UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS  
POLS689 EURASIAN SECURITY  
Fall 2011

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Office Hours: Tue.: 3-5pm; Wed.: 2-4pm, & by appointment

Class meets on Tuesdays, 7-9:50pm, 1007 Wescoe & 251 Regnier

Course Description
Many of the post-Soviet states have recently been in the spotlight of world attention because of their dangerous potential for destabilizing regional and global security. The former Soviet republics of the South Caucasus and Central Asia,¹ which are frequently referred to as “Eurasia,” have been particularly vulnerable to extremist, terrorist, and separatist threats and, at the same time, attractive to external interests for their lucrative natural resources and networks for transporting them. Global concerns with combating terrorism, weapon proliferation, and drugs and human trafficking, boosted by strategic interests in the region, underscore practical significance of studying security and security policies of the states of Eurasia.

Inspired by the growing interest in the topic of Eurasian security, this course is designed to define and assess the major security challenges confronting the governments and societies in this region, and explore the origins and implications of the key security issues at the national, regional, and global levels. We will consider several dimensions of security and discuss how overlapping or competing conceptualizations of security are promoted, measured, or downplayed. Among the specific topics discussed in the class will be the impact of colonial and Communist past, weak identities, and Islam on contemporary security problems. Threats such as ethnic conflicts, transnational crime, religious extremism, and terrorism will be examined in depth. Because of the region’s geo-strategic importance, we will consider conflicting interests of Russia, China, US, and other states on Eurasian security. Finally, the role of international and regional institutions in promoting cooperation and security will be discussed as well.

Students’ Learning Objectives
After the completion of this course, students will be able to:
- Define security;
- Explain and apply approaches to security;
- Define and discuss both traditional and non-traditional issues and actors of Eurasian security;
- Recognize the complexity and interconnectedness of domestic, regional, and global aspects of security;
- Assess implications of various security threats in Eurasia to national, regional, and global security;
- Acquire an in-depth knowledge of a thematic and geographic area of interest within Eurasian security.

¹ South Caucasus includes Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, whereas Central Asia is traditionally thought of as consisting of 5 “stans” – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.
Course Texts
The following two texts are available in the electronic format. We will read selected chapters from both volumes. There will be additional readings assigned for each class. Most of those reading assignments will be available on the Blackboard site in a folder labeled “Class Readings.” Those readings can also be found in electronic journals @ KU libraries.


Course Requirements and Grading
Completion of Reading Assignments and Class Participation: Since this is an upper level course, we will rely heavily on the readings and class discussions. Therefore, all students are expected to complete the required readings prior to class and participate in all class discussions and other activities. When there will be three or more articles and/or book chapters assigned for a class, I will split those among students for a better manageability of the reading assignments. The students should be prepared to contribute to class discussions based on the assigned readings. My lectures WILL NOT substitute for readings. In fact, lectures will be designed under the assumption that students have completed their reading assignments. Students’ tardiness and negligence in work with the reading materials will jeopardize their participation in classroom activities and exercises and have a negative effect on their participation grade. Participation also includes attendance. Since we only meet once a week, attendance of all classes is very important. A whole letter grade will be taken off for missing 3 or more class meetings. Only in the very rare circumstances will I make any exceptions to this requirement after a consultation with the Head of the Department of Political Science.

Country’s Presentation: The goal of this assignment is to provide students with a snapshot of history, politics, points of interest, and security concerns of each country within the scope of this course. Students will select one country from among the states of Eurasia and form groups of 2-3 students uniting those interested in the same state. The team will be given a week to prepare a 1-2 page country handout and a 10-minute long presentation consisting of (1) a brief overview of the country’s history and current socio-economic and political conditions (5 minutes); (2) points of interest about the country (2-3 minutes); and (3) warnings for those interested in travelling to, investing in, or immigrating into the country (2-3 minutes). Think about the handout as a brief reference guide to the state that other students can use throughout the semester. Do not plagiarize CIA World Factbook or other sources of country data. Cite the referenced materials. Handouts should be uploaded to the Blackboard (under Course Materials) a night before the class (August 29th). Presentations are due on August 30th.

The difficulty of this assignment is its conciseness. Students must sift through the open sources data (some recommended readings can be found in the schedule of class meetings) and single out those aspects of a state’s history, politics, religion, society, and economy that are most important and pertinent for understanding its security.
Note: students are encouraged to use the same or a couple of different states for most of course assignments with the view of accumulating knowledge about the country or countries for writing up a well-researched final paper.

Round-Table Brief: During the fourth week of classes, on Sep. 14, we will hold two roundtables dedicated to the assessment of a threat of conventional war to states of Central Asia and South Caucasus. To prepare for these roundtables, all students are required to choose one (or more) states from either Central Asia or South Caucasus and prepare an analytical brief providing a convincing and well argued answer to the following question: “Are their traditional security threats to the state(s)? If so, where are they coming from?”

The best way of approaching this assignment is to imagine yourself as a specialist or consultant advising a US government, a foreign government, or a corporation on an actual security situation in a state or states of your choice. You have to take a position as to whether or not independence, territorial integrity, and peace of a selected state or states are threatened from outside (Important! This assignment is not about internal security threats). This position must be fleshed out in the opening paragraph of the brief. The remainder of the brief should present a tight and persuasive defense for your position drawing on theoretical approaches discussed in the class and thoroughly considered facts, figures, and relevant examples. Recommended readings can be found in the schedule of classes, but students are encouraged to read more broadly into the topic.

The brief should not be more than 1.5 - 2 pages long, single-spaced, 12-point type, New Times Roman font. It should be brought as a hard copy to class on Sep. 14 and ALSO POSTED ON THE DISCUSSION BOARD on the Blackboard.

In class, students will form two groups corresponding to the states of analysis. Two roundtables will be held during the class. Arguments and evidence from the briefs will be used for generating the round-table discussion.

Press Conference
The second part of the course will be dedicated to the discussion and analysis of various unconventional threats to the states of Eurasia, including organized crime, corruption, environmental threats, economic threats, and threats to human security. All students will be divided into small groups (4-5 students) with each team responsible for collecting information and learning in more depth about one of topics. On the day when the topic is scheduled for discussion, the team of those responsible for the topic will hold a class-room conference, during which the group’s members will play the role of experts and the rest of the class – the role of journalists. The “journalists” (students that are not responsible for the topic of the day) will be required to do a required reading and prepare 2-4 questions that they will address to any expert on the team. Those questions will need to be written on a piece of paper and submitted to the instructor before the commencement of class. The experts will be required to do additional readings (the ones that are recommended by the instructor as well as those found by students themselves). The expert can answer the question him/herself or consult with the team. Other experts on the team can make additions/comments to the answer. The evaluation of student performance will be based on the breadth of his/her knowledge of the topic; ability to integrate classroom material into responses; and clarity/comprehensiveness of answers.
Press Release
Those students who are not the members of the team of experts will be given time during the class to write-up summaries of press conference in a form of press release.

Final Project: The final project for the class will be in the form of an analytical forecast concerning the prospects of an escalation of a particular threat in a selected state of Eurasia or emergence of a new threat. To prepare such an analytical forecast, students need to think of an existing or potential security problem from among those discussed in the class and a state or states where this problem persists or might appear in the near future. For topics not included into the class curriculum, students must receive the instructor’s permission. Once the existing or potential security problem is identified, students will need to carry out research into the magnitude of the problem and background conditions or causes that perpetuate or might bring about the problem. Drawing on the assessment of the causes and conditions of a selected security threat, students should think about the likelihood and ways in which the identified threat to security might escalate in the short and/or medium-time frame. Finally, the students should propose solutions to prevent or ameliorate the examined security problem.

The final project will be completed in stages. Students will receive the instructor’s feedback at each stage of the project. More detailed guidelines on how to write up a final report will be provided to students.

October 4th: Students should inform the instructor about the choice of a security issue and a state or states where it persists or may appear in the near future.

October 18th: Students should submit a brief assessment of the magnitude of the selected security problem and a list of tentative explanations (causes) and/or background conditions affecting it.

November 1st: Students should submit a tentative forecast of the future developments in the selected area of a state’s security.

November 15th: Students should submit possible solutions to the selected security problem.

November 29th: First draft of the paper is due.

Final paper is due on the day when the final exam is scheduled for the class or earlier

The final report should not be longer than 10 pages long (SINGLE SPACED), including the list of references and footnotes or endnotes. The paper should be typed in Times New Roman, size 12 font, 1 inch margins.

The final grade will be calculated as follows:
Completion of Reading Assignments and Class Participation 15%
Country’s Presentation 10%
Round-Table Brief 15%
Press Conference 15%
Press Releases 10%
Final Project 35%
Total 100%

Academic integrity
The University of Kansas prohibits academic misconduct. According to the Rules and Regulations of the University Senate (Art. II, Section 6), academic misconduct is defined as “the disruption of classes; threatening an instructor or fellow student in an academic setting; giving or receiving of unauthorized aid on examinations or in the preparation of notebooks, themes, reports or other assignments; knowingly misrepresenting the source of any academic work; unauthorized changing of grades; unauthorized use of University approvals or forging of signatures; falsification of research results; plagiarizing of another's work; violation of regulations or ethical codes for the treatment of human and animal subjects; or otherwise acting dishonestly in research.”

Academic misconduct and academic dishonesty (plagiarism and cheating) will be treated in accordance with the University Regulations (http://www2.ku.edu/~unigov/usr.html) and the Student Academic Misconduct Policy put forth by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (http://www2.ku.edu/~clas/faculty/policies/misconduct.pdf).

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics and Readings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 23</td>
<td><strong>Overview of the Course’s Objectives and Assignments; Introduction of Key Concepts of the Course (What is Eurasia? What is Security?)</strong></td>
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<td>Aug. 30</td>
<td><strong>Introductions to the States of Eurasia (Groups’ Presentations)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Assignment Due: Country’s Group Presentation (see description of the assignment in the syllabus)</strong></td>
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Sources of Information about Countries:

- CIA WorldFactbook

Overview of Central Asian republics:

- Daniel L. Burghart, “In the Tracks of Tamerlane: Central Asia's Path to the 21st Century”. Ch.1 in *In the Tracks of Tamerlane: Central Asia’s Path to the 21st Century*

Overview of the republics of South Caucasus:


Additional Information Can be Found in the Following Recommended Sources:


**Conceptual and Theoretical Framework for the Course (Security in Traditional and Contemporary Understanding); Approaches to Studying Traditional Security (Why Do Conventional Wars Occur?) Instructor will be at Edwards Campus**


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**Inter-State Rivalry, Territorial and Border Conflicts in Eurasia**

Are There Traditional Security Threats to the States of Eurasia *(Round Table Discussions)*?

**Sources on Traditional Security Threats in Central Asia**


**Sources on Traditional Security Threats in South Caucasus**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Political Evolution of Eurasia: Post-Colonialism, Problematic Sovereignty, and Lack of Legitimacy of the Governing Regimes</th>
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</table>
| Sep. 20 | • E. Wayne Merry, “The Politics of Central Asia: National in Form, Soviet in Content”, Ch. 2 in *In the Tracks of Tamerlane: Central Asia’s Path to the 21st Century*  

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Political Evolution of Eurasia: Contested Identities, Nationalism, Clan Politics</th>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>First Part of the Final Project Due: Students should inform the instructor about the choice of a security issue and a state or states where it persists or may appear in the near future</th>
<th>Second Part of the Final Project Due: Students should submit a brief assessment of the magnitude of the selected security problem and a list of tentative explanations (causes) and/or background conditions affecting it</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Oct. 4 | **Secessioneer Conflicts and Ethno-Territorial Disputes in Eurasia**  
• Thomas S. Szayna, “Potential for Ethnic Conflict in the Caspian Region,” in *Faultlines of Conflict in Central Asia and the South Caucasus: Implications for the US Army*, eds. Olga Oliker and Thomas S. Szayna, pp. 147-183  
Choose 2 of the following  
| Oct. 11 | **October Break. No class** |
| Oct. 18 | **Military Threats to Non-State Actors: Religious Extremism and Terrorism in Eurasia**  
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Oct. 25</th>
<th>Counterterrorism, the Use of Force by the States, and Authoritarianism</th>
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<th>Nov. 1</th>
<th>Third Part of the Final Project Due: Students should submit a tentative forecast of the future developments in the selected area of a state’s security Organized Crime and Security in Eurasia: Issues of Trafficking in Narcotics, Weapons and Other Illegal Substances</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>For Everyone</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Phil Williams, “Criminalization and Stability in Central Asia and South Caucasus,” in Oliker and Szayna, pp. 71-108</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>For Those Preparing for a Press Conference</strong></td>
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<td>• Nancy Lubin, ‘Who’s Watching the Watchdogs?: Drug Trafficking in Central Asia”, Ch.17 in <em>In the Tracks of Tamerlane: Central Asia’s Path to the 21st Century</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Event</td>
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| Nov. 8 | **Corruption in Eurasia**  
**For Everyone**  
- Explore Transparency International Index and Rankings of the States of Eurasia  
[www.transparency.org/](http://www.transparency.org/)  
**For Those Preparing for a Press Conference**  
| Nov. 8 | **Non-Military Threats to States: Economic Security. Instructor will be at Edwards Campus**  
**For Everyone**  
- Abraha  
  
  *s. Becker, “Some Economic Dimensions of Security in Central Asia and South Caucasus” in Oliker and Szayna, pp. 41-70  
**For Those Preparing for a Press Conference**  
| Nov. 15 | **Fourth Part of the Final Project Due**: Students should submit possible solutions to the selected security problem  
**Non-Military Threats to States: Environmental Security**  
**Natural Resources as Sources for Potential Conflict in Eurasia**  
**For Everyone**  
- Sergei Mahnovski, “Natural Resources and Potential Conflict in the Caspian Sea Region” in Oliker and Szayna, pp. 109-144  
**For Those Preparing for a Press Conference**  
- David C. McKinney, “Cooperative Management of Transboundary Water Resources in Central Asia,” Ch.9 in *In the Tracks of Tamerlane: Central Asia’s Path to the 21st Century*  
- David S. McCauley, “Environmental Management in Independent Central Asia,” |
Ch.13 *In the Tracks of Tamerlane*


**Nov. 22**

TBA

**Nov. 29**

**First draft of the final project is due**

**Human Rights and Human Security For Everyone**


**For Those Preparing for a Press Conference**

- Michael Ochs, “Human Rights in Central Asia” Ch. 5 in *In the Tracks of Tamerlane: Central Asia’s Path to the 21st Century*
- Annual Reports of Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International

**Dec. 6**

**Solving Security Issues through International Institutions in Eurasia**

- Gregory Gleason, “Inter-State Cooperation in Central Asia from the CIS to the Shanghai Forum,” *Europe-Asia Studies*, 53:7 (2001), 1077-95
- Regional and International Cooperation with Neighbours and Partners, Ch.9 in Central Asia Human Development Report, pp. 185-204.