

«Central Asian Studies World Wide»
Course Syllabi for the Study of Central Eurasia
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Politics of Central Asia (IR 433)
Syllabus for the course offered in Spring 2001
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Dept. of International Relations

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Politics of Central Asia

After the Collapse of Soviet Union, Central Asia, especially the Caspian Sea Energy basin, became one of the major topics in international politics. Because of its vast natural resources, attractive markets, geo-strategy and geopolitics, great powers, China, Russia, the United States and European Union, and regional states, Turkey and Iran, have pursued both hegemonic and conflicting policies toward the region. Some demands to become main route for transportation of regional resources to the world market, others have required to control the regional affairs. For that reason, this course first of all focuses on the debates about possible characteristics of new world order. Then it deals with geo-strategic importance of the region. It touches upon expectations of the Central Asian states. It heavily examines conflicting policies of the great powers and regional states as well as their attempts to weaken the efforts of other side. It analyzes the concepts of Islam, nationalism, drug trafficking and security. Lastly it looks at political and economic integration attempts among the Central Asian states. My expectation is that all students have to carefully read the course book, and then discuss and analyze the foreign policies of the states involved. All students must regularly attend the lecture hours and during the lectures please express your opinions.

Course Outline

Instructor: Ertan Efeğil, Ph.D.

Course Book: Geopolitics of Central Asia in the Post - Cold War era: A Systemic Analysis, (ed.) Ertan Efeğil, Haarlem: Research Center for Turkestan and Azerbaijan, 2002, pp. 560

Week	Subject
1	Debating the New World Order: Global Governance vs. Multipolarity (E. Efeğil)
2	Geopolitical Importance of Central Asia in the Post – Cold War era: A Perspective from Uzbekistan (S. Ganiev)
3	Seeking Alliance by Russia and China against USA (NATO) and Its Implications to Turkey (M. Aca)
4	Orta Asya Üzerine Güç Mücadelesi: Rusya ve Türkiye'nin Baskın Güç Olma İddiaları (E. Sancak)
5	Rusya'nın Kafkasya Siyasetinin Temel Noktaları (A. Ibrahimov)
6	"The Turkish Threat" as a Domestic Policy Factor in Contemporary Russia and Its Foreign Policy Implications (A. Mitrofanova)
7	Turkish Policy in South Caucasus (B. Aras)
8	Research Papers
9	Rise of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Eurasia: Is it an effective tool in a new big game? (I. Bal)
10	American Foreign Policy (

- 11 Russia and The European Union: An Economic and Strategic Partnership (E. H. Kilicbeyli)
- 12 Turkestan Reconsidered: Post - Soviet Dilemmas (P. Akcali)
- 13 Forces of Integration and Disintegration in Central Asia in the Post - Cold War era (R. Abazov)
- 14 Nationalism and Islam in Central Asia: "Truths" or "Fantasies" on Nation (Y. Colak)
- 15 Manipulating Central Asia: The Question of Security (T. Makarenko)
- 16 Final Exam**