Course Description: Introduction to the political, cultural, religious, and social history of Central Asia from ancient to modern times.

Learning outcomes: course goals are for students to acquire information about the history of Central Asia, learning to distinguish clichés and misconceptions from well-informed perceptions, and to work on their skills in writing and analysis.

Course Readings: The required readings for this course include three books which are available for you to buy in the GW bookstore: James A. Millward’s The Silk Road, Adeeb Khalid’s The Politics of Muslim Cultural Reform, Barnett Rubin’s The Fragmentation of Afghanistan. The other readings for this course are on electronic reserve via Blackboard.

Graded work: The course has two in-class exams and a final exam which all students must take. Undergraduates may choose whether to do a term paper as well. If a student chooses not to do a term paper, the highest grade he/she can receive in the course is B, regardless of the grades earned on the exams. If a student does the term paper, that does not automatically guaranty a grade of A; he/she still has to earn an A average. Instructions for writing the term paper and the specific readings on which it is to be based will be provided separately. Graduate students are required to write a term paper for the course: either a research paper or an analysis of four scholarly studies relevant to Central Asian history. The nature of the graduate paper depends both on the student’s preference and what the instructor deems feasible and appropriate. Graduate students should discuss their prospective papers with the instructor early in the semester.

Weighting of graded work:
Undergraduate-no term paper: first exam: 20%; second exam: 30%; final, 50% (highest possible grade: B)
Undergraduate-including term paper: first exam: 20%; second exam: 20%; term paper: 20%; final: 40%
Graduate: first exam: 20%; second exam: 20%; term paper: 25%; final: 35%

NOTE: IN ACCORD WITH UNIVERSITY POLICY, THE FINAL EXAM WILL BE GIVEN DURING THE FINAL EXAM PERIOD AND NOT THE LAST WEEK OF THE SEMESTER

Academic Integrity:
I personally support the GW Code of Academic Integrity. It states: “Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one’s own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information.” For the remainder of the code, see: http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html

Policy on Make-up Exams, Extensions, and Incompletes: Once in a while there are genuine emergencies which prevent a student from coming prepared to a class or submitting work when due. If you are facing such a situation, inform me of the problem as far in advance of the deadline for the work as possible. My office phone is equipped with voice mail so you can leave a message if I am not in when you call; if you prefer, you may contact me via e-mail. I retain the right to decide whether special arrangements are justified in any given case. There is nothing automatic about the process.

Support for Students Outside the Classroom:
**Disability Support Services (DSS)**  
Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in the Marvin Center, Suite 242, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information please refer to: [http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/](http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/)

**University Counseling Center (UCC) 202-994-5300**  
The University Counseling Center (UCC) offers 24/7 assistance and referral to address students' personal, social, career, and study skills problems. Services for students include:  
- crisis and emergency mental health consultations  
- confidential assessment, counseling services (individual and small group), and referrals  
[http://gwired.gwu.edu/counsel/CounselingServices/AcademicSupportServices](http://gwired.gwu.edu/counsel/CounselingServices/AcademicSupportServices)

**University Policy on Religious Holidays:**  
1. Students should notify faculty during the first week of the semester of their intention to be absent from class on their day(s) of religious observance;  
2. Faculty should extend to these students the courtesy of absence without penalty on such occasions, including permission to make up examinations;  
3. Faculty who intend to observe a religious holiday should arrange at the beginning of the semester to reschedule missed classes or to make other provisions for their course-related activities

**Security**  
In the case of an emergency, if at all possible, the class should shelter in place. If the building that the class is in is affected, follow the evacuation procedures for the building. After evacuation, seek shelter at a predetermined rendezvous location.

**Lecture/Readings Schedule:**

1. **Introduction**  
   J.A. Millward, *The Silk Road*, ch. 1, pp. 39-45

2. **Ancient Central Asia**  
   Millward, *The Silk Road*, pp. 20-23  
   On Blackboard: Achaemenid Dynasty; Scythians/Sakas; Alexander the Great

3. **Central Asia from the Greeks to the Sasanians and Kushans**  
   Millward, *The Silk Road*, pp. 23-28  
   On Blackboard: Bactria; Kushans; Parthians; Seleucids

4. **The movement of goods and culture along the Silk Route**  
   Millward, *The Silk Road*, pp. 29-33, 45-79, 88-101  
   On Blackboard: Soghdians

5. **The Rise of Islam and incorporation of Central Asia into the Muslim World**  
   On Blackboard: Islam; Expansion of Islam; Samanids

6. **The Rise of the Turks**  
   On Blackboard: Turkic Peoples; Turkic Languages; Early Turkic Realms; Seljuks; Uighurs; Khorazmshahs; Qarakhanid Dynasty

7. **Central Asians’ contributions to classical Islamic civilization**  
   On Blackboard: Islamic Civilization in Central Asia
8. First In-Class Exam

9. The Mongols – part I
   Millward, *The Silk Road*, pp. 33-35, 45-46
   On Blackboard: Mongol Empire

10. The Mongols — part II

11. Tamerlane and the Timurids – political history
    On Blackboard: Timur; Timurid Dynasty

12. Timurid culture
    Millward, *The Silk Road*, pp. 102-109
    On Blackboard: Timurid Culture

13. Central Asia from the fifteenth to nineteenth centuries
    Millward, *The Silk Road*, pp. 35-38, 110-114
    A. Khalid, *The Politics of Muslim Cultural Reform*, pp. 34-44; On Blackboard: Uzbeks; Kazakhs

14. Central Asia under Russian Rule
    Khalid, pp. 13-17 and ch. 2

15. Jaddidism
    Khalid, chs. 3-6

16. The making of the modern Afghan state, sixteenth to nineteenth centuries – part I

17. The making of the modern Afghan state, sixteenth to nineteenth centuries – part II

18. The Great Game in Central Asia
    Rubin, pp. 45-54

19. Second In-Class Exam

20. The transformation of Central Asia under Soviet rule – politics and economics
    Read two from among the following:
    C. Teichmann, “Canals, cotton and the limits of de-colonization in Soviet Uzbekistan, 1924-1941,” on Blackboard, under Cotton
    B.Z. Rumer, "Central Asia's Cotton Economy and its Costs," on Blackboard under Rumer

21. The transformation of Central Asia under Soviet rule – culture and society
    Read two from among the following:
    A.L Edgar, "Emancipation of the Unveiled," on Blackboard, under Edgar Emancipation
    A.L. Edgar, "Genealogy, Class, and ‘Tribal Policy’ in Soviet Turkmenistan, 1924-1934," on Blackboard under Edgar tribal
    D. Northrop, "Languages of Loyalty," on Blackboard under Northrop languages
    M. Atkin, "Religious, National, and Other Identities in Central Asia," on Blackboard under Atkin identity
22. Afghanistan from post-World War I to 1979
   Rubin, 54-105

23. Revolution and war in Afghanistan – part I
   Rubin, pp. 109-175

24. Revolution and war in Afghanistan – part II
   Rubin, pp. 179-246

25. Central Asia since independence
   Read two from among the following:
   S.N. Cummings, Understanding Central Asia, ch. 4, on Blackboard under Cummings
   Khalid, "A Secular Islam: Nation, State, and Religion in Uzbekistan," on Blackboard under
   Khalid secular Islam
   E. Huskey, "National Identity from Scratch," on Blackboard under Huskey

26. Independent Central Asia – foreign relations
   Read two from among the following:
   M. Atkin, “Iran, Russia and Tajikistan’s civil war,” on Blackboard under Atkin
   A. Bohr, “Regionalism in Central Asia: new geopolitics, old regional order” on
   Blackboard under Bohr
   under Cummings Putin
   E. Herzig, “Regionalism, Iran and Central Asia,” on Blackboard under Herzig

27. The Taliban era – part I
   Rubin, pp. 247-280

28. The Taliban era – part II