The Program of the Course

1. Introduction. Definition of Central Asian region, „Western“, Asian, Russian, Local Approaches to the region.
2. The Historical overview. Central Asia until 1991 and history as the legitimization factor in current political regimes in the country.
3. The Geopolitics of Central Asia. USA, China, Russia in Central Asia, the role of other powers – the emphasis of Iran, Turkey and India.
4. „The Great Energy Game in Central Asia and Caspian“. The analysis of hydrocarbon reserves in Central Asia, “the battle of the pipelines” (analysis of existing pipeline routes and projects).
5. Political Transformation of the Region after 1991. The different approaches to the political transformation. Integration and Disintegration tendencies in the region, the problems and perspectives of integration formations – ODKB, SCO, CA(E)S, ECO, Custom Union et al.
6. Formal and Informal Institutions in Central Asia. – political systems v. traditional social structures in Central Asian politics, opposition to authoritarian regimes. The road to authoritarianism, local leaders.
7. Ideology as the fundament of State- and Nation-building. History building, the cult of the leaders, ideology of modern and democratic state.
9. Conflict potential in Central Asia – real and potential conflicts (ethnic minorities, borders, water management – with Aral Sea problems, economic disaster)
10. Economic Transformation of Central Asia. Strategies of transformation in each state, the results and consequences for outside world.
11. The Perspectives of Central Asia. Scenarios for Central Asia from local and international point of view.
Requirements
- active participation in the course (reading and analyzing all obligatory readings when applicable as well as one of the selective readings for each topic).
- one paper 2000-4000 words, done until January 10, 2011, 24:00. The topic of the paper have to be agreed until October 31, 2010). The discussion during final exam will be based on the paper and 1-2 additional basic questions concerning the topics of the course.

Readings
IMPORTANT NOTE!!! Readings are divided into “selective” and “additional”. Each student chooses one of the “selective” readings for each seminar (all readings should be distributed among students). The discussion during the seminar as well as the questions of the tutor will be based on comparing different articles/papers in these readings. “Additional” readings provide deeper background for the topic and are not obligatory for students. Red coloured readings are obligatory for all students.

General Readings

Thematic readings

1. Introduction – the main feature of the region, „Western“, Asian, Russian, Local Approaches to the definition of the region
2. The Historical overview of the region until 1991 and its interpretation

- Zohidov, Ochil: Construction and Deconstruction of Nations in Central Asia. 2010 (Manuscript)

Additional Readings


3. The Geopolitics of Central Asia, role of world and regional powers in Central Asia

- Central Asia and the Caucasus, No. 3, 2009
Makhmudov, Rustam: The Great Game in Central Asian Heartland: A New Spiral, pp. 47-58


Omarov, Noor – Omarov, Mels: Central Asia in the Foreign Policy of Russia, The United States and The European Union, pp. 71-78

Bratersky, Maksim – Suzdaltsev, Andrei: Central Asia: A Region of Economic Rivalry among Russia, China, the U.S. and the EU.

Laumulin, Marat: Russia’s Strategic Interests in Central Asia Today, pp. 90-105.

Paramonov, Vladimir – Strokov, Alexey – Stolpovsky, Oleg: Russia’s Foreign Policy: Central Asia – A View from Uzbekistan.


Additional Reading:


• Мукимджанова, Р. М.: Страны Центральной Азии. Азиатский вектор внешней политики. Научная книга, Москва, 2005, s. 106-147 (Государства Центральной Азии и Афганистан).

• Лузянин, С. Г.: Восточная политика Владимира Путина. Восток-Запад. Москва, 2007, s. 188-267.

4. „The Great Energy Game in Central Asia and Caspian“

• For Overview of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Russia and Iran Oil and Gas reserves/production/export/consumption, please refer to The US Energy Information Agency (Section Country Analyses Brief - http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/)


• Kondaurova, V.: Looking for a Way to Resolve the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea: International Law Provides No Answer. Central Asia and the Caucasus, No. 6 (54), 2008, p. 74-89.
5. Political Transformation of the Region after 1991. Integration and Disintegration tendencies in the region


Additional Readings


6. Formal and Informal Institutions – political systems v. traditional social structures in Central Asian politics, opposition to authoritarian regimes.


7. The Ideologies of Central Asian States


8. Islam in politics and society in Central Asia. Radical Islam and Afghan influence


9. Conflict potential in Central Asia – ethnicity, borders, water management
• Osh events 2010:
10. Economical Transformation

  - Tajikistan: Civil War and Its Aftermath (p. 61-72) + The Kyrgyz Republic: The Region’s Rapid Reformer (p. 73-88) + Turkmenistan: The Realm of Turkmenbashi the Great (p. 89-104)
- Фридман, Л. А.: Очерки экономического и социального развития стран Центральной Азии после распада СССР. Гуманитарий, Москва, 2001, с. 28-60.

11. The Perspectives of Central Asia