

Course Title	: HISTORY OF CENTRAL ASIA: FROM THE SILK ROAD TO THE BELT AND ROAD
Course Code	: HST3003
Recommended Study Year	: 2, 3 or 4
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Sectional
Class Contact Hours	: 3 hours per week
Category in Major Prog.	: Category 3 Elective: Non-China Asian History
Prerequisite(s)	: None
Co-requisite(s)	: None
Exemption Requirement(s)	: None

Brief Course Description

The course is a survey of Central Asian history from the Mongol Empire to the present, with a particular focus on the last two centuries. The course will focus on historical events on the territory of Xinjiang and of the present-day states of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan, connecting them to contemporary global developments, and especially to China, Russia, and Mongolia. The course will analyze political, economic, cultural and social developments in the region.

Aims

The objective of this course will be to give students a fundamental understanding of Central Asian history, while also placing developments in the region within a global context.

Learning Outcomes

Students completing this course will be able to:

1. Recall, describe, discuss and explain the major global and local forces that have influenced the direction of Central Asian history;
2. Synthesize information from various sources in order to construct, and evaluate, complex arguments;
3. Present and articulate arguments orally;
4. Analyze different sources of information within their political and cultural contexts;
5. Write effective analytical papers;
6. Connect current political and economic developments in Central Asia with their historical background.

Indicative Content

1. The Geographical and Environmental Setting
2. The Turkic and Persian Cultural Traditions in Central Asia
3. The Silk Roads in the Middle Ages
4. The Mongol Empire and Central Asia
5. Islamic institutions in Central Asian society
6. Empire-building under Timur,
7. The emergence of Uzbeks and Kazakhs
8. The Shaybanids Dynasty
9. The Dzungar Empire and Central Asia
10. The Qing and Central Asia
11. Russian Conquest
12. Local Society and Institutions under Colonial Administration
13. From Yakub Beg's Rule to the Qing Creation of Xinjiang
14. Muslim Cultural Reform Movements
15. World War I and the Great 1916 Revolt
16. Revolution and Civil War in Central Asia
17. Xinjiang and the Chinese Republic
18. Soviet Rule and Nation-Building
19. Soviet Policies towards Women
20. Stalinism in Central Asia
21. Migrations, Deportations, and Central Asian Society
22. The Impact of World War II
23. Communist Rule in Xinjiang
24. Cotton Monoculture and Creeping Environmental Disaster
25. Central Asia during the Late Soviet Union
26. The Soviet Collapse and Post-Soviet State-Building
27. China and Central Asia at the Beginning of the 21st Century

Teaching Method

Lectures will be designed to provide students with a basic background in Central Asian history. Primary source readings, methodological issues and comparative approaches will be discussed in class.

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

- (a) Quizzes will assess the degree of understanding of basic facts, timeline and terminology in the history of Central Asia (L.O. 1. above)
- (b) Oral presentations and structured discussions will assess the ability in synthesizing information, in evaluating arguments found in the literature (L.O. 2. above) and in presenting them orally (L.O. 3. above).
- (c) The final paper will assess students' ability in analyzing primary and secondary sources, and using them in their own analytical arguments (L.O. 4. and L.O. 5. above);
- (d) Both the final paper and the in-class discussions will assess the ability of connecting historical issues and the evolution of specific institutions with current developments in Central Asia (L.O. 6. above).

Assessment

Quizzes	30%
Final Paper	30%
Oral presentations and structured discussions	30%
Class Participation	10%

Essential Readings (selected parts)

- Di Cosmo, Nicola, Allen J. Frank, and Peter B. Golden, (eds.) *The Cambridge History of Inner Asia: The Chinggisid Age*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2009.
- Jacobs, Justin M. *Xinjiang and the Modern Chinese State*. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 2016.
- Khalid, Adeb, *Islam after Communism. Religion and Politics in Central Asia*, Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2007.
- Levi, Scott C. and Sela, Ron, eds, *Islamic Central Asia. An Anthology of Historical Sources*, Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 2010.
- Millward, James. *Eurasian Crossroads: A History of Xinjiang*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2007.
- Perdue, Peter C. *China Marches West: The Qing Conquest of Central Eurasia*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2005

Supplementary Readings

- Amitai, Reuven, and Michal Biran, *Mongols, Turks, and Others: Eurasian Nomads and the Sedentary World*. Leiden: Brill, 2005.
- Amitai-Preiss, Reuven, and David Morgan (eds), *The Mongol Empire and its Legacy*.

- Leiden: Brill, 1999.
- Beckwith, Christopher. *Empires of the Silk Road: A History of Central Eurasia from the Bronze Age to the Present*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009.
- Beissinger, Mark R. *Nationalist Mobilization and the Collapse of the Soviet State*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.
- Brophy, David. *Uyghur Nation: Reform and Revolution on the Russia-China Frontier*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2016.
- Crews, Robert. *For Prophet and Tsar: Islam and Empire in Russia and Central Asia*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2006.
- Crossley, Pamela Kyle, Helen F. Siu, and Donald S. Sutton, (eds.) *Empire At the Margins: Culture, Ethnicity, and Frontier in Early Modern China*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2006.
- Di Cosmo, Nicola. "State Formation and Periodization in Inner Asian History." *Journal of World History* 10, no. 1 (1999): 1-40.
- Edgar, Adrienne, *Tribal Nation. The Making of Soviet Turkmenistan*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006.
- Fletcher, Joseph. "The Mongols: Ecological and Social Perspectives." *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 46, no. 1 (1986): 11-50.
- Forbes Manz, Beatrice, *The Rise and Rule of Tamerlane*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989.
- Hansen, Valerie. *The Silk Road: A New History*. Oxford University Press, 2012.
- Kamp, M., *The New Women in Uzbekistan: Islam, Modernity, and Unveiling Under Communism*, Seattle, Wash.: University of Washington Press, 2006.
- Khalid, Adeeb, *Making Uzbekistan: Nation, Empire, and Revolution in the Early USSR*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2015.
- Khalid, Adeeb, *The Politics of Muslim Cultural Reform: Jadidism in Central Asia*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998.
- Lattimore, Owen. *Studies in Frontier History: Collected Papers, 1928-1958*. Paris: Mouton, 1962.
- Lieven, Dominic, ed., *The Cambridge History of Russia, vol. 2, Imperial Russia: 1689-1917*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- Liu, Xinru. "Silks and Religions in Eurasia, c. A.D. 600–1200." *Journal of World History* 6, no. 1 (1995): 25-48.
- Martin, Terry and Suny, Ronald G., eds, *A State of Nations: Empire and Nation-Building in the Age of Lenin and Stalin*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.
- Rossabi, Morris (ed.), *Governing China's Multiethnic Frontiers*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2004.
- Sartori, Paolo, *Visions of Justice: Sharia and Cultural Change in Russian Central Asia*.

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Sneath, David, *The Headless State. Aristocratic Orders, Kinship Society, and Misrepresentations of Nomadic Inner Asia*, New York, Columbia University Press, 2007.

Soucek, Svat. *A History of Inner Asia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000.

Suny, Ronald Grigor, ed., *The Structure of Soviet History. Essays and Documents*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.

Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.