

«Central Eurasian Studies World Wide»
Course Syllabi for the Study of Central Eurasia
http://cesww.fas.harvard.edu/CESWW_Syllabi.html

Thomas Barfield
Afghanistan
Syllabus for the course offered in Spring 2002
Boston University, Dept. of Anthropology

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Anthropology 594 Afghanistan

Spring 2002
Wednesday 1:00-4:00
Seminar Room 102C
232 Bay State Road
Office Hours: Monday 9-11, Tuesday 10-12

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This seminar provides an ethnographic and historical examination of Afghanistan's traditional social organization, ecology and economy, political organization, and relationship among ethnic groups as a basis for examining the consequences of domestic political turmoil and foreign interventions over the last twenty years. The current situation in Afghanistan and the country's prospects for the future will also be addressed.

Topics and Scheduled Readings

Introduction: Afghanistan's lands and peoples (January 16)

Louis Dupree, "The Land", In *Afghanistan*. Princeton University Press, 1980, pp. 1-53.
(xerox on department reserve)

Early History of Afghanistan (January 23)

Willem Vogelsang. *The Afghans*. Blackwell, 2001

Overview: Tribes and Ethnic Groups (January 30)

Louis Dupree, "The Land", In *Afghanistan*. Princeton University Press, 1980, pp.55-65.
(xerox on department reserve)

The Pashtuns (February 6)

Tajiks, Turks and Hazaras (February 13)

Village Life (February 20)

Louis Dupree, "Settlement Patterns", "Life Cycle", "The Inward Looking Society", In *Afghanistan*. Princeton University Press, 1980, pp.132-252). (xerox on department reserve)

Film: *AN AFGHAN VILLAGE*

Nomad Life (February 27)

SPRING BREAK (March 2-10)

Afghanistan in the 19th Century and the British (March 13)

Willem Vogelsang. *The Afghans*. Blackwell, 2001

State and Society: Attempts at Modernization (March 20)

Willem Vogelsang. *The Afghans*. Blackwell, 2001.

The Communist Coup and the Soviet Invasion (March 27)

Henry Bradsher. *Afghan Communism & Soviet Intervention*. Oxford, 2002

Film: *SOLDIERS OF GOD 1975-1988*

Islam and the anti-Soviet Jihad (April 3)

Olivier Roy. *Islam & Resistance in Afghanistan*. Cambridge, 1990.

Myron Weiner and Ali Banuazizi (Editors). *The Politics of Social Transformation in Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan* (chapters 1,2,5,8). Syracuse University Press, 1993.

(recommended)

David Edwards. *Heroes of the Age: Moral Fault Lines on the Afghan Frontier*. University of California Press, 1996. (recommended)

The Mujahidin Civil War (April 10)

Larry Goodson. *Afghanistan's Endless War: State Failure, Regional Politics and the Rise of the Taliban*. University of Washington Press, 2001.

No class on April 17 (classes run on a Monday schedule)

The Rise and Fall of the Taliban (April 24)

Ahmed Rashid. *Taliban: Militant Islam, Oil and Fundamentalism in Central Asia*. Yale, 2001.

The Future of Afghanistan (May 1)

Course Requirements and Assignments

1) Assigned Readings and Discussion

The success of any class depends on each student being familiar with the assigned readings. Graduate students should also do the recommended readings.

2) Book reviews.

Because so many books on Afghanistan are out of print we have assigned only the most general works. There are many more specific works to be found in libraries in the Boston area. To provide some context for the course each student should choose three books not on the assigned reading list to read and review. These could be works focusing on ethnography, history, politics or Afghan culture. Each review paper should be no more than 1000 words. The first of these reviews is due no later than February 15th, the second by March 27th and the last before the end of classes.

3) Term Paper

A research paper is required of each student. It is to be submitted on or before the last day of reading period. The paper should be 25-30 pages in length for graduate students (15-20 for undergraduates). The topic should be one related to the course that interests you and need not be restricted to the assigned readings. Please consult with me before the end of term to talk about the paper. If you do not already have a copy, please purchase Steven Parish's (1995) *The Student's Practical Guide: Writing Term Papers for Anthropology (and Related Subjects)*. Boston: Boston University Department of Anthropology. It is available at the BU Bookstore.

The weight of these assignments for the final grade is 20% for attendance and class participation, 30% for three book reviews, and 50% for the paper. Students are expected to fulfill these course requirements in a timely manner and the grade of Incomplete will not be given except under exceptional circumstances and then only with advance permission.

Be sure that you are familiar with the provisions of the CAS Academic Conduct Code, particularly regarding issues such as plagiarism. It is your obligation to know these rules, copies of which are available in room CAS 105. Any case of suspected academic misconduct will be referred to the Dean's Office.