

Readings in the History of Soviet Central Asia, 1900-1953

History xxx, Section xxx

Semester

Days, Location

Prof. Steven A. Barnes

Robinson B226A

sbarnes3@gmu.edu

703-993-1247

Office Hours:

Course Description:

In this course, you will study the history of Soviet Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tadzhikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan) from the turn of the century, through the Russian Revolution, the rise of Stalin, World War II and up to Stalin's death. The course will be based on a great deal of the most recent historical literature written on the basis of official materials only made accessible after the 1991 fall of the Soviet Union.

The goals of the course are to give students a general comprehension of the development of the Soviet Union's Central Asia republics through the great upheavals of the early 20th century. Topics of discussion include war, revolution, famine, settlement of nomadic peoples, religious suppression and the construction of nationality. Students should come away with a great command of the historical roots of many difficulties that Central Asia faces today.

Course Assignments:

FIVE BOOK REVIEWS (2 pages each): Students will be required to write five book reviews of two pages each.

ORAL PRESENTATION (15-20 minutes): Students will be required to open the week's classes once with an oral presentation. The presentation should not be a summary of the reading but should raise the most important issues for discussion related to the themes of our class.

FINAL PAPER 1 (8-10 pages): No additional research will be necessary—only assigned readings.

Grades:

BOOK REVIEWS

5 at 50 points each

250

ORAL PRESENTATION

150

Week 11

Turkmenistan I

Adrienne Lynn Edgar, *Tribal Nation: The Making of Soviet Turkmenistan*, Princeton, 2004.

Week 12

Turkmenistan II – Language and Nation

Victoria Clement, Ph.D. Dissertation, Ohio State University 2005 (?).

Week 13

Central Asia in World War II and After

Paul Stronski, “Forging a Soviet City: Tashkent, 1937-1966,” Ph.D. Dissertation, Stanford University, 2003.

Week 14

Issues in Central Asia after the Soviet Union

Olivier Roy, *The New Central Asia: The Creation of Nations*, New York, 2000.