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### ANTY 442.01: Cities & Landscapes of Central Asia

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## **CENTRAL & SOUTHWEST ASIAN STUDIES CENTER**

# ***CITIES & LANDSCAPES OF CENTRAL ASIA 402/442***

***TR 9:40 am - 11:00 am***

***DR. ARDI KIA***

***OFFICE: STONE HALL (OLD JOURNALISM) 303***

***OFFICE PHONE: 243-2235***

***OFFICE HOURS: MWF 9:00-12:00***

### ***Cities & Landscapes of Central Asia:***

The Silk Road and the accompanying flow of trade were the main factors in the prosperity of many Central Asian urban centers since ancient times. When trade was disrupted by war or nomadic incursion, economic life suffered and urban centers which owed their existence to trade and commerce perished.

Since ancient times merchant caravans passed through a network of routes linking China in the east to Central Asia, the Middle East, African and the Mediterranean empires in the west. Much more than Chinese silk was transported along these roads, and over time, the impact that such trade routes had on the people of Central Asia was immense, stimulating the development of cities, as well as arts and sciences. Cities in Central Asia were multi-faith centers for all of the inhabitants of the region. These urban centers also provided crossroads where the cultures of east and west, could meet and mingle.

Each of the cities of Central, while possessing a wealth of individual characteristics developed similarities with other urban centers in the region. In a Central Asian city, the craftsmen and professionals could be found in the center of town. Their location generally reflected two factors. The first was prestige: those in high status occupations, such as lawyers, booksellers, and papermakers could be found close to the center of the market, and residence of governor or mayor.

The second factor influencing the location of various professions in all these urban centers was access to water and the amount of pollution a trade tended to produce. For example, the noisy copper and brass merchants were not far from the center of the market, and the fruit sellers traded right outside its doors. In contrast, the smelly dyers and millers were farther away, while the butchers were at the very edge of town. Another tradition of urban life in Central Asia was the role of citizens in defense of their own fortifications. Professionals and craftsmen from each market and city center participated in parades, where each guild displayed its own flag and each individual wore his finest clothes. The spread of agriculture since 6<sup>th</sup> c. BC, change the landscape of the country side and led to an increase in population in Central Asia. New agricultural products initiated steady improvement in diet, nutrition and cooking methods. Expanded irrigation called for newer and more effective systems of raising and moving water, the most visible being the enormous vertical waterwheels that spread from Persia to Portugal in the west. Equally dramatic was the evolution of a legal system ensuring a fair distribution of irrigation water.

Cities and landscapes of Central Asia underwent a revolutionary transformation with the imposition of colonial domination in the nineteenth century. In the name of progress and modernization, the people of these regions were severed from their past and taught to reject their ancestors, traditions, customs, and values. Now, in the wake of the fall of the Soviet Union, and other shifts in the regions political winds, these people are faced with the failure of modernizing economic and political systems that had promised them economic prosperity and political freedom. Not only have they lost idealism that had sustained their societies, but they must also come to terms with the earlier loss of their own cultural reference points. In this vacuum, poverty, unemployment and crime in impoverished cities, broken down housing blocks, corrupt and suffocating bureaucracies, ethnic unease and ecological disasters like the dying Aral Sea. Everyone is searching for answers - a strong leader, a heroic past, democracy, free market, or Islam - to put things right again and to help with the recovery of stolen cultural identities.

The fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, and the opening of China, has heightened expectations and increased enthusiasm among students and scholars at the University of Montana for learning in detail about life in Central Asia cities and country side. Offering "Cities and Landscapes of Central Asia " is one way to meet this demand.

**Learning Objective:**

The underlying objective of this course is to encourage and broaden a deeper understanding of the complexity and diversity of the cultural, social and economic structure of urban and rural centers in Central and Southwest Asia throughout history

**Grade:**

Daily Notes	20%
Midterm Writing Project	20%
Final Writing Project	20%
Final Take Home	20%
Map Project	10%
Attendance	10%

**Textbooks:**

1. Edgar Knobloch, *Treasures of the Great Silk Road*, The History Press, 2012.
2. Ardi Kia, *Cultures of Central Asia – Ancient History*, Vol. III, CSWA Center, University of Montana Printing & Graphics Services, 2013.
3. FAC PAC: *Cities & Landscapes of Central & Southwest Asia* 402/442

**Course Schedule:**

T. AUG. 27	Introduction
R. AUG. 29	Indus Valley Civilization, Central Asia
	Reading: Knobloch' Ch. 1, "Land & People," pp. 14-19
T. SEP. 03	Yellow River Civilization & Central Asia
	Reading: Kia' Cultures of Central Asia, pp. 8-18

- R. SEP. 05 Knobloch' Ch. 2, "Outline of History," pp. 20-34  
Mesopotamia, and Achaemenids  
From Ziggurat of Ur to Susa and Persepolis  
Reading: Kia' Cultures of Central Asia, pp. 18-28
- T. SEP. 10 Knobloch' Ch. 3, "Civilization," pp. 35-47  
The Birth of Central Asian States and Cities  
Reading: Kia' Cultures of Central Asia, pp. 29-46
- R. SEP. 12 Ancient Central Asian States
- T. SEP. 17 Rise and fall of Satrap of Khorezm  
Reading: Knobloch' Ch. 6, "Khorezm," pp. 73-89
- R. SEP. 19 Toprak Kala  
Reading: FAC-PAC: IU. A. Rapoport' "The Palaces of  
Topraq-qala," pp. 161-185
- T. SEP. 24 Satrap of Soghdia (Soghdiana)  
Reading: Knobloch' Ch. 7, "The Zarafshan Valley,"  
pp. 90-130
- R. SEP. 26 Panjikent – The Financial Capital of the Silk Road
- T. OCT. 01 Amu Darya Valley  
Reading: Knobloch' Ch. 9, "The Amu Darya Valley and  
Southern Tajikistan," pp. 139-150
- R. OCT. 03 Afrasiyab: The Ancient Capital of Soghdia  
Reading: FAC-PAC: G. V. Shishkina' Ancient Samarkand:  
Capital of Soghd," pp. 81-99
- T. OCT. 08 Satrap of Parthia  
Reading: FAC-PAC: V. Pilipko' "Excavations of Steraia  
Nisa," pp. 101-116
- R. OCT. 10 Central Asian Architectural Designs  
Reading: Knobloch' Ch. 4, "Architecture and Architectural  
Decorations," pp. 47-63
- T. OCT. 15 Turkmenistan  
Reading: Knobloch' Chaspter 8, "Turkmenistan,"  
pp. 131-138
- R. OCT. 17 Zoroasterian Fire Temples
- MIDTERM WRITING PROJECT DUE**
- T. OCT. 22 Central Asian Cultures and Manuscripts  
Reading: Knobloch' Ch. 5, "The Sources" pp.64-71
- R. OCT. 24 Buddhist Stupas & Pagodas
- T. OCT. 29 Islam in Central Asian Cities and Landscapes  
Reading: Knobloch' Ch. 10, "The Syr Darya and Ferghana  
Valley," pp. 150-155
- R. OCT. 31 Samanid' Golden Age  
Reading: FAC-PAC: Negmatov Nugma' "The Phenomenon  
of the Material Culture of Central Asia in the Samanid's  
Epoch," pp. 157-164
- T. NOV. 05 Bokhara

- Reading: FAC-PAC: Masson Vadim' "The Contribution of Samanid State to Political and Cultural History of Central Asia," pp. 165-171
- R. NOV. 07 Timurid City & Landscape  
Reading: FAC-PAC: Thomas Leisten' "Islamic Architecture in Uzbekistan" pp.79-100  
**MAP PROJECT DUE**
- T. NOV. 12 Northern Landscape  
Reading: Knobloch's Ch. 11, "Kazakhstan and Kirghizstan," pp. 156-160
- R. NOV. 14 Xinjiang or Eastern Central Asia  
Reading: Knobloch's Ch. 12, "History," pp. 162-166
- T. NOV. 19 Cities of the Northeast  
Reading: Knobloch's Ch. 13 & Ch. 14 "Urumchi, Turfan, and Kucha" & "Tun-huang to Kashgar" pp. 170-177
- T. NOV. 21 Afghanistan  
Reading: Knobloch's Ch. 15, "History," pp. 178-182
- R. NOV. 26 Afghanistan  
Reading: Knobloch's Ch. 16 & 17, Cities of Center, East and West, pp. 182-200
- T. DEC. 03 Afghanistan  
Reading: Knobloch's Ch. 18 & 19, "The North & the South," pp. 200-212
- R. DEC. 05 Afghanistan  
Reading: Knobloch's Ch. 18 & 19, "The North & the South," pp. 200-212
- R. DEC. 12 **FINAL EXAM: R, 10:10 AM – 12:00 NOON**  
**FINAL WRITING PROJECT**  
**DAILY NOTES (JOURNAL) DUE**

**Late Drop policy:** The seventh instructional day is the last day to drop the course without a petition.

**Student Conduct Code:** The student conduct code applies, 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 Jim Marks in DSS 243-2372, at the Lommasson Center, room 154.