

«Central Asian Studies World Wide»
Course Syllabi for the Study of Central Eurasia
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Introduction to the Social Anthropology of Central Asia
Syllabus for the course offered in 2002
University of Vienna
Institute for Social and Cultural Anthropology

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„Introduction to the Social Anthropology of Central Asia“:

This course is for undergraduates (that is students in their first or second year of studies in social anthropology). The aim of this course is to give a broad and general overview on the peoples of Central Asia, their social structure, history, culture and religion.

This course is held for one semester, covering 2 hours per week. It is given on a two year's basis.

A written course script in German is available for the students.

Contents:

- I. How to define Central Asia
 - I.1. Geographical and Cultural Criteria
- II. Explaining the Term Central Asia
 - II.1. The Term „Turkestan“
 - II.2. The Terms „Central Asia“ and „Middle Asia“
 - II.3. Terms for some important areas in Central Asia (e.g. Choresm, Chorasan)
- III. The Physiography and Climate of Central Asia
 - III.1. The Climate of Central Asia
 - III.2. The Agricultural Zones and the Geographic Regions of Central Asia
 - The Mountains of Central Asia
 - The Oasis of Central Asia
 - The Rivers and Lakes of Central Asia
 - The Steppes of Central Asia
 - The Deserts of Central Asia
- IV. The Economic Potential of Central Asia
 - Oasis Cultures and Pastoral Nomadism
 - IV.1. The Agricultural Activities
 - The History of Agriculture in Central Asia
 - Irrigation and Agriculture
 - The Function of the Oasis
 - The Importance of Water and the Various Forms of Irrigation
 - The Agricultural Production in the Oasis
 - Dry Farming in Central Asia („Bogara-Culture“)
 - The Land Ownership Systems in Traditional Central Asian Agriculture
 - The Changes in the Agricultural Production of Central Asia
 - Overview over the Current Agricultural Production in Central Asia
 - Expanding the Irrigation Systems in the Soviet Period and its Effects
 - Ecological, Social and Political Problems Related to the Cotton Monoculture in Central Asia
 - The „Aralsee-Problem“ as a Case Study
 - IV.2. Central Asian Pastoral Nomadism and its Various Forms
 - The Term Nomadism
 - Full Nomads

- Part Time Nomads
- Full Sedentary People
- Part Time Sedentary People
- Defining Part Time Nomads and Part Time Sedentary People
- Nomadic Economy and Life Style and their Importance
- The Animals of the Nomads
- The Economic Usage of the Various Herd Animals
- The Pastures and their Importance
- The Importance of Water and Labour for Nomadism
- Other Economic Activities of the Nomads
- The Relation Between Nomads and Peasants
- The Relations Between the Nomads and the State
- The Current Situation of Nomadism in Central Asia
- The Various Forms of Pastoral Nomadism in Central Asia
- The Effects of Soviet Collectivization on the Central Asian Nomads
- The Current Forms of Animal Husbandry in Central Asia
- Case Study: the Achal-Tekke-Turkmen
- IV.3. The Communication Systems in Central Asia
 - The Silk Road
 - The Cultural and Historic Importance of Central Asia
 - The Oasis and their Importance
- V. Overview of the History of Central Asia
 - V.1. The Early Period
 - V.2. The Emergence of the Central Asian Horse Nomads
 - V.3. The Historical Development of Central Asia (from 500 B.C. to the Present)
 - The Scythians (Saka)
 - The Achaemenid Empire (530 to 330 B.C.)
 - The Graeco-Bactrian Empire (250 to 130 B.C.)
 - The Empire of the Hsiung-nu
 - The Kushan-Empire (2nd century B.C. to 2nd century A.D.)
 - The Sassanids (224 to 651 A.D.)
 - The Hephtalites (White Huns)
 - The First Turk Empire
 - Developments in the Western Turk Empire
 - Developments on the Territory of the Former Eastern Turk Empire
 - The Empire of the K k-Turk (682 to 744 A.D.)
 - The Uighur Empire (744 to 840 A.D.)
 - The Kirghiz Empire (840 to 924 A.D.)
 - The Kara-Kitai Empire (907 to 1213 A.D.)
 - The Empire of the Qarluq (since 744 A.D.)
 - Developments in the Western Part of Central Asia - the Establishment of Islamic Rulership in Central Asia
 - The Empire of the Samanids (874 to 999 A.D.)
 - The Ghaznavi-Dynasty (962 to 1187 A.D.)
 - The Karakhanids (999 to 1212 A.D.)
 - The Selcuks
 - The Khorezm Shahs (4th century to 1219 A.D.)
 - The Mongol Empire
 - The Developments of the Mongolian Core Areas and the Heirs of Chengiz Khan
 - The Empire of the Golden Horde
 - Timur Lenk (1336 to 1405) and the Timurids

- The Uzbeks (1500 to 1868)
- The Shaibanids
- The Uzbek Khanates before the Russian Conquest
 1. The Khanate / Emirate of Bukhara
 2. The Khanate of Khiva
 3. The Khanate of Kokand
- Developments in other Parts of Central Asia
 1. The Turkmens
 2. The Kazakhs
 3. The Kirghiz
- The Russian Conquest of the Western Part of Central Asia
- The Russian Conquest of the Kazakh Steppe
- The Russian Conquest of the Southern Parts of Central Asia
- The Establishment of Soviet Rulership in Central Asia
- V.4. The Historical Development in East-Turkestan
- V.5. The Historical Development in Mongolia
- VI. The Languages and Ethnic Groups in Ventral Asia
 - Introductory Remarks
 - Some Remarks on Identity and Ethnicity among the Central Asian Peoples, in particular the Turkic Peoples
- VI.1. The Languages of Central Asia
 - VI.1.1. The Altaic Languages
 - VI.1.1.1. The Turkic Languages
 - VI.1.1.2. The Mongolian Languages
 - VI.1.1.3. The Manchu-Tungus Languages
 - VI.1.2. The Iranian Languages
 - The Scripts Used in Central Asia
 - Some Remarks on Ethnic Identity and Language
- VI.2. The Ethnic Groups of Central Asia
 - The Administrative Structure in Central Asia
 1. in the Former Soviet Union
 2. in the Mongolian Republic
 3. in the Peoples Republic of China
 - The Peoples of Western Central Asia and their Demographic Development
 - The Ethno-Linguistic Set-up of the Peoples of the Former Soviet Republic of Central Asia
 - The Demographic Development in the Former Central Asian Soviet Republics
- VI.2.1. The Central Asian Turkic Peoples
 - The Turkmens
 - The Kazakhs
 - The Karakalpaks
 - The Kirghiz
 - The Uzbeks
 - The Uigurs
 - The Salar, Dolan und Sera Yogur
 - The Turkic Peoples of Siberia
 - The Altai-Turks/ the Oiroi
 - The Khakass
 - The Shor
 - The Tuvinians
 - The Various Other Turkic Peoples, that came to Central Asia
 - The Meshketians

- The Various Tatar Groups
- VI.2.2. The Iranian Speaking Peoples
 - The Tajiks
 - The „Mountain Tajiks“, the Pamiris or Galchahs
 - The Yagnobis
 - The Persians/ Iranis/ Ironi
 - The Baluch
 - The Afghans/ Pashtuns
- VI.2.3. Various others Groups in the Western Part of Central Asia
 - The Central Asian Arabs
 - The Central Asian Jews
 - The Dungans
 - The Central Asian Gypsies
- VI.2.4. The Mongolian Peoples of Central Asia
- VII. The Religious Notions of the Peoples of Central Asia
 - VII.1. Zoroastrianism
 - VII.2. Manichaeism
 - VII.3. Buddhism
 - VII.4. Nestorian Christians
 - VII.5. Judaism
 - VII.6. The Religions of the Early Turks and Mongols
 - VII.6.1. The Religion of the Early Turks
 - VII.6.2. The Religious Concepts of the Mongols
 - The Shaman, his Tasks and his Relevance in Societies
 - VII.7. Islam in Central Asia
 - The Basics of Islam and the Peculiarities of Central Asian Islam
 - Sunni Islam
 - Shia-Islam: The Imamis or Ithna Ashari or „Twelver Shiites“
 - The Ismailis
 - Sufism
 - Folk Islam
 - The Islam of the Ulema
- VIII. The Socio-Political Structures in Central Asia
 - VIII.1. Kinship and Marriage in Central Asia
 - VIII.2. Social Networks and Alliance Formation in Central Asia
 - VIII.3. Tribes, Tribal Confederations and State Formation in Central Asia
 - VIII.3. Local Politics Versus State Politics

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