

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
Department of History
Semester 2, 1982-83

History 375: The Middle East in World Affairs
Since 1900: Central Asia

Instructor: Mr. Hauner

Course Description

This course will cover the predominantly Muslim regions of Central Asia, stretching from the Persian Gulf to Western China: Iran, Afghanistan, the North-West Frontier of India (Pakistan), Kashmir, Tibet, Sinkiang, Outer Mongolia and Russian/Soviet Turkestan. This vast and diverse region served until recently as an exemplary buffer zone between the Russian and British spheres of influence. In this course we shall examine the strategic significance of Central Asia, its implications upon the present East-West power struggle, and the impact of the Islamic resurgence. Special attention will be given to Soviet policy toward the Muslim population. Outside Russian/Soviet Central Asia, Afghanistan will be selected as the country of pivotal importance for the region.

Lectures: Three each week. Discussion sections are not foreseen but may be introduced depending on the size of the class. Films will be shown related to the course topics.

Course Requirements

Written Assignments and Examinations: Two written exams (mid-term and final) and one 7-10 page essay on one of the discussion topics.

Four-Credit Option: In addition to the above, students must prepare a brief 5-page book review on at least two additional books to be selected from a separate bibliography which will be made available.

Grading

Three Credits: 35% on Essay; 35% on Final; 30% on Mid-term.

Four Credits: 30% on Book Review; 30% on Final; 20% on Essay; 20% on Mid-term.

Required Readings

Olaf Caroe, Soviet Empire: The Turks of Central Asia and Stalinism (St. Martin's, 1967).

Michael Rywkin, Moscow's Muslim Challenge. Soviet Central Asia (Sharp Publ., 1982).

Alvin Rubinstein, Soviet Policy toward Turkey, Iran, and Afghanistan (Praeger, 1982).

Louis Duprée, Afghanistan (Princeton paper, 1980).

Fred Halliday, Threat from the East? (Penguin, 1982).