

**HISTORY 404/543: CENTRAL ASIA  
SPRING 2016**

Professor Nathan Brooks

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Office: Breland 240

Office Hours: Tuesdays 3:00-4:00  
Wednesdays 4:00-5:30; or by appointment

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**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

This course will explore the history of Central Asia (also known as Inner Asia) from its pre-history to the present day. While the borders of Central Asia are not easy to define with precision, most consider it to extend from the Caspian Sea in the west to western China (present-day Xinjiang) and Mongolia in the east, and from Siberia in the north to the Hindu Kush and Afghanistan in the south. Another way of looking at the region is that it contains the "stans" from the former Soviet Union (Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Kirgizstan), along with Afghanistan, and Xinjiang, and Mongolia. Some exclude Xinjiang and Mongolia from this definition, but this course will include these regions in our coverage. The importance of Central Asia has long been illustrated by the image of the Silk Road, but more recently scholars have focused more attention on the region itself rather than just as a conduit for other civilizations. As one scholar puts it, Central Asia is not just a crossroads of civilizations, it is a crossroads civilization itself. This course will present a broad look at Central Asia's economy, society, politics, culture, religions, and other aspects in the ancient, medieval, and modern eras.

Since this is an upper-division seminar we will use an analytic approach, favoring understanding of themes, connections, and cultural implications. Discussion of readings will take up a large portion of class time. Students are expected to participate in and lead discussion of assigned reading.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

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

Scott C. Levi and Ron Sela, eds., *Islamic Central Asia. An Anthology of Historical Sources*. Indiana University Press, 2010.

Rafis Abazov. *The Palgrave Concise Historical Atlas of Central Asia*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.

Peter B. Golden. *Central Asia in World History*. Oxford, 2011.

Other readings will be posted on Canvas in pdf format.

## **GRADING:**

**Class Participation and Discussion.** [300 points possible] Since this is a seminar, class participation and discussion are vital to the success of the course. Students will be expected to come to class having done the assigned readings and be prepared to talk about these readings in terms of both content and analysis.

**Map Quizzes.** [2 x 25 points possible] Since the area of the world we will be examining in this course is likely unfamiliar to many of the students in this class, there will be two map quizzes in this course. The items for the map quizzes will be announced ahead of time in order to allow students to prepare for the in-class quizzes.

**Writing Assignments.** [3 x 100 points possible] There will be three shorter writing assignments (3-5 pages) required for this course. These writing assignments will focus mainly on the primary source readings for this course, both from the required books as well as additional readings in pdf format provided on Canvas. Further instructions about the individual assignments will be posted on Canvas. Students should submit their assignments both to the Canvas site as well as hand in a hard copy of each assignment in class.

**Research Paper.** [350 points possible] There will be a major research paper for this course due at the end of the course. The topic for the research paper can be on any topic relevant to the overall themes of the course. Students need to consult with at least one of the instructors about their choice of topic for the research paper and should settle on a topic by February 24 at the latest.

Class participation and Discussion	300 points
Map Quizzes (2 x 25)	50 points
Writing Assignments (3 x 100)	300 points
Research Paper	350 points

1000 points possible

## **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES/ADA POLICY**

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) covers issues relating to disability and accommodations. If a student has questions or needs an accommodation in the classroom (all medical information is treated confidentially), contact:

Trudy Luken, Director  
Student Accessibility Services (SAS) - Corbett Center, Rm. 244  
Phone: (575) 646-6840 E-mail: [sas@nmsu.edu](mailto:sas@nmsu.edu)  
Website: <http://sas.nmsu.edu/>

NMSU policy prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, retaliation, serious medical condition, sex, sexual orientation, spousal affiliation and protected veterans status.

Furthermore, Title IX prohibits sex discrimination to include sexual misconduct: sexual violence (sexual assault, rape), sexual harassment and retaliation.

For more information on discrimination issues, Title IX, Campus SaVE Act, NMSU Policy Chapter 3.25, NMSU's complaint process, or to file a complaint contact:

Gerard Nevarez, Title IX Coordinator  
Agustin Diaz, Title IX Deputy Coordinator  
Office of Institutional Equity (OIE) - O'Loughlin House, 1130 University Avenue  
Phone: (575) 646-3635 E-mail: [equity@nmsu.edu](mailto:equity@nmsu.edu)  
Website: <http://www.nmsu.edu/~eeo/>

### **Other NMSU Resources:**

NMSU Police Department:	(575) 646-3311
<a href="http://www.nmsupolice.com">www.nmsupolice.com</a>	
NMSU Police Victim Services:	(575) 646-3424
NMSU Counseling Center:	(575) 646-2731
NMSU Dean of Students:	(575) 646-1722
For Any On-campus Emergencies:	911

The Teaching Academy has excellent resources for the development and review of syllabi. For more information please visit  
<http://teaching.nmsu.edu/Resources/rubrics/index.html>

E-mail address: Entering students are informed that we will only use their NMSU e-mail address so we have an efficient and reliable method of contacting students. Note that students can forward their mail to any current use e-mail address. You may want to indicate on your syllabus if you will only be using NMSU e-mail or Canvas to communicate with your students.

**\*\*A point of clarification:** If a student drops by 5pm on the last day to cancel a class –a “W” will not appear on his /her transcript. After the last day to cancel a class and up to the deadline to drop a course with a “W” will appear on the transcript and the student will not receive a refund of any tuition.

## **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

Any student found guilty of academic misconduct shall be subject to disciplinary action. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, the following actions:

1. Cheating or knowingly assisting another student in committing an act of cheating or other forms of academic dishonesty.
  
2. Plagiarism is using another person’s work without acknowledgment, making it appear to be one’s own. Any ideas, words, pictures, or other source must be acknowledged in a citation that gives credit to the source. This is true no matter where the material comes from, including the internet, other student’s work, unpublished materials, or oral sources. Intentional and unintentional instances of plagiarism are considered instances of academic misconduct. It is the responsibility of the student submitting the work in question to know, understand, and comply with this policy. If no citation is given, then borrowing any of the following would be an example of plagiarism:
  - ❖ An idea or opinion, even when put into one’s own words (paraphrase).
  - ❖ A few well-said words, if these are a unique insight.
  - ❖ Many words, even if one changes most of them.
  - ❖ Materials assembled by others, for instance, quotes or a bibliography.
  - ❖ An argument.
  - ❖ A pattern or idea.
  - ❖ Graphs, pictures, or other illustrations.
  - ❖ Facts.
  - ❖ All or part of an existing paper or other resource.

This list is not meant to include all possible examples of plagiarism. See the University Library's web page on plagiarism for further examples:

<http://lib.nmsu.edu/plagiarism/>

**WITHDRAWALS:** It is your responsibility to complete all of the assignments. The instructor will not automatically drop students for not participating in this class. Please note that Arts and Sciences students do not need to obtain the instructor or department head's signatures when they drop classes. No withdrawals from individual courses are allowed after the mid-point of the semester.

**S/U:** The minimum standard for an S grade in this course is a C-.

**\*\* NOTE: THE INSTRUCTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES IN THE ASSIGNMENTS AND /OR SCHEDULE AS THE COURSE PROGRESSES. \*\***

## **CLASS SCHEDULE**

### **WEEK ONE: January 20**

#### **INTRODUCTION: CENTRAL ASIA -- PEOPLES AND GEOGRAPHY**

##### **REQUIRED READING:**

Soucek, 1-45  
Abazov, Maps 1-5  
Golden, 1-34  
Levi and Sela, Introduction, 1-4

### **WEEK TWO: January 27**

#### **EARLY CENTRAL ASIA**

##### **REQUIRED READING:**

Soucek, 46-69  
Golden, 35-62  
Abazov, Maps 6-13  
Levi and Sela, 7-21

### **WEEK THREE: February 3**

#### **ISLAMIC CENTRAL ASIA AND THE TURKS**

##### **REQUIRED READING:**

Soucek, 70-101  
Golden, 63-75  
Abazov, Maps 14-21  
Levi and Sela, 23-44, 55-59, 73-89

**WEEK FOUR: February 10**

**CHINGGIS KHAN AND THE RISE OF THE MONGOL EMPIRE**

REQUIRED READING:

Soucek, 103-122  
Golden, 76-90  
Abazov, Maps 22-24  
Levi and Sela, 115-137

Map quiz 1 in class

**WEEK FIVE: February 17**

**EURASIA UNDER MONGOL RULE**

REQUIRED READING:

Levi and Sela, 139-158  
Christian, "The Mongol Empire," (pdf on Canvas)  
Morgan, "Nature and Institutions of the Mongol Empire" (pdf on Canvas)  
Biran, "The Mongol Transformation" (pdf on Canvas)

**WEEK SIX: February 24**

**THE RISE OF TAMERLANE AND HIS EMPIRE**

REQUIRED READING:

Soucek, 123-143  
Golden, 91-104  
Abazov, Map 25  
Levi and Sela, 165-180

DUE: Writing Assignment 1

**WEEK SEVEN: March 2**

**THE “TIMURID RENAISSANCE” AND LEGACY**

**REQUIRED READING:**

Soucek, 144-148

Abazov, Map 26

Manz, “Tamerlane’s Career” (pdf on Canvas)

Balabanililar, “Lords of the Auspicious Conjunction” (pdf on Canvas)

Levi and Sela, 181-196

**WEEK EIGHT: March 9**

**EARLY MODERN CENTRAL ASIA**

**REQUIRED READING:**

Abazov, Map 27

Levi and Sela, 204-225

Millward, “Between Islam and China” (pdf on Canvas)

**WEEK NINE: March 16**

**THE UZBEKS AND CENTRAL ASIA**

**REQUIRED READING:**

Soucek, 149-175

Golden, 105-121

Abazov, Map 28

Levi and Sela, 227-239

DUE: Writing Assignment 2



**WEEK TEN: March 30**

**CENTRAL ASIA IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY**

**REQUIRED READING:**

Soucek, 177-193

Abazov, Maps 29-30

Levi and Sela, 247-280

Bodgar, "Change and Tradition in 18<sup>th</sup> c. Kazakhstan" (pdf on Canvas)

**WEEK ELEVEN: April 8**

**THE GREAT GAME AND RUSSIAN EXPANSION INTO CENTRAL ASIA**

**REQUIRED READING:**

Soucek, 195-208

Golden, 122-139

Abazov, Maps 31-32

Levi and Sela, 281-305

Saray, "The Russian Conquest of Central Asia" (pdf on Canvas)

**WEEK TWELVE: April 13**

**SOVIET CENTRAL ASIA**

**REQUIRED READING:**

Glen, "The Soviet Legacy in Central Asia," 73-98 (pdf on Canvas)

Hirsch, "Toward an Empire of Nations" (pdf on Canvas)

Northrop, "Languages of Loyalty" (pdf on Canvas)

Schram, ed., "Marxism and Asia," 168-169, 173-185 (pdf on Canvas)

**WEEK THIRTEEN: April 20**

**INDEPENDENT CENTRAL ASIA**

**REQUIRED READING:**

- McFaul, “The Fourth Wave of Democracy and Dictatorship” (pdf on Canvas)
- Way and Levitsky, “The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism” (pdf on Canvas)
- Khalid, “Islam After Communism” 140-190 (pdf on Canvas)
- Everyday Life in Central Asia, 233-247, 305-318, 355-370 (pdf on Canvas)

**WEEK FOURTEEN: April 27**

**AFGHANISTAN, XINJIANG, AND MONGOLIA**

**REQUIRED READING:**

- Jones, “The Rise of Afghanistan’s Insurgency,” (pdf on Canvas)
- Han, “From Domestic to International: Ethnic Identity” (pdf on Canvas)

DUE: Writing Assignment 3

**WEEK FIFTEEN: May 4**

**THE FUTURE OF CENTRAL ASIA**

NO REQUIRED READINGS FOR THIS WEEK

Map Quiz 2 in class

**WEEK SIXTEEN: May 11**

**SEMESTER CULMINATING EXPERIENCE**

DUE: Research Paper