

Course Title: Introduction to Central Asia
Course No: SA 201
Total Credits: Three (3)
Course In-Charge: Dr. Sharad K. Soni
Course Teacher: Dr. Mukesh Kumar Mishra

INTRODUCTION

The course intends to provide an understanding of the Central Asian region, its land and people, natural resources, and its significance for India. It also discusses the ethno-religious groups in Central Asia namely the Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, Turkmen, Uzbeks, Tajiks, Uighurs, Mongols, etc. Besides, the course also discusses Government and Politics as well as Foreign Relations of Central Asian countries with special reference to India. Finally, it also touches upon the issues of regional cooperation in Central Asia, Intra-Regional Trade, Transport Linkages and energy, etc.

EVALUATION PATTERN: Lecture and Tutorials

COURSE CONTENTS

The course is offered as an Optional Course for the Undergraduate students of the School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies (SLL&CS). It will cover the following topics:

1. Land, People and History.
2. Resources and Economy (Mineral resources, oil and gas and their distribution, economic situation, trade, investment and agriculture)
3. Ethnic Groups (Kazakhs, Kyrgyzs, Uzbeks, Tajiks, Turkmen, Russians, Uyghurs, Mongols etc.).
4. Religion (Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, Shamanism).
5. Government and Politics. (Independence of Central Asian Republics, political and constitutional developments, Nation-building)
6. Foreign Relations with special reference to India.
7. Regional Cooperation.(Intra – regional trade, transport linkages and regional cooperation and security)

SELECT READINGS

- Akiner, S. *Islam in post-Soviet Central Asia: contested territory*. Hamburg: German Oriental Institute, 2002.
- Allison, Roy, ed. *Central Asian Security: The New International Context*: Royal Institute of International Affairs, 2001.
- Chylinski, Ewa (ed.), *Soviet Central Asia: Continuity and Change*, 1984.
- Dienes Leslie, *Soviet Asia: Economic Development and National Policy Choices*, Boulder, 1988.
- Dudoignon, Stephane, and Komatsu Hisao, eds. *Islam in Politics in Russia and Central Asia (Early Eighteenth to Late Twentieth Centuries)*. London and New York: Kegan Paul, 2001.
- Gleason, Gregory. *Markets and Politics in Central Asia: Structural Reform and Political Change*. New York: Routledge, 2003.
- Haghighyehi, Mehrdad. *Islam and Politics in Central Asia*: Palgrave Macmillan, 1996.
- Kaushik, D., *Central Asia in Modern Times*, Moscow, 1970.
- Kleveman, Lutz. *The New Great Game: Blood and Oil in Central Asia*: Atlantic Monthly Press, 2003.
- Luong, Pauline Jones. *Institutional Change and Political Continuity in Post-Soviet Central Asia: Power, Perceptions, and Pacts*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.
- Olcott, Martha Brill. *Central Asia's New States: Independence, Foreign Policy, International Security*: United States Institute of Peace Press, 1996.
- Rashid, Ahmed. *Jihad: The Rise of Militant Islam in Central Asia*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2002.
- Roy, Olivier. *Central Asia: The Creation of Nations*. New York: New York University Press, 2000.
- Shirin, Akiner, *Islamic Peoples of Soviet Union*, London, 1983.
- Soni, Sharad K., *Modern Mongolia: A Concise History*, New Delhi: Pentagon, 2007.
- Warikoo, K. and Dawa Norbu, eds., *Ethnicity and Politics in Central Asia*, New Delhi, 1992.
- Warikoo, K. And Mahavir Singh, eds., *Central Asia: Emerging New Order*, New Delhi, 1995.
- Warikoo, K., ed., *Central Asia Since Independence*, New Delhi, 2004.
- Warikoo, K. and Soni, Sharad K., eds., *Mongolia in the 21st Century*, New Delhi and London, Pentagon, 2010.
- Wheeler, G., *The Modern History of Soviet Central Asia*, London, 1964.