

HISTORY 418
CENTRAL ASIA and AFGHANISTAN, TWENTIETH CENTURY

Course Syllabus (#10675), Fall 2021

Dr. Ali İĞMEN, CSULB

Mondays & Wednesdays 9:30-10:45 a.m.

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Office hours: Mondays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. & 4:00 –6:00 p.m.

Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. & 4:00 –5:00 p.m.

Zoom link for advising and office hours: <https://csulb.zoom.us/j/5443958955>

IMPORTANT NOTICE for HISTORY MAJORS:

The History Department now requires majors to move through a sequence of courses that begins with History 301, is followed by History 302, and culminates in a senior seminar (History 499) that matches one of the areas of concentration they have chosen for the major. History 499 must be taken in the student's last semester of work or after 18 units of upper-division work in the major. Those 18 units must include at least 6 units, that is, two courses, in the concentration of the History 499 being taken. Students in History 499 are required to assemble a portfolio that contains their work in upper-division history courses. This portfolio is designed to enable students to show development in the major and mastery of key analytical, mechanical, and presentation skills. As part of this process, history majors (or prospective history majors) should save all work from upper-division history courses for eventual inclusion in this portfolio. For portfolio guidelines, see the History Department website.

CONTENT AND OBJECTIVES:

This course is an introduction to the history of the spread of Islam, Mongol invasions, Russian and European colonial domination, and reform and revolution in Central Asia and Afghanistan. The main objective of this survey is to familiarize you with the history of the rich ethnic and religious communities in the region. The chronological emphasis begins with the emergence of Turkic and Mongol tribes, which lead to Chingiz Khan's campaigns during the thirteenth century, and concludes with the end of the imperial, colonial, and Soviet eras of the twentieth century. The survey examines the history of change and continuity in the Persian, Pashtun and Turkic-speaking lands. It also analyzes the Soviet-era political and cultural history, including gender and sexuality politics. The Russian Empire, the Soviet Union, and their Muslim subjects together initiated change and evolution. This course will address the debates and struggles between the imperial and Soviet states, and their subjects.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SYLLABUS

The syllabus is **REQUIRED** reading. **If and when you have any questions, you must refer to it. Do not hesitate to contact me if the syllabus does not answer your questions satisfactorily. Enrollment in this course implies acceptance of all rules, policies, and requirements of this class. The syllabus serves as your contract for the course. I reserve the right to make small changes to this syllabus in accordance with the specifics of the class dynamic.**

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

Upon successful completion of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Evaluate the social, intellectual, political, and economic history of the region,
2. Demonstrate a better understanding of the significance of Islam to the region,
3. Assess the complexity of the region in terms of gender, ethnicity, and religion,
4. Develop the skill to place Central Asia and Afghanistan in world context,
5. Acquire further interest in the history of the Central Asia and Afghanistan,
6. Utilize primary and secondary sources to help gain a better grasp of the region and period,
7. Learn to produce original materials, demonstrating scholarly oral and written skills,
8. Gain the skills to use conceptual methods such as periodization and interpretation
9. Think critically about the readings, lectures, and peer comments,
10. Improve oral and written communication skills with peers and professors.

All of these outcomes will be assessed by two exams, three journals, weekly class discussions, a primary source review, a book review, a final essay, and oral presentations. See the specific assignments below.

ORGANIZATION AND REQUIREMENTS

I will expect you to complete all the assigned readings for the day, before you come to class. You should be prepared to discuss the readings and participate in all the class discussions. All the written assignments are due at the end of class. **I will deduct points for late papers. To pass the class, you will complete all the assignments. Failure to complete any of these components means that you will fail the course.**

GRADING

A = 93-100 A- = 90-92
B+ = 87-89, B = 83-86, B- = 80-82
C+ = 77-79, C = 73-76, C- = 70-72
D = 60-69
F = 0-59

STUDENT SERVICES

If you need help with written assignments or require guidance on note-taking and critical reading, please take advantage of the **History Graduate Assistant (GA) Writing Tutor Program**. Our graduate assistants are going to have office hours every day. The GAs will provide verification forms to attach to your papers. These forms will ensure that your writing needs are properly met for you to succeed at the University level. I will announce the GA hours during the second week of the semester.

REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS

Guidelines for all assignments must be retrieved from **Beach Board**.

You must consult and follow guidelines/instructions for all assignments. Failure to do so will be reflected in your grade.

A. Class Participation: I will expect you to participate in class discussion. **I will call on you.** Simply attending class without participation will be insufficient and will be reflected in grades. If you are too shy to participate, you need to talk to me so that we can make other arrangements to make up for this portion of the grade. For the most part, the themes of this course are current and controversial. There is a great potential of passionate discussion. I will expect you to respond and refer to the topic at hand rather than the individual. In other words, please challenge your peers' viewpoints instead of questioning their personal motives. Please voice your agreements and disagreements respectfully.

B. Exam: Midterm Exam will have three sections:

1. Blank map (10 points)
2. Three identifications (10 points each)
3. Essay (60 points)

I will provide a study guide and a review session a week ahead of the exams.

C. Writing Assignments: All written assignments, other than the research proposal and annotated bibliography, must be submitted **in hard copy and electronically** to **Dropbox** in **BeachBoard** to ensure the authenticity of the presented written work. I will not grade assignments that have not been submitted to Dropbox on the same day that the hard copy is due.

1. **Three Journals:** You will write three journals (see the dates below) that respond to the week's readings. Each journal should summarize the main theme and argument of the readings, maximum **400 words per reading**.
2. **Primary source analysis:** Guidelines are on Beach Board,
3. **Book review:** Guidelines are on Beach Board,
4. **Historiography Paper and the Oral Presentation of the Paper:** You must complete a major paper analyzing a specific topic in the existing literature of Central Asian history (**8 to 10 pages**—with 12-font, double spaced paragraphs and one-inch margins). The essay should demonstrate **your own views** on the specific topic at hand. I must approve your topic. You are required to make use of **primary and secondary sources** to construct **a coherent argument** and to substantiate it with **evidence**. The paper must be well-structured and well-written. It must have footnotes and bibliography appropriate to the discipline of history. It must exhibit the ability to integrate material from the lectures, readings, and class discussions.

GRADING PERCENTAGES:

Class Participation	10%
Three Journals	10% (2% + 3% + 5%)
Primary Source Analysis	10%
Book Review	15%
Midterm Exam	20%
Historiography Paper	25%
Oral Presentation	10%

REQUIRED READING

- **The Syllabus**
- ***Grammar and Style Manual*** (available at History Department, F02-106). I will use the manual to mark your papers and keep tabs on your improvement in grammar and style. In other words, you **must** consult it when writing
- **Abazov, Rafis. *Palgrave Concise Historical Atlas of Central Asia***, Palgrave Macmillan US, 2008
- **Aitmatov, Chingiz. *Mother Earth***, Aitmatov Academy
- **Keller, Shoshana. *Russia and Central Asia***, University of Toronto Press, 2019
- **Lee, Jonathan L. *Afghanistan: A History from 1260 to the Present Day***, Reaktion Books, 2019

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week 1: (Aug 23 & 25)

1. **Abazov**, Introductory Maps (Part I)
2. **Lee**, Introduction
3. **Keller**, Introduction

Week 2: (Aug 30 & Sep 1)

1. **Abazov**, Early History (Part II)
2. **Lee**, Chapter 1
3. **Keller**, Chapter 1

Week 3: (Sept 8; no class on Sep 6, Labor Day)

1. **Abazov**, Islamic Golden Age (Part III)
 2. **Lee**, Chapter 2
 3. **Keller**, Chapter 2
- Assignment: **Journal # 1**

Week 4: (Sep 13 & 15)

1. **Abazov**, The Mongols (Part IV)
 2. **Keller**, Chapter 3
- Assignment: **Paper Topic**

Week 5: (Sep 20 & 22)

1. **Abazov**, Colonialism (Part V)
 2. **Keller**, Chapter 4
- Assignment: **Paper Proposal (1-2 pages)**

Week 6: (Sep 27 & 29)

1. **Keller**, Chapters 5
- Assignment: **Journal # 2**

Week 7: (Oct 4 & 6)

1. **Lee**, Chapter 3
 2. **Keller**, Chapter 6
- **MIDTERM EXAM (Wednesday, Oct 6)**

Week 8: (Oct 11 & 13)

1. **Aitmatov**, *Mother Earth*
 2. **Keller**, Chapter 7
- Assignment: **Primary source analysis (4-5 pages)**

Week 9: (Oct 18 & 20)

1. **Lee**, Chapter 4
2. **Keller**, Conclusion

Week 10: (Oct 25 & 27)

1. **Lee**, Chapter 5
- Assignment: **Journal # 3**

Week 11: (Nov 1 & 3)

- Assignment: **Revised paper proposal and bibliography (minimum 6 sources)**

Week 12: (Nov 8 & 10)

1. **Abazov**, Post-Communism (Part IV)
2. **Lee**, Chapter 6

Week 13: (Nov 15 & 17)

- Assignment: **Book Review**

Week 14: FALL BREAK (no classes on Nov 22 & 24)

Week 15: (Nov 29 & Dec 1)

- Assignment: **Paper Draft**
- **Oral Presentations of the papers**

Week 16: (Dec 6 & 8)

- **Oral Presentations of the papers**

Week 17: (Dec 13 & 15) Exam Week

- **Friday, Dec 17: Final version of papers**

CLASS POLICIES

INCOMPLETE

Taking an incomplete is strongly discouraged and rarely granted. I will give incompletes only if there is a case of documented family or medical emergency (see below). In those cases, University policy states that at least 2/3 of course assignments must have been completed for an incomplete to be granted. **For incompletes, you must make arrangements with me in advance.**

MAKE-UP POLICY

You **must** contact me if a conflict arises that will prevent you from attending class. You may make up a missed exam or assignment only if you have an excused absence and approval from me.

TARDINESS

Consistent tardiness will not be acceptable and will result in a grade deduction. You need to let me know ahead of time if you are going to be late. If you are late to class **beyond 20 minutes** of class time, I will **consider you absent** for the day.

POLICY ON ATTENDANCE AND ABSENCES

Attendance is required. Missing more than **five** lectures will have a negative effect on your grade. I am not obligated to consider other absences except the following **excused absences**: including illness or injury to the student; death, injury, or serious illness of an immediate family member or the like; religious reasons (California Education Code section 89320); jury duty or government obligation; university sanctioned or approved activities (examples include: artistic performances, forensics presentations, participation in research conferences, intercollegiate athletic activities, student government, required class field trips.) If in doubt, please read the CSULB attendance policy: <http://www.csulb.edu/~senate/Policies/01-01.html>. **Please contact me immediately if you need to be absent. If I do not hear from you, I will consider your absence unexcused.**

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE

I will not allow reading of extraneous materials, listening to headsets, private conversations between students and talking on cell phones. **PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES, PAGERS AND OTHER DISTRACTIONS!**

LAPTOP USE

You may use your laptops **ONLY** to take notes.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION

Make sure you have your **csulb.edu** email directed toward your preferred email address in order to receive class news. It is your responsibility to make the appropriate change.

ACCOMODATION

It is the student's responsibility to notify me in advance of the need for accommodation of a **disability**.

POLICY ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is presenting the work, ideas, or words of another person, including one of your peers, or a web site as one's own. It is your responsibility to read **the section on cheating and plagiarism in the CSULB catalog**. I am obligated to follow these strict rules. **Please talk to me if you have any questions about giving proper credit to other people's work and academic integrity**. A single instance of cheating and plagiarism will result, at the very least, in a failing grade for that assignment. Depending on the severity of the case, other consequences may include a failing grade for the class, regardless of performance on other assignments, and further disciplinary actions, including suspension and expulsion, based on University policy as summarized in the Schedule of Classes. (**Graduate students** will be held to an even higher standard. A single act of cheating or plagiarism will result in a failing grade in the course, regardless of other graded course assignments.) **While all written work must be exclusively your work, you may study and prepare together.**

WITHDRAWAL POLICY

It is the student's responsibility to withdraw from classes. Instructors have no obligation to withdraw students who do not attend courses, and may choose not to do so. Withdrawal from a course after the first two weeks of instruction requires the signature of the instructor and department chair, and is permissible only for serious and compelling reasons. During the final three weeks of instruction, withdrawals are not permitted except in cases such as accident or serious illness where the circumstances causing the withdrawal are clearly beyond the student's control and the assignment of an incomplete is not practical. Ordinarily, withdrawals in these categories involve total withdrawal from the university. (However, drops at this time are not generally approved except in cases of accident or serious illness.)