

**«Central Asian Studies World Wide»**  
**Course Syllabi for the Study of Central Eurasia**  
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**Prof. Christopher P. Atwood**  
**Mongolia: Theocracy, Communism, Democracy (Central Eurasian Studies 469)**  
**Syllabus for the course offered in Spring 2002**  
**Indiana University**  
**Dept. of Central Eurasian Studies**

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**U469 Mongolia: Theocracy, Communism, Democracy (0704)****Syllabus****Spring, 2002**

Instructor: Professor Christopher P. Atwood

Phone: 855-4059; email: catwood

Time: Days and Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00-2:15.

Place: Woodburn Hall 118

Office Hours: 11:15-12:05 T, 1:00-1:50 W and by arrangement

Office: Goodbody Hall 321

**Description:**

In 1900 Mongolia was a largely nomadic country, with an aristocratic government of the the descendants of Genghis Khan and an established Buddhist church, and dominated by viceroys from China's last, Manchu, dynasty. In 1950, it was the Soviet Union's most loyal satellite ruled by Mongolia's little Stalin, the dictator Choibalsang. In 2002, Mongolia enters the new millennium as an independent nation and a multi-party democracy, sandwiched between China and Russia, and struggling to enter the ranks of Asia's economic success stories. This course will explore the wrenching changes that Mongolia has gone through in the course of this century: poverty-stricken Chinese dependency, theocracy, revolutionary junta, Communist purges, ailing command economy, transition to democracy and private property. Areas covered will include foreign policy, political events, circulation of elites, Buddhism and modern ideologies, demography and urbanization, and transformations in nomadic pastoralism.

**Readings:**

Required reading includes eight books: Batbayar, *Modern Mongolia: A Concise History*; Bawden, *Modern History of Mongolia*; Kotkin and Elleman, *Mongolia in the Twentieth Century*; Bawden, *Tales of an Old Lama*; Shirendev, *Through the Ocean Waves*; Sanders, *Mongolia: Politics, Economics, Society*; Goldstein and Beall, *Changing World of Mongolia's Nomads*; Avery, *Women of Mongolia*. There is also a course reader available from the Central Eurasian Studies office at 157 Goodbody Hall, containing Bawden's *Jebtsundamba Khutukhtus of Urga*, an anonymous translation of the proceedings of the third party congress in 1924, and poems and stories of Natsugdorji.

**How to get access to the readings:**

A copy of all books have been placed on reserve at the undergraduate reading room in the Main Library. All those that are in print in the United States (Bawden, *Tales of an Old Lama*; Shirendev, *Through the Ocean Waves*; Avery, *Women of Mongolia*) have been ordered at TIS and the IU Bookstore. Copies of Batbayar, *Modern Mongolia: A Concise History*, are on sale at the Mongolia Society, Goodbody Hall, 322. Reasonably priced, used copies of the other books can sometimes be found on the web; try amazon.com or ABE book search (<http://dogbert.abebooks.com>).

**Grades:**

Grades base on the following percentages: Midterm, 20%, Paper 30%, Final 40%, Map Quiz 10%

**Week 1:** January 8, 10

Introduction, Climate, Geography, Pastoral Nomadism

Batbayar, *Modern Mongolia*, pp. 9-22; Bawden, *Modern History*, 1-80.

**Week 2:** January 15, 17

The Chinggisid nobility and the Buddhist church

Bawden, *The Jebtsundamba Khutukhtus of Urga*, 34-91 (reader).

Discussion of readings, January 17

**Week 3:** January 22, 24

Qing rule in Mongolia, New Policies, Independence

Bawden, *Modern History*, 81-186

**Map Quiz in Class, Jan. 22****Week 4:** January 29, 31

Theocratic Period

Batbayar, *Modern Mongolia*, pp. 23-28; Bawden, *Modern History*, 187-205; Kotkin and Elleman, *Mongolia in the Twentieth Century*, to p. 97.

Discussion of readings, January 31

**Week 5:** February 5, 7

Inner Mongolian and Buriat influences, culture, finance, trade and economics

Bawden, *Tales of an Old Lama*, 1-78.

**Week 6:** February 12, 14

The 1921 Revolutionaries

Batbayar, *Modern Mongolia*, pp. 29-41; Bawden, *Modern History*, 205-289

Reading list for review paper due, Feb. 12

Discussion of readings, February 14

**Week 7:** February 19, 21

Politics and Culture in the 1920s

Shirendev, *Through the Ocean Waves*, 1-47; *Mongolia: Yesterday and Today*, pp. 1-69 (reader).

**Week 8:** February 26, 28

The Leftist Period

Shirendev, *Through the Ocean Waves*, 48-79; stories and poems of Natsagdorj (reader)

Discussion of readings, February 28

**Midterm: March 5****Week 9:** March 5, 7

New Turn Policy

Batbayar, *Modern Mongolia*, 42-60; Bawden, *Modern History*, 290-385

—Spring Break—

**Week 10:** March 19, 21

The Terror

Kotkin and Elleman, *Mongolia in the Twentieth Century*, 99-161; Shirendev, *Through the Ocean Waves*, 80-128

Discussion of readings, March 21

**Week 11:** March 26, 28

The Choibalsang dictatorship and the early Tsendenbal years, 1945-1960

Batbayar, *Modern History*, 61-72; Bawden, *Modern History*, 381-423; Shirendev, *Through the Ocean Waves*, 129-166

**Week 12:** April 2 (no class April 4)

Communism as a system

Batbayar, *Modern History*, 73-89; Shirendev, *Through the Ocean Waves*, 167-218; Sanders, *Mongolia*, 52-83, 124-154; Kotkin and Elleman, *Mongolia in the Twentieth Century*, 237-246

**Week 13:** April 9, 11

Issues under Tsedenbal

Batbayar, *Modern History*, 90-104; Sanders, *Mongolia*, 32-51, 84-123; Kotkin and Elleman, *Mongolia in the Twentieth Century*, 163-186, 247-289.

Discussion of reading, April 9

**Week 14:** April 16, 18

The New Mongolians

Goldstein and Beall, *Changing World*; Kotkin and Elleman, *Mongolia in the Twentieth Century*, 223-236.

April 18, Film and discussion of reading and film

**Week 15:** April 23, 25

The Democratic (Revolution?), 1984-2001 and Mongolia today

Avery, *Women of Mongolia*; Tsogtbayar cartoons

April 25, Discussion of Readings

**Paper Due in class, April 23****Final Examination: 12:30-2:30 Thursday, May 2, at Ballantine 118.**