

WWS 575e - Regional and Country Studies: Perspectives in Central Asia
Amb. Robert Finn

Syllabus

Course Description

This course examines the countries of Central Asia in their contemporary context, including Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. It will also focus on the region's relationship to the U.S., to Russia and to China. Each session will cover a separate country or resource from historical, political and cultural points of view. Extensive reference will be made to post-Soviet politics, energy and drug issues, and the question of Islamic fundamentalism.

Week One

Introduction: Historical and Sociological Overview of Central Asia and Surrounding Regions; Turan and Iran; the Turkic Peoples; Jadidism and Wahhabism; Russia and Central Asia; Homo Sovieticus, China, the United States.

McChesney, Robert, Central Asia, Chapter One: A Region in Transition: Central Asia Imagined, pp. 13- 37.

Rashid, Ahmed, The Resurgence of Central Asia

Roy, Olivier, The New Central Asia; The Creation of Nations.

Week Two

Islamic Fundamentalism and Central Asia: Mystics and Militants; Nakshibend, Hizb ut-Tahrir, Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, Wahhabis and wannabes, Sufis, Bin Ladin and friends.

Arberry, A.J. Sufism, (historical background/optional)

International Crisis Group Report: Radical Islam in Central Asia: Responding to Hizb ut-Tahrir, 6/2003

Baran, Zeyno, Hizb ut-Tahrir, Nixon Center, 2004

McChesney, Robert, Central Asia, Chapter Three: Society and Community; Shrines and Dynasties in Central Asia, pp. 69-115

Mawsilili, Ahmad, Moderate and Radical Islamic Fundamentalism, Chapter One: "Two discourses on Modern Islamic Political Thought," pp. 19-46; Chapter Three: Fundamentalist Discourses on Politics; From Pluralistic Democracy to Majoritarian Tyranny," pp. 67-107. (You should read this.)

Naumkin, Vitaly, Radical Islam in Central Asia. Useful explanations and lots of accurate detail. up-to-date. Optional

Rashid, Ahmed, Taliban. (Read this one definitely)

Week Three

Kazakhstan: Oil, Gas and Swiss bank accounts. Ethnic questions, human rights and shopping malls. Post-Soviet suburbia vs. Environmental nightmares. Shifting sands of power: China and Russia.

Kleveman, Lutz, The New Great Game, Chapter Six; the New Oil Dorado:

Kazakhstan, pp. 74-95.

Olcott, Martha Brill, Central Asia's Second Chance.

Olcott, Martha Brill, Kazakhstan: Unfulfilled Promise.(Optional)

Pomfret, Richard, The Economies of Central Asia, Chapter Six: Kazakhstan, pp. 75-95

Week Four

Turkmenistan: Marching to a different drummer. Turkmenbashi. Tribal affairs in a modern state. Energy dynamics and the region.

Kaplan, Robert, Eastward to Tartary, pp.286-308

Kleveman, Lutz, Chapter Nine: Stalin's Disneyland: Turkmenistan, pp.144-164

Ochs, Michael, "Turkmenistan: The Quest for Stability and Control," in Dawisha, pp. 312-60.

Pomfret, Richard, The Economies of Central Asia, Chapter Nine: Turkmenistan, pp. 119-127

Week Five

Uzbekistan: Primus inter pares, they say. Why is Tamerlane their national hero instead of al-Biruni? Regional powerhouse, Karimov and dissent. The Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan. The economy that wouldn't. Mine your own borders. The U.S. and Uzbekistan

Allworth, Edward A., The Modern Uzbeks. (Historical and Cultural background/optional)

Fierman, William, "Political Developments in Uzbekistan: Democratization," in Dawisha, pp. 277-311.

International Crisis Group Report: "The Failure of Reform in Uzbekistan," (In Uzbekistan folder in Blackboard)

https://blackboard.princeton.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp?tab=courses&url=/bin/common/course.pl?course_id=16710_1&frame=top

International Crisis Group Report no. 21: "Uzbekistan at Ten: Repression and Instability." (in Uzbekistan folder in Blackboard)

Pomfret, Richard, The Economies of Central Asia, Chapter 5: Uzbekistan, pp. 63-74.

Rashid, Ahmed, Jihad

Rubin, Barnett, Calming the Ferghana Valley.

Week Six

Kyrgyzstan: Switzerland if you can spell it. Sinking hopes amid rising expectations. Change in rule. Mise en scene for the Great Game.

Pomfret, Richard, The Economies of Central Asia, Chapter:8: Kyrgyzstan, pp.

106-118

Rosenberg, Robert, This Is Not Civilization

Blackboard readings

Week Seven

Tajikistan: Post-conflict society. The Peace Process: Compromise and Coalition. Shifting Gears in the Power Game.

Akiner, Shirin, Tajikistan: Disintegration or Reconciliation, Royal Institute of International Affairs, (October, 2001)

Dawisha, pp. 277-311

Roy, Olivier, The New Central Asia.

Week Eight

Afghanistan: The War against the Taliban; Transition governments, Warlords and drugs; nation building, Karzai.

Barry, Michael, Massoud : de l'islamisme a la liberte, Paris, Audibert, c2002

DS371.33.M37.B37 2002(optional)

Kaplan, Robert:, Warriors of God.(Taliban backgrounder/optional)

Maley, William, Rescuing Afghanistan (Definitely read)

Rashid, Ahmed, Taliban.

Roy, Olivier, Afghanistan

Rubin, Barnett, The Fragmentation of Afghanistan, (Excellent background for leadup to 9/11/Strongly recommended)

Week Nine

Russia and Central Asia: The Tatar Shadow, The Great Game, Soviet Man, The Near Abroad, Post 9/11. Putin and the SCO.

Brzezinski, Zbigniew, The Grand Chessboard. (See what you think)

Meyer, Karl E., and Brysac, Shareen Blair, Tournament of Shadows (The Great Game: Take One/optional).

Olcott, Martha Brill, Anders, Alund and Garrett, Sherman W., Getting It Wrong: Regional Cooperation and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Rytkin, M., Moscow's Muslim Challenge. (Dated but useful/optional)

Week Ten

The United States and Central Asia: Cold War Relations. Post- Soviet Relations. Central Asia and the War Against Terrorism. New developments. Shadows from Iraq and Iran and the War on Terror

IFP Report: Central Asia and U.S. Strategy (on Blackboard as folder number 15 under Course Documents. Also in General Central Asia folder)

Kleveman, The New Great Game

Week Eleven

China and Iran: Oil and politics. Old Players in a New Game/New Players in an Old Game. Border questions. Post-Soviet opportunities. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Energy concerns, relations with Russia

Fuller, Graham E and Starr, S. Frederick, "The Sinkiang Problem; A Policy Paper, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute, (in Blackboard in China Folder) or at https://blackboard.princeton.edu/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp?tab=courses&url=/bin/common/course.pl?course_id=16710_1&frame=top

Fuller, Graham E. and Starr, S. Frederick, Sinkiang: China's Muslim Borderland, written in conjunction with above

Millward, James A. Eurasian Crossroads, Chapter Seven, Between China and

the World, (1990s-2000s), pp. 235-285.

Week Twelve

Azerbaijan: Looking for a Friend. Oily politics. the Caspian Sea. Nervous about the neighbors.

Goltz, Thomas, Requiem For a Would-Be Republic

Shteyngart, Gary, Absurdistan (The Russian Mafia in the Caucasus/just for fun)