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ANTY 241H.01: Central Asian Cultures and Civilizations

Ardeshir Kia

University of Montana, Missoula, ardeshir.kia@umontana.edu

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CENTRAL ASIAN CULTURES & CIVILIZATIONS

(ANTY 241: People & Environments)

SPRING 2020

TR 3:30 – 4:50 PM

Dr. ARDI KIA

OFFICE: STONE HALL 303

ardi.kia@umt.edu

OFFICE HOURS: MWF 9:00 - 11:00 AM

This course explores the history of the cultures, civilizations and related forces that have shaped Central Asia's heritage. In this class we will analyze the complex nature of Central Asian cultures and civilizations, and the relationships among them, a history that in turn affects contemporary U.S. policy and interests within this region. Since pre-historic times and through late antiquity, the urban culture in the towns of the region was predominantly Iranian. The steppes were dominated by Scythians/Sakas and Huns, and, also by Turks from the sixth century A.D. onward. Various religions and cults including Shamanism, Mithraism, Zurvanism, Buddhism, Zoroasterianism, Judaism, Nestorian Christianity, and Manichaeism, were practiced. In the eighth century A.D., an Arab army conquered the region and introduced Islam. Through transcontinental passages, Central Asia established links to the major civilizations of China, India, Persia and the Mediterranean, which in turn influenced the characteristics of the region.

The cultures of Central Asia reflect these rich and varied traditions. The legendary poet, Rudaki led the revival of Persian literature in Bukhara during the Samanid dynasty (819 A.D. – 999 A.D.) the first golden age of culture and art of Central Asia. The second golden age came during the reign of the Timurids (1336 – 1405 A.D.), when the city of Samarkand was filled with great art, literature, and architecture. The Uzbek Shaibanids occupied large portions of Central Asia in the sixteenth century, and by the end of the seventeenth century, three small Uzbek kingdoms were ruling parts of Central Asia from the cities of Bukhara, Khiva and Kokand. In the nineteenth century, Russians took control of the region and after years of civil war, Soviet rule was established. Based on neither historical nor cultural foundations, Stalin fabricated five new Soviet states (1924 – 1936), which are now the independent republics of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan.

In 1760, the eastern part of Central Asia (Xinjiang) was occupied by 25,000 Qing (Chinese) empire forces. Despite the resistance of the ancient Turks-Uyghurs and

other ethnicities to this invasion, Chinese remained in control throughout the era of the Republic of China, (1911 – 1949). In 1949, the region was invaded by Mao’s Red Army and was devastated during the Cultural Revolution (1966 - 1976). Since 1999, the Chinese government has begun a new program “Developing the West” in the eastern part of this region (Xinjiang).

Course Grade: The final course grade will be based on evaluation of the following assessments.

Daily Notes	20%
Midterm Writing Project	20%
Final Writing Project	20%
Final Exam	20%
Map Project	10%
Attendance	10%
<hr/>	
	100%

Daily Notes (Journal) includes a minimum of one page of notes on the lecture, slides and power point presentation, videos and other activities in the class. Students are expected to include in their daily notes (journal) their personal feelings and thoughts at the conclusion of each class.

Learning Objective:

The underlying objective of this course is to broaden a deeper understanding of the complexity and diversity of the civilizations, and cultures of urban centers and rural communities of Central Asia throughout its history.

Textbooks:

- 1; Richard Frye, 2012. The Heritage of Central Asia: From Antiquity to the Turkish Expansion Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
2. Olivier Roy, 2005. The New Central Asia: The Creation of Nations. New York: University of New York Press.

Course Schedule:

JAN	14	Introduction
JAN	16	Prehistoric Cultures of Central Asia Reading: Richard Frye’s, “The Heritage of Central Asia”, pp. 1-28.
JAN	21	Scythians and Sakas, Eight to Third Centuries B.C. Reading: R. Fry’s, pp. 29- 50.
JAN	23	People of Central Asia and the First Central Asian States

Persia and The Bible

Reading: R. Frye, "The Heritage of Central Asia", pp. 75-96.

- JAN 28 Zoroasterianism: A Spiritual Quest or a Political Institution
Reading: R. Frye's, "The Heritage of Central Asia", pp. 65-74.
- JAN 30 Central Asian Cultures under Parthian and Sassanid Empires Rule
Reading: R. Frye's, "The Heritage of Central Asia", pp. 97-118
- FEB 04 Xiang'nu Empire
The Huns, Third Century B.C. to Sixth Century A.D.
Reading: R. Frye's "The Heritage of Central Asia", pp. 119-130.
- FEB 06 Buddhism in Central Asia
Reading: R. Frye's, "The Heritage of Central Asia", pp. 159-166.
- FEB 11 People of Central Asia under Kushans
Reading: R. Frye's, "The Heritage of Central Asia", pp. 131-150.
- FEB 13 The Arab Conquest of Central Asia
Reading: R. Frye's, "The Heritage of Central Asia", pp. 167- 182.
- FEB 18 Golden Age of Central Asia Civilization under Samanids
Reading: R. Frye's, "The Heritage of Central Asia", pp. 183-198.
- FEB 20 Turkification of Central Asia
Reading: R. Frye's, "The Heritage of Central Asia", pp. 199-218.
- FEB 25 Mongol Invasion and Destruction of Central Asian Civilizations
Reading: R. Frye's "The Heritage of Central Asia", pp. 219-232.
- FEB 27 Revival of Civilization - Golden Age of Timurid Culture
Reading: R. Frye's "The Heritage of Central Asia", pp. 233-240.
- MAR 03 Bokhara, Khiva and Kokand Khanates of Central Asia
Sufism in Central Asia
MIDTERM WRITING PROJECT DUE
- MAR 05 The Fall of Uzbek Khanates
Reading: Oliver Roy's "The New Central Asia: The Creation of Nations", pp. 1-24.
- MAR 10 Russian Colonial Empire
Reading: Roy's "The New Central Asia", pp. 25-34.

MAR	12	From Ivan III to Peter the Great and Catherine the Great Reading: Roy's "The New Central Asia", pp. 35-49.
MAR	24	Pan Turkism and Pan Islamic Movements
MAR	26	Stalin and the People Reading: Roy's "The New Central Asia", pp. 50-84.
MAR	31	Centrality of the Kolkhoz Reading: Roy's "The New Central Asia", pp. 85-100.
APR	02	The Creation of Nations Reading: Roy's "The New Central Asia", pp. 101-124.
APR	07	Russification & Sovietization
APR	09	The Fall of the Soviet Union Reading: Roy's "The New Central Asia", pp. 125-142
APR	14	Religions of Central Asia Reading: Roy's "The New Central Asia", pp. 143-160.
APR	16	<i>The 18th International Conference on Central & Southwest Asia (All Events at UC Theater)</i>
APR	21	Post Soviet Space Reading: Roy's "The New Central Asia", pp.161 – 189.
APR	23	Post Soviet Space
APR	28	The United States & Central Asia Reading: Roy's "The New Central Asia", pp. 190-200.
APR	30	The United States & Central Asia
MAY	05	<i>FINAL EXAM: 3:30 PM – 4:50 PM (TUESDAY) FINAL WRITING PROJECT & DAILY NOTES DUE.</i>

Late Drop policy: The seventh instructional day is the last day to drop the course without a petition. Spring semester, that date is Thursday, January 23rd.

Student Conduct Code: The student conduct code applies to this course, and should be read by students. In particular, plagiarism will not be tolerated, and will result in a failing grade on the specific assignment, and/or course.

Disability accommodation: Central and Southwest Asian Studies Program is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with documented physical, or learning disabilities. University policy states the responsibility of students with documented disabilities to contact instructors DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF THE

SEMESTER to discuss appropriate accommodations to ensure equity in evaluation of classroom assignments and examination. The instructor will meet with students and staff of the Disability Services for Students (DSS) to make accommodations for this course. Please contact DSS 243-2243, at the Lommasson Center, room 154 for further information.