



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Between China and The Middle East: Issues in Central Asian History - 38323

Last update 27-08-2023

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: Islamic & Middle East Stud.

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Michal Biran

Coordinator Email: michal.biran1@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: MONDAY 915-1015

Teaching Staff:

Prof Michal Biran

Course/Module description:

The course examines major issues in Central Asian history from the Arab to the Russian conquests (7th - 19th centuries), stressing the centrality of Central Asia to world history and the various traditions (Turkic, Mongolian, Muslim, Chinese) which shaped this complex zone. It focuses on cross cultural contacts along the Silk Roads (including Islamization); evolving legitimization concepts; nomad-sedentary relations and travelogues as a major source for Central Asian history

Course/Module aims:

The course aims to introduce the students to one of the most fascinating and complex areas in the world, a contact zone between various cultures, religions and lifestyles.

Covering main stages in Central Asian history (7-19 centuries) and focusing on special themes, it will manifest how cross-cultural contacts in the pre-modern world affected Central Asia and how it affected its neighbors.

Methodologically, the students will gain experience in reading and analyzing primary sources, notably travelogues.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

Discuss basic stages and processes in Central Asian history and culture, and the impact the region had on world history.

Read and analyze primary sources, notably travelogues

Analyze processes of cross cultural contacts and IR in the pre-modern period

Attendance requirements(%):

100%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Discussion, lectures, students' lectures

Course/Module Content:

SEE IN MOODLE or check Hebrew version

Required Reading:

Relevant parts from

P. B. Golden, *Central Asia in World History* (Oxford, 2011).

S. C. Levi and R. Sela (eds.) *Islamic Central Asia: An Anthology of Historical Sources* (Bloomington, 2010),

+ sources and articles as assigned in the Moodle

Additional Reading Material:

- Allsen, Thomas T. (2001). *Culture and Conquest in Mongol Eurasia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Allsen, Thomas T. (1997). *Commodity and Exchange in the Mongol Empire*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Baumer, Christoph. (2012-2018). *The History of Central Asia*. London: I.B. Tauris & Co. Ltd (esp. vols. 3-5).
- Christian, D. (1998), *A History of Russia, Central Asia and Mongolia, Vol. 1: Inner Eurasia from Prehistory to the Mongol Empire*, Oxford.
- Biran, M., Brack J, and F. Fiaschetti, (eds). (2020). *Along the Silk Roads in Mongol Eurasia: Generals, Merchants, Intellectuals*. Berkeley: University of California Press.
- Christian, D. (2018), *A History of Russia, Central Asia and Mongolia, Vol. 11: Inner Eurasia from the Mongol Empire to Today*, Oxford.
- Di Cosmo, N., Peter B. Golden and Alan Frank, (eds.), (2009). *The Cambridge History of Inner Asia: The Chinggisid Age*. Cambridge
- Elverskog, J. (2007) *Our Great Qing: The Mongols, Buddhism and the State in Late Imperial China*. Honolulu: Hawaii University Press.
- Golden, P.B. (1992), *An Introduction to the History of the Turkic Peoples*, Wiesbaden.
- Harl, K. W. (2023). *Empires of the Steppes: The Nomadic Tribes Who Shaped Civilisation..* London,: Bloomsbury.
- Jackson Peter, (2018). *The Mongols and the west*. 2nd ed. Longman: London
- Levi, Scott C. (2020). *The Bukharan Crisis A Connected History of 18th Century Central Asia*. Baltimore, Maryland:
- Khazanov, A.M. (1994), *Nomads and the Outside World*, Madison.
- Morgan, David O. (2007). *The Mongols* (2nd edition). Oxford: Blackwell.
- Roxburgh, D. (2005). *Turks: A Journey of a Thousand Years, 600-1600*. London & New York: Royal Academy of Art
- Sinor, D. (ed.), (1990), *The Cambridge History of Early Inner Asia*, Cambridge.
- Star, F. S. (2013). *Lost Enlightenment: Central Asia's Golden Age*. Princeton: Princeton university Press.

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 60 %
Active Participation / Team Assignment 30 %
Presentation / Poster Presentation / Lecture 10 %

Additional information:

Active participate in class is part of the grade; Part of it may involve submitting questions and comments on the reading materials