

HISTORY 387-003 History of Central Asia

Fall 2012
MW 1:30-2:45 pm
Krug Hall 4

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Office hrs: M 3-4pm

A history of Central Asia is a challenging undertaking. Unlike most regions of the world, Central Asia is not demarcated by geography, specific political boundaries, or a self-contained history and culture. As a result, this course approaches Central Asia as a fluid space where the mix of nomadic peoples, frontier states and the high culture of Islam produced a unique synthesis historically. In particular, the course will trace how the introduction of Islam into the region in the 8th century facilitated the assimilation of nomadic peoples into local states and economies that in turn impacted surrounding regions such as the Middle East, South Asia, East Asia and Europe, and resulted in the pivotal role that the region has played in the global balance of power, especially in the modern period.

Course requirements consist of attendance and participation, a midterm, final exam and research paper. Readings will include both primary and secondary sources. Materials are challenging and so attention to assignments and attendance is strongly suggested. Readings for class are to be completed *before* each class. The midterm and final exam will consist of identifications and essays, and the research paper will involve the further exploration of one of the periods or themes of the course. For the latter, study guides and further information will be provided at the appropriate times. There will be no exceptions to exam and paper dates, so please plan work, vacation and other obligations accordingly.

This course satisfies a Core course in the General Education Requirements. As a course in global understanding, students will be expected to demonstrate their ability to assess and evaluate the sources, both primary and secondary, and to provide clear explanation, interpretation and analysis through the essay exams, papers, and oral participation in class. Upon completing the course, students should also be able to:

- Develop understanding of global patterns and processes and their interaction with society
- Demonstrate understanding of the interconnectedness, difference, and diversity of this global society
- Apply awareness of global issues to a consideration of their individual responsibilities within a global society

READINGS: The following book and reader are all required and available for purchase at the GMU bookstore.

Crews, R. *For Prophet and Tsar: Islam and Empire in Russia and Central Asia*. Harvard, 2006.

Golden, P. *Central Asia in World History*. Oxford, 2011.

S. Levi and R. Sela, eds., *Islamic Central Asia: An Anthology of Historical Sources*. Indiana, 2010.

Roy, O. *The New Central Asia*. NYU, 2007.

J. Sahadeo and R. Zanca, eds., *Everyday Life in Central Asia*. Indiana, 2007.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

Participation— 10%. Poor participation will adversely affect a student's grade.

Exams – Midterm 25%, Final 35%. Each exam will involve identifications and essays. Exam dates are absolutely non-negotiable (so plan work, study, and vacations around them). Study guides will be provided for both exams beforehand.

Research Paper – 30%. Paper should be between 10-15 pages, on a topic related to course readings. Paper guide will be provided before due date.

Field Trip to Sackler/Freer Museums of the Smithsonian: 9/9 or 9/16. Extra credit

ADDITIONAL ISSUES:

Students are not allowed to eat, text, or use laptops for any purpose other than taking notes during class. Cell phones must be turned off. Walking in late is not only rude and disruptive, but will adversely affect your grade. If a student is not prepared to participate, it is better not to attend, as attendance of warm bodies alone does not qualify as participation.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

GMU is an Honor Code university; please see the University Catalog for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely on someone else's work in an aspect of the performance of that task, you will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask for guidance and clarification.

GMU EMAIL ACCOUNTS

Students must use their Mason email accounts—either the existing “MEMO” system or a new “MASONLIVE” account to receive important University information, including messages related to this class. See <http://masonlive.gmu.edu> for more information.

OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS. <http://ods.gmu.edu>

CAMPUS RESOURCES:

WRITING CENTER: A114 Robinson Hall; (703) 993-1200; <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

“Ask a Librarian” <http://library.gmu.edu/mudge/IM/IMRef.html>

COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS): (703) 993-2380;

<http://caps.gmu.edu>

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

The University Catalog, <http://catalog.gmu.edu>, is the central resource for university policies affecting student, faculty, and staff conduct in university academic affairs. Other policies are available at <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/>. All members of the university community are responsible for knowing and following established policies

Last Day to Add Classes: 9/4/12

Last Day to Drop Classes: 9/4/12

Drop with Penalty Period: 9/4-9/28/12

TENTATIVE LECTURE AND ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE:

Week 1 Introduction

M: Introduction to course

W: Golden, Introduction and Ch. 1

Week 2 Pre-Islamic Central Asia

M: **Labor Day**, no class

W: Golden, Chs. 2, 3.

Week 3 Islam in the Silk Road

M: Golden, Ch. 4
Levi and Sela, #1,2

W: Golden, Ch. 5
Levi and Sela, #3-6

Week 4 The Turkic Migration and States

M: Golden, Ch. 5
Levi and Sela, #8, 10, 12

W: Levi and Sela, #14-17.

Week 5 The Mongol Interlude

M: Golden, Ch. 6

W: Levi and Sela, #19, 21, 23, 24-27.

Week 6 The Turco-Mongol Synthesis: Timurid Central Asia

M: Golden, Ch. 7

W: Levi and Sela, #28, 29, 31, 32, 34.

Week 7 The Rise of the Early Modern Empires

M: **Columbus Day**, no class

T: REVIEW FOR MIDTERM

W: **MIDTERM EXAM**

Week 8 The Ottomans

M: Golden, Ch. 8

W: *Handout*: Findley, *The Turks in World History* (Oxford, 2005), ch. 3, pp. 93-132.

- Week 9 The Safavids
- M: *Online*: Babayan, K., "The Safavid Synthesis".
www.jstor.org/stable/4310890
- W: *Online*: Safavid Art: www.iranicaonline.org/articles/art-in-iran-ix-safavid
- Week 10 The Mughals
- M: *Handout*: Schimmel, *Empire of the Great Mughals* (Reaktion, 2010) ch.
 1, pp. 21-55.
- W: Levi and Sela, #36, 39
- Week 11 Russia's Muslims
- M: Crews, Introduction
- W: Crews, Ch. 1
- Week 12 Civilizing Missions in Russian Central Asia
- M: Crews, Ch. 2
- W: Crews, Ch. 5
- Week 13 Soviet Central Asia
- M: Roy, Ch. 4
 Sahadeo, Ch. 3
- W: *No Class, Thanksgiving Break*
- Week 14 Post-Soviet Society, Culture and Politics in Central Asia
- M: Roy, Chs. 6, 7.
- W: Sahadeo, Chs. 5, 8, 14
- Week 15 The New or Renewed Central Asia?
- M: Roy, Ch. 9
- W: Sahadeo, Chs. 16, 20, 22.
- Paper Due
 Review for Final**

FINAL EXAM: 12/12; 1:30-4:15pm