STUDENT WARNING: This course syllabus is from a previous semester archive and serves only as a preparatory reference. Please use this syllabus as a reference only until the professor opens the classroom and you have access to the updated course syllabus. Please do NOT purchase any books or start any work based on this syllabus; this syllabus may NOT be the one that your individual instructor uses for a course that has not yet started. If you need to verify course textbooks, please refer to the online course description through your student portal. This syllabus is proprietary material of APUS.

American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Security and Global Studies
IRLS664 Politics and Culture in Central Asia
Credit Hours: 3
Length of Course: 8 Weeks

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Instructor Information

Instructor: Robert Deller, PhD

Biography: http://www.apu.apus.edu/academic/faculty-members/bio/3434/robert-deller

Please contact me through the Messages tab in the classroom.

After the class is over, instructor contact information: Robert.Deller@MyCampus.apus.edu

Course Description (Catalog)

The region of Central Asia—located between Russia, China, India, and Europe—has emerged from obscurity in recent decades to become a key front in the war against international terrorism and radical Islam. This course explores the political and cultural history of Central Asia, as well as religious and social issues that impact the region's governmental structures, foreign relations, and security. Students will explore the impact of Russian conquest and Soviet domination of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan, as well as the Soviet- Afghan War (1979-1989), before moving on to an analysis of contemporary issues in government and politics in the region. Emphasis will be on the rise of Islamism, great power politics, U.S. involvement in the region after 9/11, "managed democracy," corruption and economic development, and petropolitics.

Course Scope

As a research seminar, this course focuses on specialized area knowledge and sources in the field. Students will conduct research in preparation for the Capstone project in the Graduate program and will complete a research paper for this course. In addition, students will participate in forum discussions, virtual seminars, and prepare a final assignment.

Course Objectives

After successfully completing the course, students will be able to:

CO-1: Analyze historical and imperial factors that have shaped the region.
CO-2: Assess the relevancy of emerging concepts in international relations: security, modernity, liberal democracy.
CO-3: Comprehend the norms and purposes of international structures and regimes.
CO-4: Understand the various forms of globalization and impacts from various political, economic and social systems.
CO-5: Explain the co-existence of integration and disintegration regimes in the global community.

These course objectives harmonize with the Degree Program Objectives, which require graduates to:

- Construct and criticize the theory and politics of conflict, war, diplomatic relations, and the evolving nature of the international system.
- Function effectively in a research-active environment grounded in the study of international relations including its political, social, and economic aspects.
- Assess how state, non-state, and supra-national actors behave and interact through a dynamic appreciation of different levels of analysis.
- Critique the theories of international relations, the heritage and development of the discipline, its major debates, its inherent nature as an

interdisciplinary study, and a critical appreciation of the essentially contested nature of politics in general, and international relations in particular.

☐ Evaluate the nature and distribution of power in the international systems, the problems of political order and the social economic, historical and cultural context within which international actors operate.

☐ Assess the current challenges to international order, cooperation, identity, social formations, and global issues, and possible strategies to address them.

☐ Evaluate the changing role of the state in the context of globalization and regional integration and the implications for international peace and security.

Course Delivery Method

This course, delivered via distance learning, will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET and include all written assignments, examinations, and research papers submitted for grading. Weekly Forum questions (accomplished in groups in a Forum) require an initial response by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET, with all other required responses due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET. The assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

Course Resources

Required Course Textbooks

Hopkirk, Peter, The Great Game: The Struggle for Empire in Central Asia, Kodansha USA, 1994

Other classroom readings are available as open-source readings within the classroom.

More readings are available electronically within the classroom.

Additional Resources and Web Sites

Videos and web sites are available within the classroom and through the university electronic library.

Evaluation Procedures

Forum Participation – 30 percent

Discussion questions will be provided and posts should reflect an assimilation of the readings in responding to the assigned topic(s). Students are required to provide a substantive initial post by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET and respond to two or more classmates by Sunday 11:55 pm ET. Forum posts are graded on timeliness, relevance, knowledge of the weekly readings, and the quality of original ideas.

Progress Assignments – 30 percent

Course objectives are provided for each of the course modules. Using these as guideposts, summaries of the major themes covered in the first four Discussion Forums will be addressed in a mid-term assignment. Additionally, a multi-media presentation covering major themes will be assigned for re-

sponse during Week 6. Specific guidelines are found in the Assignments folder.

Research Paper – 40 percent

Throughout this course you are expected to write a term paper between 2,500-3,500 words (double-spaced, 12-point font, Times New Roman with 1″ margins). Your task will be to conduct a comparative analysis of two Central Asia Republics. You must make your selection in the "Term Paper" Forum by the end of Week Two. The intent of this assignment is for you to demonstrate a solid grasp of the changing nature of security and politics in Central Asia. As for the guidance on the context and mechanics of the paper, please read the materials in "Assignments."

The grade instruments are provided below.

Grade Instruments:	% of Final Grade
Forum Participation	30%
Progress Assignments	30%
Research Paper	40%
Total	**100%**

8 – Week Course Outline

Please see the Student Handbook to reference the University's grading scale.

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Course Outline				
Weeks	**Topics**	**Course Objectives**	**Readings/Videos***	**Assignments**
1	In search of identity	**CO-1:** Analyze historical and imperial factors that have shaped the region.	Hopkirk, Chs. 1-9. The Sons of the Steppe The Silk Roads, Rossabi, Morris	Virtual Introduction and Participation in Forum Week One: Main Assignment for Forum Week One is due by 11:55PM on **Thursday of Week One**; all other posts are due by 11:55PM on **Sunday of Week One.** [**Note:** For purposes of clarification, our "weeks" run from Monday-Sunday.]

2	Progressive influences	**CO-2:** Assess the relevancy of emerging concepts in international relations: security, modernity, liberal democracy.	Hopkirk, Chs. 10-22.	Participation in Forum Week Two. **Research Topic due in Forums.**
3	Sovietization	**CO-3:** Comprehend the norms and purposes of international structures and regimes.	Hopkirk, Chs. 23-31; Soviet Central Asia.	Participation in Forum Week Three.
4	Other sources of influence	**CO-2:** Assess the relevancy of emerging concepts in international relations: security, modernity, liberal democracy. **CO-3:** Comprehend the norms and purposes of international structures and regimes.	Hopkirk, Chs. 32-37.	Participation in Forum Week Four. Mid-term Assignment is due end of this week.

5	Radicalism. Religion, Cultural Development	**CO-4:** Understand the various forms of globalization and impacts from various political, economic and social systems.	*Collision of Islam and Terrorism; Many Faces of Political Islam; Muslim Identity; Resurgence of Militant Islam; Religion and Power*	Participation in Forum Week Five.
6	Individualization and Identities	**CO-4:** Understand the various forms of globalization and impacts from various political, economic and social systems.	Identity Politics; Melting Pot; Governance in Central Asia; Country Studies	Participation in Forum Week Six. Presentation is due end of week.
7	Social-Cultural Reforms	**CO-3:** Comprehend the norms and purposes of international structures and regimes.	Explaining Authoritarianism; Believing Woman; New Great Game; Poverty and Social Justice; Public Opinion; Politics of Gender	Participation in Forum Week Seven.

| 8 | Prospects for the Future | **CO-5:** Explain the co-existence of integration and disintegration regimes in the global community. | US Grand Strategy; Russia in Central Asia; readings; Strategies for Engaging; Asian Islam in 21st Century; Principles in the Pipeline; Strategic Significance; The Great Powers; Central Asia Stratagem | Participation in Forum Week Eight. Term Paper is due end of Week. |

*Links to the assigned videos can be found in the folder "Videos for IRLS664 Politics and Culture of Central Asia" under Resources. All readings are located in the relevant weekly folder found under Resources.

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Policies

Please see the Student Handbook to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

Drop/Withdrawal Policy
Plagiarism Policy
Extension Process and Policy
Disability Accommodations

Citation and Reference Style

Attention Please: Students will follow the Turabian/Chicago Style as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University.

See http://www.apus.edu/Online-Library/tutorials/chicago.htm.

Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

Netiquette

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and "flaming." Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper "Netiquette" must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add "emoticons" to help alert your readers: ;-), :), ☺

Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to **librarian@apus.edu**.

- *Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:* The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors' publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.

- *Electronic Books:* You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.

- *Electronic Journals:* The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.

Request a Library Guide for your course (http://apus.libguides.com/index.php)
The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu.

Turnitin.com

Faculty require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. The instructor will post information in the classroom on student procedures.