, The New Woman in Uzbekistan, Chapters 9-10

Response Paper on Aitmatov’s Jamilia due by Friday, March 24—to be turned in through Course Den Dropbox

Mon March 20-24: SPRING BREAK—NO CLASSES!!!!!

Mon March 27: Soviet Collapse, Independence and Beyond
Required Readings:
Look at maps of each independent Central Asian country, available in Course Den (see Module “Maps of Central Asia”)

Wed March 29: Islam after Independence
Required Readings:
Khalid, Islam After Communism, Chapters 5-7

Mon April 3: Daily Life in Central Asia: Gender and Independence
Required Readings:
Elizabeth Constantine, “Practical Consequences of Soviet Policy and Ideology for Gender in Central Asia and Contemporary Reversal,” in Sahedo and Zanca, Everyday Life in Central Asia: Past and Present, pp. 115-126, available in Course Den (see Module “Course Readings”)
Greta Uehling, “Dinner with Akhmet,” in Sahedo and Zanca, Everyday Life in Central Asia: Past and Present, pp. 127-140, available in Course Den (see Module “Course Readings”)
Meltem Sancak and Peter Finke, “Konstitutsiya buzildi! Gender Relations in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan,” in Sahedo and Zanca, Everyday Life in Central Asia: Past and Present, pp. 160-
Wed April 5 NO FACE TO FACE CLASS—WORK DAY FOR FILM ASSIGNMENT AND GROUP PROJECTS
Use the day to watch the feature film on Central Asia that you will analyze for the class assignment due April 19, as well to work on your project.

Mon April 10: Daily Life in Central Asia After Independence—Food and Celebration

Required Readings:
Russell Zanca, “Fat and All That: Good Eating the Uzbek Way,” in Sahedo and Zanca, Everyday Life in Central Asia: Past and Present, pp. 178-197, available in Course Den (see Module “Course Readings”)

Wed April 12: Daily Life in Central Asia—Music and Art

Required Readings:
Michael Rouland, “Music Across the Kazakh Steppe,” in Sahedo and Zanca, Everyday Life in Central Asia: Past and Present, pp. 213-227, available in Course Den (see Module “Course Readings”)

Class Assignment Due April 12: Listen to collection of audio recordings in Course Den (module entitled “Central Asian Musical Recordings”), write a 300-word response to the music answering the following questions:
How would you categorize this music? What does the music sound like to you?
Can you compare it to any genre of music you are familiar with in the West? Can you recognize any of the instruments?
What images does this music bring to mind?
Bring your written response/analysis to class on April 12.

Mon April 17: Daily Life in Central Asia: Religion

Required Readings:

Wed April 19: Central Asian Cinema in the 20th and 21st centuries

**Required Readings:**

**Class Assignment:** Film Response Paper Due by the beginning of class on Wednesday, April 19—bring your papers to class and be prepared to talk about the film you have watched.

Mon April 24: A New Great Game? 21st Century Geopolitics and Central Asia

**Required Readings:**

Historical Atlas Map Handouts: Central Asia after Independence and Contemporary Geopolitics

Wed April 26: Globalization and Its Impact/Project Presentations

**Required Readings:**

Mon May 1: Map Quiz #2/Project Presentations
Khalid, *Islam After Communism*, Conclusion, 168-203

**FINAL TAKEHOME EXAM WILL BE DUE BY 5PM ON MONDAY MAY 8**
Online Resources for Students:
Central Eurasian Studies Worldwide, at http://cesww.fas.harvard.edu/
(currently the most comprehensive online resource for Central Eurasian scholarship)
Islamic Architecture, ArchNet at http://archnet.org/sites/1140
This is a fabulous resource; just type in the country name and you will get pages of images of Islamic architectural styles from that country
Ernst Cohn-Wiener Collection (ArchNet) (a digital collection of hundreds of photographs taken 1924-1925 of architectural monuments in West Turkestan and supplemented by more recent photographs) at http://archnet.org/collections/9, taken by a German art historian. The photographs are essential for the study of architecture in the historic cities of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, as some of the buildings photographed are no longer extant, while others were over-restored during the Soviet era. Nearly seven hundred of these photographs are available on Archnet.

Russia and the Former Soviet Republics Map Collection, at http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/commonwealth.html, part of the Perry-Castañeda Library
Map Collection at the University of Texas
Political Map of Central Asia and the Caucasus at http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/map/central-asia-map.htm

Online Resources for Central Asia Today:
Central Asia Online: http://foreignpolicynews.org/author/centralasiaonline/
You can find current news at The Times of Central Asia Online at http://www.times.kg/
In addition, The Economist (www.economist.com) often posts stories on the region.
You can find the CIA World Factbook at: https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/