

HISTORY 106

Invasions and Empires: Central Asia from Genghis Khan to Stalin



Madrese (teaching seminary) of Ulug Bey 1417-1420

Fall 2002

Lectures 8:50 MWF, 1641 Humanities

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Course Description:

This is an introductory course on Central Asia that bridges the civilizations of China, the Middle East, and Europe, but which itself has been the center of empires that have shaped and reshaped the history of the Old World. The main objectives of the course are to show the distinctiveness of the Central Asian civilization and to survey the region and its interactions with its neighbors with an emphasis on political and cultural developments up to Stalin's time. Religions in Central Asia, ranging from Shamanism to Buddhism, Christianity and Islam that helped to shape the cultural and political destiny of the area, will also be surveyed. No prior knowledge of the area is assumed.

REQUIRED TEXT :

S. Soucek. *A History of Inner Asia* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2000)
History 106 Course Package (available at the Humanities Copy Center, 1st floor Humanities Building)

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

D. Morgan. *The Mongols* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1986)
D. Christian. *A History of Russia, Central Asia and Mongolia vol. 1: Inner Asia from Prehistory to the Mongol Empire* (Oxford, Blackwell, 1998)
Richard Foltz. *Religions of the Silk Road* (New York, 1999)
(all text books are available at the University Bookstore and at the College Library Reserve)

Course Objectives:

At the completion of the course, students should have learned:

- the ethno-political and religious changes which occurred in Central Asia from the time of the Turkic Empires up to the end of the Mongol conquest
- the Russian conquest and its consequences in Central Asia
- the tsarist and Soviet administration in Central Asia and its various effects
- the basic terminology related to the region and its history
- the place and importance of Central Asia

Course Requirements:

- Regular class attendance at lectures and discussion sessions and participation in discussions
- Timely reading of the assigned materials
- Map Quiz (date to be determined)
- Two papers, first paper 8 pages due October 14, second paper 10 pages due November 18.
- Midterm examination on October 28.
- Final examination on December 20, 7:45 am (location to be announced).

PAPER topics should be chosen from a list that will be provided in due time. No late papers will be accepted.

EXAMS are closed book and closed notes, will consist of identifications, short answer and short essay questions.

Grading Policy:

Grades will be determined as follows:

Attendance at TA sections	10 %
Map Quiz	5 %
Midterm Exam	20 %
First paper	15 %
Second paper	20 %
Final Exam	30 %
Total	100 %

Grading Scale:

A	92-100
AB	88-91.9
B	82-87.9
BC	78-81.9
C	72-77.9
D	62-71.9
F	0-61.9

STUDENTS who need special accommodations should talk to the course instructor during the first week of classes.

Course **SYLLABUS** would be available in class.