

Course Title: Government and Politics in Central Asia

Course No: SA 634

Total Credits: Three (3)

Course Teacher: Dr. Sharad K. Soni

INTRODUCTION

The main purpose of this course is to provide an understanding of the political developments in Central Asia both during the Soviet and post-Soviet period. It evaluates the concept of Central Asia as a region, discussing the specificity of each of the five independent Central Asian Republics (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) and the relationship among the major ethnic groups. Identity issues based on religion, language, clan, and regional factors will be discussed in a comparative framework. The course will enable the students to acquire an in-depth knowledge of government and politics in Central Asia by discussing the evolution of political system, problems of transition, nation building and the democratisation process in the whole region. It also examines the politics of post-Soviet transition by focusing on the contemporary issues of terrorism, human rights and national security as well as reconfiguration of Central Asia's relationship with the outside world, particularly with the USA, Russia, China, India, Afghanistan and Mongolia.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This is an optional course which requires the students to do three mandatory assignments: term paper, presentation and book review in addition to an end semester examination. Class attendance is highly recommended.

EVALUATION PATTERN

The evaluation of student's performance is done purely on the basis of academic merit. Grading and marks will be given for term paper (20%), presentation (10%), book review (10%), class participation (10%) and end semester examination (50%).

COURSE CONTENTS

1. Introduction

- A. Central Asia in Regional Setting
- B. Inner Asian Dimension of Central Asia
- C. Specificity of Central Asian Republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

2. Central Asia during Soviet Period

- A. October Revolution and Establishment of Soviet Power in Central Asia

- B. Soviet Nationalities Policy and formation of Soviet Central Asia
- C. Socio-Cultural Change and Modernization during the Soviet Period

3. Post-Soviet Developments in Central Asia

- A. Disintegration of the USSR and Emergence of Central Asian Republics
- B. Nation Building and Problems of Transition
- C. Ethnicity, Religion and Politics of Identity

4. Government Structures and Political Institutions

- A. Structure and Dynamics of Parliamentary Politics
- B. Reforms and Democratisation Process
- C. Political Parties, Pressure Groups, Civil Society and Press
- D. Electoral Process and Presidential Powers

5. Contemporary Issues and Regional Initiatives

- A. Terrorism, Human Rights and National Security Issues
- B. Reconfiguration of Central Asia's Relationship with the Outside World
- C. Regional Organisations in Central Asia

SELECTED READINGS

Ahrens, Joachim and Herman W. Hoen, eds. (2012), *Institutional Reform in Central Asia: Politico-Economic Challenges*, London: Routledge.

Akiner, Shirin (2002), *Islam in Post-Soviet Central Asia: Contested Territory*, Hamburg: German Oriental Institute.

Allison, Roy, ed. (2001), *Central Asian Security: The New International Context*, London: Royal Institute of International Affairs.

Allworth, Edward, ed. (1994), *Central Asia: 130 years of Russian Dominance*, Durham.

Bedeski, Robert and Niklas Swanström, eds. (2012), *Eurasia's Ascent in Energy and Geopolitics: Rivalry or Partnership for China, Russia, and Central Asia?*, London: Routledge.

Beisinger, M. (2002), *Nationalist Mobilization and the Collapse of the Soviet State*, Cambridge.

Benningsen, A, and Quelquenay, C. L. (1967), *Islam in the Soviet Union*, London.

Christian, David (1998), *A History of Russia, Central Asia and Mongolia: Inner Eurasia from Prehistory to the Mongol Empire*, Oxford: Blackwell.

Collins, Kathleen (2006), *Clan Politics and Regime Transition in Central Asia*, Cambridge.

Cooley, Alexander (2012), *Great Games, Local Rules: The New Great Power Contest in Central Asia*, New York: Oxford University Press.

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Dudoignon, Stephane, and Komatsu Hisao, eds. (2001), *Islam in Politics in Russia and Central Asia (Early Eighteenth to Late Twentieth Centuries)*. London: Kegan Paul.

Ebel, Robert, and RajanMenon, eds. (2000), *Energy and Conflict in Central Asia and the Caucasus*, Rowman and Littlefield.

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Hiro, Dilip (2010), *Inside Central Asia: a political and cultural history of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Iran*, New Delhi: HarperCollins.

Karagiannis. Emmanuel (2010), *Political Islam in Central Asia: The challenge of Hizbut-Tahrir*, London: Routledge.

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Khazanov, Anatoly (1995), *After the USSR: Ethnicity, Nationalism, and Politics in the Commonwealth of Independent States*. Wisconsin-Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.

Kleveman, Lutz (2003), *The New Great Game: Blood and Oil in Central Asia*, New York: Atlantic Monthly Press.

Laruelle, Marlene and Sebastian Peyrouse, eds. (2011), *Mapping Central Asia: Indian Perceptions and Strategies*, Surrey: Ashgate.

Legvold, Robert, ed. (2003), *Thinking Strategically: The Major Powers, Kazakhstan, and the Central Asian Nexus*, Cambridge: American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Lubin, Nancy (2000), *Calming the Ferghana Valley: Development and Dialogue in the Heart of Central Asia*, New York: Century Foundation Press.

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