Asst.Prof. Mag. Dr. Gabriele Rasuly-Paleczek
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. Chorasm, 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
  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 Kök-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 Seljuks
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 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 Oirot
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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