

**CENTRE FOR INNER ASIAN STUDIES
SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

Course : **Ph.D**
Course No :
Course Title : **Government and Politics in Central Asia**
Course Type : **Optional**
Course Teacher : **Prof. Sharad K. Soni**
Credits : **Two (2)**
Contact Hours : **2 per week**

Course Objective

The main objective of this course is to provide an understanding of the political developments in Central Asia both during the Soviet and post-Soviet period. It evaluates the concept of Central Asia as a region from the Inner Asian perspective, discussing the specificity of each of the five independent Central Asian Republics (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) and the relationship among the major ethnic groups. Not only the formation of Soviet Central Asia and its modernization but also nation building, problems of transition, democratization and political reforms in the post-Soviet Central Asia will be highlighted. Identity issues based on religion, language, clan, and regional factors will be deliberated upon in a comparative framework. It also delves into the politics of post-Soviet transition by focussing on the contemporary issues of terrorism, human rights and national security as well as reconfiguration of Central Asia's relationship with the outside world.

Learning Outcomes

The course will enable the students to have a clear understanding of government and politics in Central Asian Republics, particularly on the evolution of political system, problems of transition, nation building and democratisation process in the post-Soviet period. The students will also be able to gain knowledge of contemporary issues confronting Central Asia in addition to comprehending the New Great Game and its impact on Central Asia's relationship with the outside world, especially with Russia, China, the USA, India, Afghanistan and Mongolia.

Evaluation Method

The evaluation of student's performance is done purely on the basis of academic merit. Grading and marks will be awarded for Class participation (10%), Sessional work (40%) and End semester examination (50%).

Course Content

The course covers the following themes:

Section I: Introduction

1. Central Asia in Regional Setting
2. Inner Asian Dimension of Central Asia
3. Specificity of Central Asian Republics of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

Section II: Central Asia during Soviet and Post-Soviet Period

1. October Revolution and Establishment of Soviet Power in Central Asia
2. Socio-Cultural Change and Modernization during the Soviet Period
3. Emergence of Central Asian Republics after Soviet Collapse

Section III: Government Structures and Political Institutions

1. Problems of Transition, Nation Building, Identity Issues (Ethnicity, Religion, Culture)
2. Political Reforms and Democratisation Process
3. Political System, Parties, Electoral Process and Presidential Powers

Section IV: Contemporary Issues and Regional Initiatives

1. Terrorism, Human Rights and National Security Issues
2. The New Great Game and Reconfiguration of Central Asia's External Relations
3. Regional Organisations in Central Asia

Readings

Ahrens, Joachim and Herman W. Hoen, eds. (2012), *Institutional Reform in Central Asia: Politico-Economic Challenges*, London: Routledge.

Akiner, Shirin (2002), *Islam in Post-Soviet Central Asia: Contested Territory*, Hamburg: German Oriental Institute.

Allison, Roy, ed. (2001), *Central Asian Security: The New International Context*, London: Royal Institute of International Affairs.

Allworth, Edward, ed. (1994), *Central Asia: 130 years of Russian Dominance*, Durham.

Bedeski, Robert and Niklas Swanström, eds. (2012), *Eurasia's Ascent in Energy and Geopolitics: Rivalry or Partnership for China, Russia, and Central Asia?*, London: Routledge.

Beisinger, M. (2002), *Nationalist Mobilization and the Collapse of the Soviet State*, Cambridge.

- Christian, David (1998), *A History of Russia, Central Asia and Mongolia: Inner Eurasia from Prehistory to the Mongol Empire*, Oxford: Blackwell.
- Collins, Kathleen (2006), *Clan Politics and Regime Transition in Central Asia*, Cambridge.
- Cooley, Alexander (2012), *Great Games, Local Rules: The New Great Power Contest in Central Asia*, New York: Oxford University Press.
- Cummings, Sally N. (2012), *Understanding Central Asia: Politics and Contested Transformations*, London: Routledge.
- Cummings, Sally N. (2002), *Power and Change in Central Asia*, London, Routledge.
- Dudoignon, Stephane, and Komatsu Hisao, eds. (2001), *Islam in Politics in Russia and Central Asia (Early Eighteenth to Late Twentieth Centuries)*. London: Kegan Paul.
- Ebel, Robert, and Rajan Menon, eds. (2000), *Energy and Conflict in Central Asia and the Caucasus*, Rowman and Littlefield.
- Gleason, Gregory (2003), *Markets and Politics in Central Asia: Structural Reform and Political Change*. New York: Routledge.
- Glenn, John (1999), *The Soviet Legacy in Central Asia*, London: Macmillan Press.
- Haghighyehi, Mehrdad (1996), *Islam and Politics in Central Asia*, Palgrave Macmillan.
- Haugen, Arne (2003), *The Establishment of National Republics in Soviet Central Asia*. New York.
- Hiro, Dilip (2010), *Inside Central Asia: A political and cultural history of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Iran*, New Delhi : HarperCollins.
- Issacs, R. and E. Marat (2022), *Routledge Handbook of Contemporary Central Asia*, Routledge.
- Karagiannis. Emmanuel (2010), *Political Islam in Central Asia: The challenge of Hizb ut-Tahrir*, London: Routledge.
- Kaushik, D. (1976), *Socialism in Central Asia: A Study in the Transformation of Socio-Ethnic Relations in Soviet Central Asia*, New Delhi: Allied Publishers.
- Kaushik, D. (1970), *Central Asia in Modern Times*, Moscow.
- Khalfin, N.A. (1962), *Russian Policy in Central Asia*, London.
- Khazanov, Anatoly (1995), *After the USSR: Ethnicity, Nationalism, and Politics in the Commonwealth of Independent States*. Wisconsin-Madison: University of Wisconsin Press.
- Kleveman, Lutz (2003), *The New Great Game: Blood and Oil in Central Asia*, New York: Atlantic Monthly Press.
- Lamon, Edward (2020), *Critical Approaches to Security in Central Asia*, Routledge.
- Laruelle, M. and S. Peyrouse, eds. (2011), *Mapping Central Asia: Indian Perceptions and Strategies*, Surrey: Ashgate.
- Legvold, Robert, ed. (2003), *Thinking Strategically: The Major Powers, Kazakhstan, and the Central Asian Nexus*. Cambridge: American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

- Luong, Pauline J., ed. (2003), *The Transformation of Central Asia: States and Societies from Soviet Rule to Independence*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Malashenko, Aleksei, and Martha Brill Olcott, eds. (2001), *Islam in Post-Soviet Space: A View from Within*, Moscow: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.
- Naumkin, Vitaly (2005), *Radical Islam in Central Asia: between pen and rifle*, Lanham and Oxford: Rowman and Littlefield.
- O'Kane, John, and Touraj Atabaki, eds. (1998), *Post-Soviet Central Asia*, London: Tauris.
- Olcott, Martha Brill (1996), *Central Asia's New States: Independence, Foreign Policy, International Security*: United States Institute of Peace Press.
- Patnaik, Ajay (2016), *Central Asia: Geopolitics, Security and Stability*, Routledge India.
- Patnaik, Ajay (2003), *Nations, Minorities, and States in Central Asia*, New Delhi.
- Patnaik, Ajay (1996), *Central Asia between Modernity and Tradition*, Delhi: Konark Publishers.
- Poliakov, Sergei, and Martha Brill Olcott (1992), *Everyday Islam: Religion and Tradition in Rural Central Asia*, Armonk, New York: M.E. Sharpe.
- Rashid, Ahmed (2002), *Jihad: The Rise of Militant Islam in Central Asia*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press.
- Roy, Olivier (2000), *Central Asia: The Creation of Nations*. New York: NY University Press.
- Rumer, Boris, ed. (2002), *Central Asia: A Gathering Storm?*, Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe.
- Schatz, Edward (2004), *Modern Clan Politics: The Power of "Blood" in Kazakhstan and Beyond*: University of Washington Press.
- Sengupta, Anita (2009), *Heartlands of Eurasia: The Geopolitics of Political Space*, Lanham: Lexington.
- Sengupta, Anita (2002), *Frontiers into Borders: The Transformation of Identities in Central Asia*, Delhi and London: Hope India Publications and Greenwich Millennium Press Ltd.
- Somfalvy, Esther (2022), *Parliamentary Representation in Central Asia: MPs Between Representing Their Voters and Serving an Authoritarian Regime*, Routledge.
- Tomohiko, Uyama, ed. (2007), *Empire, Islam and Politics in Central Asia*, Sapporo.
- Upadhyay, Archana (2021), *Transitions in Post-Soviet Eurasia: Identity, Polity and Strategic Choices*, Routledge.
- Warikoo, K., ed., (2012), *Central Asia and South Asia: Energy Cooperation and Transport Linkages*, New Delhi: Pentagon.
- Warikoo, K. (2010), *Religion and Security in South and Central Asia*, London: Routledge.
- Warikoo, K. and Mahavir Singh, eds. (2004), *Central Asia since Independence*, New Delhi.
- Wooden, A. E. and Christoph H. Stefes, eds. (2012), *The Politics of Transition in Central Asia and the Caucasus: Enduring Legacies and Emerging Challenges*, London: Routledge.