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

History xxx, Section xxx Semester Days, Location

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## **Course Description:**

In this course, you will study the history of Soviet Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tadzhikstan, 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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:**

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

<u>ORAL PRESENTATION (15-20 minutes)</u>: 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.

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

#### **Grades:**

BOOK REVIEWS	
5 at 50 points each	250
ORAL PRESENTATION	150

FINAL PAPER
CLASS PARTICIPATION (quantity and quality of in-class discussion)

400
200

Total 1,000

## **Course Policies – READ CAREFULLY:**

<u>Policy on Attendance and Tardiness</u>: In accord with George Mason University policy, you will not be graded on attendance. However, you will be graded on participation. Obviously, you cannot participate in class if you do not attend. The same rules apply to late arrival.

<u>Policy on Late Work</u>: No extension on assignments will be granted. Papers are due at the beginning of class on their due date or at the time and date noted. Grades on assignments will be reduced by 5 percent for each day of lateness.

*Email Addresses:* The professor will communicate with students via email. Therefore, all students must activate and check their official GMU email addresses frequently. You may forward it to another account, but you are responsible for the information that is sent via your official account.

<u>WebCT</u>: Some of the readings for the course will only be available online via the WebCT course folder. All students should go to <a href="http://webct41.gmu.edu">http://webct41.gmu.edu</a> as soon as possible to log in to WebCT.

<u>ADA</u>: Students with learning disabilities who need special accommodation must present appropriate documentation to me by the third week of class. Contact the Disability Resource Center (<a href="http://www.gmu.edu/student/drc">http://www.gmu.edu/student/drc</a>) to obtain documentation.

<u>Cheating and Plagiarism</u>: All work in this class must be your own unless otherwise directed by the professor. If you haven't already, read the George Mason University Honor Code (<a href="http://www.gmu.edu/departments/unilife/honorcode.html">http://www.gmu.edu/departments/unilife/honorcode.html</a>), which defines cheating and plagiarism and outlines the penalties and procedures that apply thereto. Violators will receive the maximum penalty allowed by the University. If you have any questions on what constitutes cheating or plagiarism after reviewing these materials, please talk to me. If you are unsure when completing an assignment, ask me. Do not take a chance of your case winding up before the Honor Board.

## Schedule of Classes:

Week 1 Introduction: What is Central Asia? What is the Nation?

Week 2 Central Asia Before the Revolution

Adeeb Khalid, *The Politics of Muslim Cultural Reform: Jadidism in Central Asia*, Berkeley, 1998.

# Week 3 Nationality in the Soviet Union

Yuri Slezkine, "The USSR as a Communal Apartment, or How a Socialist State promoted Ethnic Particularism," *Slavic Review*, 53/2 (1994), 414-452.

Francine Hirsch, *Empire of Nations : Ethnographic Knowledge and the Making of the Soviet Union*, Ithaca, 2005.

## Week 4 Islam in Soviet Central Asia

Shoshana Keller, *To Moscow, Not Mecca: The Soviet Campaign against Islam in Central Asia, 1917-1941*, Westport, CT, 2001.

### Week 5 Women in Soviet Central Asia I

Gregory J. Massell, *The Surrogate Proletariat: Moslem Women and Revolutionary Strategies in Soviet Central Asia, 1919-1929*, Princeton, 1974.

#### Week 6 Women in Soviet Central Asia II

Douglas Taylor Northrop, *Veiled Empire: Gender and Power in Stalinist Central Asia*, Ithaca, 2004.

#### Week 7 Kazakhstan I

Martha Brill Olcott, *The Kazakhs*, Stanford, 1995.

#### Week 8 Kazakhstan II – Collectivization and Famine

Niccolo Pianciola, "Famine in the Steppe: The Collectivization of Agriculture and the Kazak Herdsmen, 1928-1934," *Cahiers du Monde Russe*, 45/1-2 (2004), 137-192.

# Week 9 Kazakhstan III – Modernizing Industry

Matthew J. Payne, *Stalin's Railroad: Turksib and the Building of Socialism*, Pittsburgh, 2001.

## Week 10 Kazakhstan IV – Modernizing Medicine

Paula Michaels, Curative Powers: Medicine and Power in Stalin's Central Asia, Pittsburgh, 2003.

# 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.