



EURA 314 Readings in Eurasian History & Culture (1.0 units*)

EURA 513 Readings in Eurasian History & Culture (1.0 units*)

** One Bryn Mawr College unit is equivalent to four undergraduate semester hours or five graduate semester hours.*

Instructor: TBD

Time: TBD

Location: Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazNU), Almaty, Kazakhstan

Number of hours: 60 (4 academic hours per week, over the course of 15 weeks)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

A broad survey of Central Asian culture and society from the ancient times to the present, with special reference to such topics as religion, family, customs, history, arts, and sociopolitical organization. The course consists of readings, class discussion, and written assignments in Kazakh.

This course covers Central Asian history from early times through the present, through Turkic, Mongol and Russian empires. Particular attention will be paid on the emergence of the Kazakh Khanate in the 15th Century, and on the forces that influenced the formation of present-day Central Asian states of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Students will also learn about nomadic society and culture, and gain an appreciation for the rich history and wide variation in ethno-linguistic groups throughout Central Asia. Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions, dialogues, and debates, as well as to prepare oral presentations and write short compositions.

OBJECTIVE

The course will develop students' language skills as well as their basic understanding of Kazakh and Central Asian history, literature, and culture. The classes will include pair work, group work discussions, and weekly presentations and compositions.

Upon the completion of this course, student shall be able to:

- Possess an increased awareness of Central Asian literature, history, and culture;
- Acquire the ability of speaking on various topics;
- Improve reading comprehension and enrich vocabulary;
- Use language to produce connected discourse.

MATERIALS

Students are placed in small groups or individualized tutorials for class, based on proficiency level. Textbooks and course materials will be based according to group.

Content of classes will be complemented through the usage of adequate literature, literary texts, and books that will be prepared by the instructor with instructions given by the instructor and will include creative exercises and usage of appropriate media such as video, music, movies, theater etc.

ACADEMIC COURSE POLICY



The academic policy of the course is determined by the Academic Policy and the Policy of Academic Integrity of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University.

Integration of science and education. The research work of students, undergraduates and doctoral students is a deepening of the educational process. It is organized directly at the departments, laboratories, scientific and design departments of the university, in student scientific and technical associations. Independent work of students at all levels of education is aimed at developing research skills and competencies based on obtaining new knowledge using modern research and information technologies. A research university teacher integrates the results of scientific activities into the topics of lectures and seminars (practical) classes, laboratory classes and into the tasks of the IWS, IWS, which are reflected in the syllabus and are responsible for the relevance of the topics of training sessions and assignments.

Attendance. The deadline for each task is indicated in the calendar (schedule) for the implementation of the content of the course. Failure to meet deadlines results in loss of points.

Academic honesty. Practical/laboratory classes, IWS develop the student's independence, critical thinking, and creativity. Plagiarism, forgery, the use of cheat sheets, cheating at all stages of completing tasks are unacceptable.

Compliance with academic honesty during the period of theoretical training and at exams, in addition to the main policies, is regulated by the "Rules for the final control", "Instructions for the final control of the autumn / spring semester of the current academic year", "Regulations on checking students' text documents for borrowings".

Basic principles of inclusive education. The educational environment of the university is conceived as a safe place where there is always support and equal attitude from the teacher to all students and students to each other, regardless of gender, race / ethnicity, religious beliefs, socio-economic status, physical health of the student, etc. All people need the support and friendship of peers and fellow students. For all students, progress is more about what they can do than what they can't. Diversity enhances all aspects of life.

GRADING AND ASSESSMENT

Class attendance is a critical part of progress in language and students are expected to come on time and prepared for each class.

Individual student work includes reading of assigned literary works, historical, current and interesting texts, daily newspapers; working on spelling and grammar exercises, as well as homework and linguistic exercises assigned by the professor; essay writing, student creating and keeping up with their own pocket dictionaries based upon vocabulary learned in class.

Grade Calculation

Category	% Points
Class participation	30
Weekly tests, quizzes, presentations	30
Homework	20
Final examination	20

TOTAL	100
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Grade Scale

Grade	A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D	F
4.0 Scale	4	3.7	3.3	3.0	2.7	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.0	0.0
% Points	93–100	90–92	87–89	83–86	80–82	77–79	73–76	70–72	60–69	0–59

COURSE CONTENT (SUBJECT TO CHANGE*)

Based on our previous experiences, we would like to emphasize that change to the curriculum provided below are inevitable and by design. Ultimately, which topics will be covered and how much time will be dedicated to them is at the discretion of language faculty and may be adjusted over the course of the program according to the student's language proficiency, classroom performance, and academic interests. We kindly ask to take this into consideration.

Week	Topic Name	Hours
1	Empires of the Steppe: Geographical and Economic Overview; Climate, Trade and Culture	4
2	Central Asia Prehistory: Rise of Nomadic Pastoral Society	4
3	Peoples and Cultures of Central Asia	4
4	The Silk Road: Crossroads of Cultures; Arab, Turkic and Mongolian empires and influences	4
5	Islam in Central Asia	4
6	A Modern History of Central Asia: Rise of National Movements in Colonial Central Asia	4
7	Central Asia in the Soviet Union: Changing Family and Community Organization	4
8	National Movement in Central Asia: 20 th Century Political Activism and Democratization	4
9	Central Asia in Transition: Civil Society, Ethnic Conflict and Foreign Relations	4
10	Contemporary Central Asia: Changing Religious, Ethnic and Gender Identities	4
11	Contemporary Central Asia: Economics and Regional Alliances	4
12	The Silk Road in Modern Central Asian States' Policy	4
13	Political Islam and State-Building in Central Asia	4
14	Foreign Policy and Regional Security of Contemporary Central Asia	4
15	The New Great Game in Central Asia: Strategic importance of Central Asia for Russia, Middle Eastern states and the West	4
	Final Exam	