

«Central Asian Studies World Wide»
Course Syllabi for the Study of Central Eurasia
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Prof. Michaela Pohl
Central Asia in Transition (History 386)
Syllabus for the course offered in Spring 2002
Vassar College
History Department

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Syllabus**History/International Studies Seminar 386****CENTRAL ASIA IN TRANSITION**

Vassar College, Spring 2002

Thursday, 3:10-5:10 p.m.

Swift 16

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This multidisciplinary seminar explores Central Asia during several great transitions, focusing on former Soviet Central Asia or the "orient" of the Russian Empire. We explore five distinct experiences: Muslim society and tradition, the epoch of the emirates, how Central Asia and the Caucasus became part of the Russian empire, Central Asians under Soviet rule, and the new states of Central Asia after independence in 1991. We explore three broad geographic areas: oases (Transoxania - Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan), mountains (the Caucasus), and steppe (Kazakhstan), and we consider our own location in the USA. The last third of the course focuses on the challenges facing the transition societies of Central Asia. Topics include the cultural and spiritual lives of Central Asians, politics and civil society, war, ethnic conflict, and foreign relations. The course draws on primary and secondary source readings in history, political science, anthropology, memoirs and literature, music and musicology, and travelers' accounts. Seminar participants explore the existing literature on Central Asia as well as online government, media, NGO, and business resources through several graduate-seminar style exercises (oral book report, bibliographic essay, review essay, individual oral final exam).

REQUIRED BOOKS

Chingiz Aitmatov, *Jamila*, translated from the Russian by R.F. Lukner (1999).

Mehrdad Haghayeghi, *Islam and Politics in Central Asia* (1995).

Hafiz Malik, *Central Asia: Its Strategic Importance and Future Prospects* (1994).

Theodore Levin, *The Hundred Thousand Fools of God: Musical Travels in Central Asia (and Queens, New York)* (1996).

Ahmed Rashid, *Jihad: The Rise of Militant Islam in Central Asia* (2002).

REQUIRED RESERVE READINGS

Bibliographies (Allworth, Brower and Lazzerini, ICARP, Richter).

Thomas G. Winner, *The Oral Art and Literature of the Kazakhs of Russian Central Asia* (1958), pp. xi-xiv3-85 (chs. 1-3, "The Kazakh Culture Pattern," "Early Folklore," "The Heroic Epos").

Zeki Velidi Togan, "The Origins of the Kazaks and the Özbeks" (1947), in H. B. Paksoy, *Central Asia Reader: The Rediscovery of History* (1994).

Lesley Blanch, *The Sabres of Paradise* (1960), pp. 45-74, 90-138 (chs. 3-5, "Shamyl," "The Holy War," "The Time of the Shariat," and chs. 7-10, "The Warriors," "The Cossacks," "The Struggle," "The Imam").

Andreas Kappeler, "Colonial Expansion in Asia in the Nineteenth Century," in *The Russian Empire: A Multiethnic History* (2001), pp. 168-212.

Virginia Martin, "Barimta: Nomadic Custom, Imperial Crime," in Brower and Lazzerini, *Russia's Orient: Imperial Borderlands and Peoples, 1700-1917* (1997), pp. 250-270.

Edward J. Lazzerini, "Local Accommodation and Resistance to Colonialism in Nineteenth-Century Crimea," in Brower and Lazzerini, *Russia's Orient: Imperial Borderlands and Peoples, 1700-1917* (1997), pp. 169-187.

Adeeb Khalid, "Representations of Russia in Central Asian Jadid Discourse," in Brower and Lazzerini, *Russia's Orient: Imperial Borderlands and Peoples, 1700-1917* (1997), pp. 188-202.

Jo-Ann Gross, "Historical Memory, Cultural Identity, and Change: Mirza 'Abd al-'Aziz Sami's Representation of the Russian Conquest of Bukhara," in Brower and Lazzerini, *Russia's Orient: Imperial Borderlands and Peoples, 1700-1917* (1997), pp. 204-226.

"Excerpts from the Memoirs of Zeki Velidi Togan," (1969) in H. B. Paksoy, *Central Asia Reader: The Rediscovery of History* (1994), pp. 127-152.

Anna Louise Strong, *Red Star in Samarkand* (1929), chs. 7-8, 9-10, "Problems of Local Government," "Elections and Land Confiscations," "The Homes of the Uzbeks," "Martyrs for Women's Rights," pp. 149-200, 233-275.

Robert Conquest, "Central Asia and the Kazakh Tragedy," in *The Harvest of Sorrow* (1986), pp. 189-198.

Naim Karimov, "Exposing the Murderer of Alpamysh," in H. B. Paksoy, *Central Asia Reader: The Rediscovery of History* (1994), pp. 43-58.

Shoshanna Keller, "Trapped Between State and Society: Women's Liberation and Islam in Soviet Uzbekistan," *Journal of Women's History*, Vol. 10, No. 1 (1998), pp. 20-44.

Robert J. Kaiser, "Social Mobilization in Soviet Central Asia," in Robert A. Lewis, *Geographic Perspectives on Soviet Central Asia*, pp. 251-278.

Michaela Pohl, "The Planet of One Hundred Languages," forthcoming in *Settling the Periphery*, 33 pp.

Olivier Roy, "The Lessons of the Soviet/Afghan War," *Adelphi Papers*, No. 259 (1991), 77 pp.

Alexandre Bennigsen, "The Inner Life of the Sufi Brotherhoods," in *Mystics and Commissars: Sufism in the Soviet Union* (1985) pp. 76-114.

Cynthia Ann Werner, "The Dynamics of Feasting and Gift Exchange in Rural Kazakstan," in Ingvor Svanberg, *Contemporary Kazaks: Cultural and Social Perspectives* (1999), pp. 47-72.

Evgeny A. Zhovtis, "Freedom of Association and the Question of Its Realization in Kazakhstan," in Holt Ruffin, *Civil Society in Central Asia* (1999), pp. 57-70.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Attendance and participation. Complete the readings listed in the schedule each week and participate regularly in discussions. Hand in assignments when they are due. Late assignments and more than two unexcused absences will result in lowered grades (half of a letter grade each day after the deadline or missed day). Informed and active participation accounts for 20% of your grade.

Assignments.

Four brief responses, on the following topics: Week 2 - Jamila, Week 4 - Shamil, Week 5 - Communism in Central Asia, Week 10 - Holy Fools. 3 pp. each.

Oral book report. Copy title page, introduction or preface, maps, table of content, and bibliography of one Central Asian studies book (choose a book from the list Central Asian Transition Readers posted on Blackboard, in Course Material, folder "Week 3"). Bring the copies to class and present a brief description of the book to the class. TOC's to be posted on Blackboard course web. Week 3.

Bibliographic and on-line resource essay. First version to be posted on course web by March 7 (Week 7) and updated after NYPL trip (Weeks 9-10) and at end of semester (final revision accepted May 7). 10-15 pp. Details on Blackboard.

Review Essay. Comparative review essay on three monographs or comparable works (scholarly articles, films, memoirs). One must be from Review Essay Book List, see Blackboard course web. 10-15 pp. Week 11.

Seminar field trip to NYPL. Group research for the bibliographic and review essays and for the short paper in the Edward Allworth Central Asian collection. After Spring break, Week 9.

Short Paper. 8-10 p. Week 14, May 7. Details on Blackboard.

Oral Final Exam. - May 15-17, 2002, Exam week. Details on Blackboard and in class.

Please set up an appointment early in the semester (weeks 5 and 6, February 19 and 26) to discuss your plans for the bibliographic and review essays, and for your short paper. Check the Blackboard site for this course <http://blackboard.vassar.edu> for more detailed instructions on each of these assignments.

Grade distribution. Attendance and participation 20%, Response Papers 10%, Bibliographic Essay 20%, Review Essay 20%, Short Paper 20%, Final Exam 10%.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Students with Disabilities. Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities who are registered with the Office of Disability and Support Services. Please schedule an appointment with me early in the semester to discuss any accommodations for this course which have been approved by the Director of Disability and Support Services as indicated in your accommodation letter.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS

The format of the classes will usually be a lecture, including visual materials and film clips, followed by discussion of the readings. Assignments are due at the beginning of class during the week listed, unless otherwise noted.

Week 1

Thursday, January 24
Introductory Meeting

Week 2

Thursday, January 31
Self and adat

Chingiz Aitmatov, *Jamila* (1999).

Thomas G. Winner, *The Oral Art and Literature of the Kazakhs of Russian Central Asia* (1958), pp. xi-xiv, 3-85 (chs. 1-3, "The Kazakh Culture Pattern," "Early Folklore," "The Heroic Epos").

RESPONSE PAPER - JAMILA

Week 3

Thursday, February 7
Dastarkhan
Physical geography, regions, populations
Americans and Central Asia

Maps (distributed week 2 and in Central Asian readers).

Zeki Velidi Togan, "The Origins of the Kazaks and the Özbeks" (1947), in H. B. Paksoy, *Central Asia Reader: The Rediscovery of History* (1994), pp. 25-39.

Mehrdad Haghayeghi, *Islam and Politics in Central Asia*, maps, pp. x-xii, xv-xxiv, 1-10, 73-84, 166-171 ("Central Asia and the Czarist Legacy," "Sedentary Versus tribal Societies," "Ethnic Lineage: The Old and the New.")

Hafeez Malik, "Central Asia's Geopolitical Significance and Problems of Independence: An Introduction," in Malik, ed., *Central Asia: Its Strategic Importance and Future Prospects* (1994), ch. 1, pp. 1-20.

Graham E. Fuller, "Central Asia and American National Interests," in Malik, *Central Asia*, ch. 8, pp. 129-141.

MAP QUIZ

ORAL BOOK REPORT

Week 4

Thursday, February 14

The mountains and the steppe

Resistance to Russian colonial expansion

Lesley Blanch, *The Sabres of Paradise* (1960), pp. 45-74, 90-138 (chs. 3-5, "Shamyl," "The Holy War," "The Time of the Shariat," and chs. 7-10, "The Warriors," "The Cossacks," "The Struggle," "The Imam").

Andreas Kappeler, "Colonial Expansion in Asia in the Nineteenth Century," in *The Russian Empire: A Multiethnic History* (2001), pp. 168-212.

Seymour Becker, "The Russian Conquest of Central Asia and Kazakhstan: Motives, Methods, Consequences," in Malik, *Central Asia*, ch. 2, pp. 21-38.

Virginia Martin, "Barimta: Nomadic Custom, Imperial Crime," in Brower and Lazzarini, *Russia's Orient: Imperial Borderlands and Peoples, 1700-1917* (1997), pp. 250-270.

RESPONSE PAPER - SHAMIL

Week 5

Thursday, February 21

The Oases

Jadidism

Edward J. Lazzarini, "Local Accommodation and Resistance to Colonialism in Nineteenth-Century Crimea," in Brower and Lazzarini, *Russia's Orient: Imperial Borderlands and Peoples, 1700-1917* (1997), pp. 169-187.

Adeeb Khalid, "Representations of Russia in Central Asian Jadid Discourse," in Brower and Lazzarini, *Russia's Orient: Imperial Borderlands and Peoples, 1700-1917* (1997), pp. 188-202.

Jo-Ann Gross, "Historical Memory, Cultural Identity, and Change: Mirza 'Abd al-'Aziz Sami's Representation of the Russian Conquest of Bukhara," in Brower and Lazzerini, *Russia's Orient: Imperial Borderlands and Peoples, 1700-1917* (1997), pp. 204-226.

Abdujabbar A. Abduvakhitov, "The Jadid Movement and Its Impact on Contemporary Central Asia," in Malik, *Central Asia*, ch. 4, pp. 65-75.

Week 6

Thursday, February 28

Storm over Asia

Bolsheviks and Stalinism

Haghighyehi, "Islam under Communism," in *Islam and Politics*, pp. 10-28.

Stephen Blank, "Soviet Reconquest of Central Asia," in Malik, *Central Asia*, pp. 39-64.

Shoshanna Keller, "Trapped Between State and Society: Women's Liberation and Islam in Soviet Uzbekistan," *Journal of Women's History*, Vol. 10, No. 1 (1998), pp. 20-44.

"Excerpts from the Memoirs of Zeki Velidi Togan," (1969) in H. B. Paksoy, *Central Asia Reader: The Rediscovery of History* (1994), pp. 127-152.

Robert Conquest, "Central Asia and the Kazakh Tragedy," in *The Harvest of Sorrow* (1986), pp. 189-198.

Naim Karimov, "Exposing the Murderer of Alpamysh," in H. B. Paksoy, *Central Asia Reader: The Rediscovery of History* (1994), pp. 43-58.

Anna Louise Strong, *Red Star in Samarkand* (1929), chs. 7-8, 9-10, "Problems of Local Government," "Elections and Land Confiscations," "The Homes of the Uzbeks," "Martyrs for Women's Rights," pp. 149-200, 233-275.

RESPONSE PAPER - COMMUNISM IN CENTRAL ASIA

Week 7

Thursday, March 7

Frozen Planet

Haghighyehi, "The Post-Stalinist Era," (up to 1985) in *Islam and Politics*, pp. 29-54.

Robert J. Kaiser, "Social Mobilization in Soviet Central Asia," in Robert A. Lewis, *Geographic Perspectives on Soviet Central Asia*, pp. 251-278.

Michaela Pohl, "The Planet of One Hundred Languages: Ethnic Relations and Soviet Identity in the Virgin Lands," forthcoming in *Settling the Periphery*, 33 pp.

Ted Levin, ch. 1, "Tashkent" in *The Hundred Thousand Fools of God* (preferably up to p. 51, esp. pp. 45-51, "Frozen Music").

FIRST VERSION OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC ESSAY

SPRING BREAK MARCH 8-24

Week 8

Thursday, March 28
Afghanistan

Olivier Roy, "The Lessons of the Soviet/Afghan War," *Adelphi Papers*, No. 259 (1991), 77 pp.
Malik, *Central Asia*, chs. 5-7, pp. 77-128.

Week 9

NYPL - Visit to Edward Allworth Collection

Ted Levin, *The Hundred Thousand Fools of God*, chs. 1-3, browse ch. 7, pp. xiii-xix, 1-156, 260-287.

UPDATE BIBLIOGRAPHIC ESSAY

Week 10

Thursday
Spiritual and musical life in transition

Ted Levin, *The Hundred Thousand Fools of God*, chs. 6-7, pp. 242-287.
Alexandre Bennigsen, "The Inner Life of the Sufi Brotherhoods," in *Mystics and Commissars: Sufism in the Soviet Union* (1985) pp. 76-114.

RESPONSE PAPER - FOOLS OF GOD

Week 11

Thursday
Politics, civil society, and economy since 1989/1991
Central Asia's glasnost period

Haghayeghi, "Gorbachev," "Democratic Drive, Government and Politics," in *Islam and Politics*, pp. 54-70, 101-164.

Cynthia Ann Werner, "The Dynamics of Feasting and Gift Exchange in Rural Kazakhstan," in Ingvar Svanberg, *Contemporary Kazaks: Cultural and Social Perspectives* (1999), pp. 47-72.

Evgeny A. Zhovtis, "Freedom of Association and the Question of Its Realization in Kazakhstan," in Holt Ruffin, *Civil Society in Central Asia* (1999), pp. 57-70.

REVIEW ESSAY

Week 12

Thursday
Islam and ethnic relations

Haghayeghi, "Islam and Ethnic Relations," in *Islam and Politics*, pp. 85-99, 172-206.
Malik, *Central Asia*, chs. 11-13, pp. 195-248.

Week 13

Thursday

TBA, reading: Rashid if available

SHORT PAPER

FINAL UPDATE OF BIBLIOGRAPHIC ESSAY

MAY 7, 2002, 5 p.m., Swift 36

ORAL FINAL EXAM, MAY 15-17, 2002 (DETAILS TBA)