

## **The Non-Russians of Eurasia/Soviet Union**

**History 555, Section 003**

**George Mason University**

Prof. Paul Stronski

Spring 2010, Robinson A210

Thursday, 7:20-10pm

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Office Hours: Thursday, 6:15-7:00, by appointment

### **Course Description**

This course explores the experience of the non-Russians in late Russian Empire and the Soviet Union with large—but not exclusive—focus on the peoples of the Caucasus and Central Asia. We will touch on issues of race, gender, class, and ethnic identities from the late Tsarist era through the twentieth-century. By concentrating on revolutionary ideologies, empire, and violence, students will explore cultural reform, totalitarianism, urbanism in the Eurasian periphery and religion in Eurasia during the height of socialist rule. Students will also examine the role of these regions as cultural and political crossroads between Europe, Asia, and the Middle East.

### **Course Requirements:**

1) Participation:

Participation is crucial to the success of this course. Consequently, participation in each week's discussion will contribute substantially to the final grade. Attendance in class is crucial. If you do not attend, you cannot participate and your participation grade will suffer accordingly.

2) Oral Presentations:

One and occasionally two students will be required to open the week's session with a brief discussion of the issues raised by the week's readings, after which they will lead discussion of the readings. Students are responsible for helping the discussion leader through active participation.

3) Written Assignments:

Students will write short reading reviews (1-2 pages) for 6 of the 13 class sessions. These assignments are **due at the beginning of the class session for which they**

**are written.** Students can choose whichever weeks they prefer. These reviews should raise the points and questions you see as most relevant for class discussion. These reviews should NOT simply be a regurgitation of information from the book.

Additionally, students will write a final paper of 12-15 pages that explores the historiography of ethnicity in the USSR. Details will be discussed further in class. This final paper will be due **TO THE INSTRUCTOR BY EMAIL NO LATER THAN 7PM on May 6.**

**Grade Breakdown:**

Student Presentations	20%
Participation	20%
6 1-2 page reviews (5% each)	30%
Final Paper	30%

**Course Policies – READ CAREFULLY:**

**Policy on Late Work:** No extension on assignments will be granted. Grades on assignments will be reduced by 5 percent for each day of lateness.

**Policy on Incompletes:** Incompletes will be granted only in extreme circumstances. As an adjunct instructor, I will neither have the time to monitor student progress on incompletes nor have the ability to enter grades once I leave GMU at the end of the semester. Please plan accordingly.

**ADA:** Students with learning disabilities who need special accommodation must present appropriate documentation to me by the third week of class. Contact the Disability Resource Center (<http://www.gmu.edu/student/drc>) to obtain documentation.

**Cheating and Plagiarism:** All work in this class must be your own unless otherwise directed by the professor. If you haven't already, read the George Mason University Honor Code which defines cheating and plagiarism and outlines the penalties and procedures that apply thereto. Violators will receive the maximum penalty allowed by the University. If you have any questions on what constitutes cheating or plagiarism after reviewing these materials, please talk to me. If you are unsure when completing an assignment, ask me. Do not take a chance of your case winding up before the Honor Board. For more information on George Mason's honor code: <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode/>

**Special Flu Policy:** No one should endanger themselves or others by attending class when they are sick. Anyone experiencing flu-like symptoms should not come to class. The only requirement is that the instructor **MUST** be notified by email **PRIOR** to the class missed. Accommodations will be made for missed work.

**Course Adjustments:** I retain the right to revise readings or assignments over the course of the class. Any such change will be announced in class and sent out as an email message to all students. In addition, I will ask students halfway through the course to complete an interim course evaluation and can tweak the course to respond to student input.

## Course Schedule

### 1/21 **Introduction, Overview of the course**

### 1/28 **Late Imperial/Early Soviet Central Asia**

Readings: Jeff Sahadeo, *Russian Colonial Society in Tashkent*

### 2/4 **Islamic Reform in Central Asia**

Readings: Adeeb Khalid, *The Politics of Muslim Cultural Reform*

Scott Levi, "Turks and Tajiks in Central Asian History" in Jeff Sahadeo and Russel Zanca ed, *Everyday Life in Central Asia Past and Present, 2007*

### 2/11 **Victims vs. Victims**

Readings: Geoffrey Hoskings, *Victims and Rulers*

*Yuri Slezkine, The USSR as a Communal Apartment or How the Soviet Union Promoted Ethnic Particularism, Slavic Review, Summer, 1994*

Theodore Weeks, "Stalinism and Nationality" *Kritika*, Summer 2005 (Skim)

### 2/18 **The Creation of Soviet Nations (part I)**

Readings: Francine Hirsch, *Empire of Nations*

Marco Buttino, "Minorities in Samarkand: A Case Study of the City's Koreans," *Nationalities Papers*, Sept. 2009

### 2/25 **The Creation of Soviet Nations (part II)**

Readings: Adrienne Edgar, *Tribal Nation*

Victoria Clement, "Alphabet Changes In Turkmenistan, 1904-2004," in Jeff Sahadeo and Russel Zanca ed, *Everyday Life in Central Asia Past and Present, 2007 (on reserve)*

### 3/4 **Women and Gender in Central Asia (part III)**

Readings: Douglas Northrop, *Veiled Empire*

Marianne Kamp, "Gender Ideals and Income Realities: Discourses about Labor and Gender in Uzbekistan," *Nationalities Papers*, 2005, 33 (3): 403-422.

Marianne Kamp, "Between Women and the State: Mahalla Committees and Social Welfare in Uzbekistan," in *The Transformation of Central Asia: states and societies from Soviet rule to independence*, ed. Pauline Jones Luong, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2004, 29-58. (On reserve at library)

3/11 SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES

3/18 **Armenia: A nation at home and abroad \*\*** (Please note that this session will likely either be cancelled or rescheduled due to work schedule of instructor. Additional information on this class will be discussed in class.)

Readings: Razmik Panossian, *The Armenians: From Kings and Priests to Merchants and Commissars* (please skim sections 1-4, and read sections 5-7. Class discussion will focus on sections 5-7, the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and the Soviet periods).

Robert Krikorian, "History, Subversion and Low-Intensity Conflict in the Soviet Union," *Anthropology of East Europe Review*, Volume 21, No. 2, 2003. (available at <http://condor.depaul.edu/~rrotenbe/aeer/v21n2/Krikorian.pdf>)

William Safran, "Guerre et Terrorisme Arméniens" (Book review in English!), *Nationalism & Ethnic Politics*, Spring 2004

### 3/25 **Mature Socialism**

Readings: Paul Stronski, *Tashkent: Forging a Soviet City*

Shoshanna Keller, "Story, Time and Dependent Nation in the Uzbek History Curriculum," *Slavic Review*, Summer 2007

Morgan Liu, "A Central Asian Tale of Two Cities: Locating Lives and Aspirations in a Shifting Post-Soviet Landscape", in Jeff Sahadeo and Russel Zanca ed, *Everyday Life in Central Asia Past and Present, 2007 (on reserve)*

### 4/1 **Transition to the Caucasus**

Readings: Charles King, *Ghost of Freedom*

Svetlana Akkueva, "Caucasus, One or Many?" *Nationalities Papers*, May 2008

Timothy Blauvelt, "Abkhazia: Patronage and Power in the Stalin Era," *Nationalities Papers*, May 2007

Timothy Blauvelt, "Status Shift and Ethnic Mobilisation in the March 1956 Events in Georgia," *Europe-Asia Studies*, June 2009"

#### 4/8 **Revolutionary Azerbaijan**

Readings: Tadeusz Swietochowski, *Russian Azerbaijan, 1905-1920*

Additional Readings TBD

#### 4/15 **Violence in the Caucasus: Images and Realities of Chechnya**

Readings: Bruce Grant, *Captive and the Gift*

John Dunlop, *Russia Confronts Chechnya*, 1-124, skim remainder if you have time

Kiril Feferman, "A Soviet Humanitarian Action?: Centre, Periphery and the Evacuation of Refugees to the North Caucasus, 1941-1942." *Europe-Asia Studies*, Summer 2009

#### 4/22 **Socialist Transitions in Moldova**

Readings: Charles King, *The Moldovans: Romania, Russia, and the Politics of Culture*

Additional Readings TBD

#### 4/29 **The Western Republics – Identity, War, and Ethnic Cleansing**

Readings: Timothy Snyder, *Reconstruction of Nations*

David Marples, "Stepan Bandera: The Resurrection of a Ukrainian National Hero," *Europe-Asia Studies*, Volume 58, No. 4, 2006

Nathanial Copsey, "Remembrance of Things Past: The Lingering Impact of History on Contemporary Polish-Ukrainian Relations," *Europe-Asia Studies*, June 2008