

**American University of Central Asia
Anthropology Department
Fall 2014**

**Power, State and Informal Politics in Central Asia
(Political Anthropology)**

Instructor: Ruslan Rahimov, Ph.D.
Email: anthroporus@gmail.com
Office Hours: By appointment
Venue: Tuesday and Thursday 14.30-15:45
Room: 125

Course ID: 2505 ANTH 387
3296 ANTH-376.1 / ICP-376

Course Objectives

- to discuss theoretical background of political studies from the ethnographic approach;
- to introduce the students to the different concepts around such themes as state, power and informal politics based on Central Asian Context;
- to enlarge understanding of “the political” through practical research.

Course Description

This course examines power and *the political* through anthropological perspective. The course will start covering topics from different historical periods which are embedded to specific political context and various practices.

This part will be also devoted to the central asian realities, where we consider the role of informal politics and power in the age of “globalization”-questioning that term even as we examine its implications for identity, the state, and political action, and emphasizing the ways *ethnographically* grounded anthropological research can shift from the micro-level to a deeper understanding of large-scale, national, transnational and global processes.

In doing so, it examines both “formal” politics and everyday forms of power, domination and resistance. We shall study how anthropologists approach such topics as religion, corruption, clan politics and ideology.

Expected students’ learning outcomes

- Understanding basic theoretical background related to political anthropology
- Understanding how power, state and informal politics works in various parts of Central Asia
- Basic research ethnographic skills
- Research and reflection papers writing skills
- Presentation and communication skills

Assignments:

Participation and attendance:	30 %
4 short essays (1-2 pp):	20 %
In-class mid-term exam:	15 %
Proposal and bibliography for the final project (2 pp):	5%
Final research project and presentation (6-7 pp):	30 %

Grading scale:

A =100-95	C =76-73
A-=94-90	C-=72-70
B+=89-87	D+=69-67
B =86-83	D =66-63
B-=82-80	D-=62-60
C+=79-77	F =59 and less

Plagiarism will not be tolerated during the course. Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person's ideas and representing them as your own original work. You must either paraphrase the sentence by putting it completely in your own words and citing it with the proper footnote, endnote or in text citation, or put the quotation marks or make block quotation if you use the direct words of the source without any change with the following footnote, endnote or other citation after the copied words. All information must be cited. Always cite a legitimate source. Wikipedia is not a legitimate source. Books published by university presses and academic papers found on JSTOR are legitimate sources.

Cheating will not be tolerated during the course. Cheating is the use of unauthorized sources during exams such as books, student's notes, cellular phones, etc.

Class presentations

If you fail to make a class presentation on the day you chose, you will not be given a second chance to do it.

Appeals

If you don't agree with your grade for an assignment, you must submit a written appeal to the Department Head explaining the reasons of your disagreement. Oral appeals are not considered.

Class Syllabus

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the class outline, exam dates or assignment. It is your responsibility to attend the class and be informed of any changes to the syllabus.

Class format

There will be no lecture/seminar classic division but rather perceived as a hybrid.

Attendance

30 points

Attendance is required. Attendance will be checked in the beginning of each class period. If you are late you will not be allowed to the class. Or, you can be allowed to the class but will get an absence in the attendance list.

If you got sick, you have to notify an instructor or the office manager in advance, and later submit an official document (spravka) from a physician, especially if you are scheduled to make a class presentation. Four unexcused absences will result in "X" for the whole course. Participation will be graded based on active participation, which 1)

demonstrates awareness of the subject;2)shows knowledge of the reading;3) shows ability to criticize the topic..

Class participation is defined openly and does not only include speaking up in class. Participation means actively participating both in class and during group projects, bringing articles to class, coming prepared to discuss, communicating with the instructor, and online participation.

Mid Term exam

15 points

Exam will be in-class exam and will be based on 4 questions selected from the class topics; student should select two of them.

4 Short papers:

20 points

Short reflection paper will be mainly based on reading critique of one of the articles, which will be provided in advance. Student has to discuss author's arguments. Hard copies of assignments should be given to the instructor. Student will have to answer three (2-3 paragraph responses, approximately one page for each)

Proposal and bibliography for the final project (2 pp)

5 points

Final research project and presentation:

30 points

The final paper will be an original ethnographic research with at least seven sources. The topic will be developed in consultation with the instructor, and can cover any political themes in Kyrgyzstan. The paper should contain 6-7 pages with bibliography (double-space, 12 t. new roman..) It is not acceptable to hand in the same assignment for two or more courses.

Class Schedule

<p>1 week: Introduction to the subject. What is political anthropology? Syllabus, course policies.</p>	<p>Premises of political anthropology: indirect rule Meyer Fortes and Edward Evan Evans-Pritchard: "African political Systems"</p>
<p>2 week: Evans Pritchard: "Nuer politics: Structure and Politics"</p>	<p>Parallels b/n texts. "Types of Preindustrial Political Systems": concepts and criticisms</p>
<p>3 week: Lewellen, Ch. 1 - "The Development of Political Anthropology"</p>	<p>Historical and political evolution of Central Asia. Concept of central Asia. The great game. Different angles.</p>
<p>4 week: Olivier Roy: "The New Central Asia: the creation of nations NYU Press, 2000</p>	<p>Kyrgyz and Kazakh nomads in the context of post-soviet/post-colonial debates.</p>
<p>5 week: Clans in Central Asia. Regimes and Transitions Cathleen Collins. An Introduction to Political Development and Transition in Central Asia. Clan Politics and Regime Transition in Central Asia. 2006, 1-21</p>	<p>Edward Schatz. Reconceptualizing Clans: Kinship Networks and Statehood in Kazakhstan. Nationalities Papers, Vol. 33, No. 2, June 2005, 231-250</p>

<p>6 week: Religion and the politics. Various strategies. Struggle for the power. Secular discourses. Guest lecturer.</p>	<p>Bayram Balci: “Tabligi Jamoat movement”- Central Asian Survey. Research presentation on Tabligi Jamoat.</p>
<p>7 week: Ethnography of State. Laura Adams: “Spectacular State...”</p>	<p>Johan Rasanaygam: “The moral construction of the state in Uzbekistan”, extract from the dissertation extract.</p>
<p>8 week: Madeleine Reeves: "Travels in the Margins of the State: Everyday Geography in the Ferghana Valley Borderlands."</p>	<p>Politics of minorities in Fergana Valley. Morgan Liu: Under Solomon throne: Uzbek Visions of Renewal in Osh</p>
<p>9 week: Haruchiro Fukui. Introduction: On the Significance of Informal Politics. Informal Politics in east Asia.</p>	<p>Movie.</p>
<p>10 week: Jan van Tatenhove, Jeannette Mak and Duncan Liefferink. The interplay between Formal and Informal Practices. Perspectives on European Politics and Society, vol 7, no 1, 8-24, May 2006</p>	<p>Afghanistan and Central Asia: Security and connections.</p>
<p>11 week: State, Politics and Organized Crime The Crime-State Nexus in Central Asia. 2006. (chapter: Organized Crime within the State), 65-82</p>	<p>In-class mid-term exam</p>
<p>12 week: Alexander Kupatadze: “<i>Organized Crime, Political Transitions and State Formation in post-Soviet Eurasia</i>”</p>	<p>Guest lecturer.</p>
<p>13 week: Ideology in Central Asia. Post-colonial perspective. Laura Adams on post-colonial theory.</p>	<p>Murzakulova, J. Schoberlein: “The invention of legitimacy: struggles in Kyrgyzstan to Craft an Effective Nation-State ideology”</p>
<p>14 week: The role of youth in Central Asia. GIZ/Ministry of youth report. <i>Azamat Temirkulov: Kyrgyz “revolutions” in 2005 and 2010: comparative analysis of mass mobilization</i>, Nationalities Papers Vol. 38, No. 5, September 2010, pp. 589–600.</p>	<p>Revolutions/social protests and mobilizations. Scott Radniz. Networks, Localism and Mobilization in Aksy. Central Asian Survey (Dec 2005) 24(4), 405-424 Reflections papers are due (Nov 22, 10 pm).</p>
<p>15-16 weeks: Presentations of final research projects</p>	<p>Presentations of final research projects</p>