This course explores the history of the cultures, civilizations and related forces that have shaped Central Asia’s heritage. In this class we will analyze the complex nature of Central Asian cultures and civilizations, and the relationships among them, a history that in turn affects contemporary U.S. policy and interests within this region. Since pre-historic times and through late antiquity, the urban culture in the towns of the region was predominantly Iranian. The steppes were dominated by Scythians/Sakas and Huns, and, also by Turks from the sixth century A.D. onward. Various religions and cults including Shamanism, Mithraism, Zurvanism, Buddhism, Zoroasterianism, Judaism, Nestorian Christianity, and Manichaeism, were practiced. In the eighth century A.D., an Arab army conquered the region and introduced Islam. Through transcontinental passages, Central Asia established links to the major civilizations of China, India, Persia and the Mediterranean, which in turn influenced the characteristics of the region.

The cultures of Central Asia reflect these rich and varied traditions. The legendary poet, Rudaki led the revival of Persian literature in Bukhara during the Samanid dynasty (819 A.D. – 999 A.D.) the first golden age of culture and art of Central Asia. The second golden age came during the reign of the Timurids (1336 – 1405 A.D.), when the city of Samarkand was filled with great art, literature, and architecture. The Uzbek Shaibanids occupied large portions of Central Asia in the sixteenth century, and by the end of the seventeenth century, three small Uzbek kingdoms were ruling parts of Central Asia from the cities of Bukhara, Khiva and Kokand. In the nineteenth century, Russians took control of the region and after years of civil war, Soviet rule was established. Based on neither historical nor cultural foundations, Stalin fabricated five new Soviet states (1924 – 1936), which are now the independent republics of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan.

In 1760, the eastern part of Central Asia (Xinjiang) was occupied by 25,000 Qing (Chinese) empire forces. Despite the resistance of the ancient Turks-Uyghurs and
other ethnicities to this invasion, Chinese remained in control throughout the era of the Republic of China, (1911 – 1949). In 1949, the region was invaded by Mao’s Red Army and was devastated during the Cultural Revolution (1966 - 1976). Since 1999, the Chinese government has begun a new program “Developing the West” in the eastern part of this region (Xinjiang).

Course Grade: The final course grade will be based on evaluation of the following assessments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily Notes</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midterm Writing Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Writing Project</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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<td>Map Project</td>
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<td>Attendance</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
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Daily Notes (Journal) includes a minimum of one page of notes on the lecture, slides and power point presentation, videos and other activities in the class. Students are expected to include in their daily notes (journal) their personal feelings and thoughts at the conclusion of each class.

Learning Objective:
The underlying objective of this course is to broaden a deeper understanding of the complexity and diversity of the civilizations, and cultures of urban centers and rural communities of Central Asia throughout its history.

Textbooks:

Course Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JAN 14</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN 21</td>
<td>Scythians and Sakas, Eight to Third Centuries B.C.</td>
<td>R. Fry’s, pp. 29-50.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAN 23</td>
<td>People of Central Asia and the First Central Asian States</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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Persia and The Bible

JAN 28  Zoroasterianism: A Spiritual Quest or a Political Institution

JAN 30  Central Asian Cultures under Parthian and Sassanid Empires Rule
Reading: R. Frye’s, “The Heritage of Central Asia”, pp. 97-118

FEB 04  Xiang’nu Empire
The Huns, Third Century B.C. to Sixth Century A.D.
Reading: R. Frye’s “The Heritage of Central Asia”, pp. 119-130.

FEB 06  Buddhism in Central Asia
Reading: R. Frye’s, “The Heritage of Central Asia”, pp. 159-166.

FEB 11  People of Central Asia under Kushans
Reading: R. Frye’s, “The Heritage of Central Asia”, pp. 131-150.

FEB 13  The Arab Conquest of Central Asia

FEB 18  Golden Age of Central Asia Civilization under Samanids

FEB 20  Turkification of Central Asia

FEB 25  Mongol Invasion and Destruction of Central Asian Civilizations

FEB 27  Revival of Civilization - Golden Age of Timurid Culture

MAR 03  Bokhara, Khiva and Kokand Khanates of Central Asia
Sufism in Central Asia
MIDTERM WRITING PROJECT DUE

MAR 05  The Fall of Uzbek Khanates

MAR 10  Russian Colonial Empire
Reading: Roy’s “The New Central Asia”, pp. 25-34.
**MAR 12**  From Ivan III to Peter the Great and Catherine the Great
Reading: Roy’s “The New Central Asia”, pp. 35-49.

**MAR 24**  Pan Turkism and Pan Islamic Movements

**MAR 26**  Stalin and the People
Reading: Roy’s “The New Central Asia”, pp. 50-84.

**MAR 31**  Centrality of the Kolkhoz
Reading: Roy’s “The New Central Asia”, pp. 85-100.

**APR 02**  The Creation of Nations

**APR 07**  Russification & Sovietization

**APR 09**  The Fall of the Soviet Union
Reading: Roy’s “The New Central Asia”, pp. 125-142

**APR 14**  Religions of Central Asia

**APR 16**  *The 18th International Conference on Central & Southwest Asia (All Events at UC Theater)*

**APR 21**  Post Soviet Space

**APR 23**  Post Soviet Space

**APR 28**  The United States & Central Asia

**APR 30**  The United States & Central Asia

**MAY 05**  **FINAL EXAM: 3:30 PM – 4:50 PM (TUESDAY)**
**FINAL WRITING PROJECT & DAILY NOTES DUE.**

**Late Drop policy:** The seventh instructional day is the last day to drop the course without a petition. Spring semester, that date is Thursday, January 23rd.

**Student Conduct Code:** The student conduct code applies to this course, and should be read by students. In particular, plagiarism will not be tolerated, and will result in a failing grade on the specific assignment, and/or course.

**Disability accommodation:** Central and Southwest Asian Studies Program is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with documented physical, or learning disabilities. University policy states the responsibility of students with documented disabilities to contact instructors DURING THE FIRST WEEK OF THE
SEMESTER to discuss appropriate accommodations to ensure equity in evaluation of classroom assignments and examination. The instructor will meet with students and staff of the Disability Services for Students (DSS) to make accommodations for this course. Please contact DSS 243-2243, at the Lommasson Center, room 154 for further information.