

Ed Schatz, Associate Professor, Political Science

ed.schatz@utoronto.ca

Office Hours: Wednesdays 10-12, 320N Munk (1 Devonshire Place)

POL 492/2392

State and Society in Central Asia and Afghanistan

Wednesdays, 2-4 pm

UC67

More than two decades after the collapse of the Soviet state, Central Asia (and its neighbour Afghanistan) continue to see vexed relations between state and society. In this course, we explore key debates about these relations in this important region. We consider questions such as: 1) What impact has Soviet-style modernization had on this region? 2) How have relations between society and state changed since 1991? 3) How do individuals and groups relate to the state across this region? 4) What role do religion and ethnicity play in the region? Although this is a political science course, about half of our readings are by anthropologists.

Books

The following are available at the Bob Miller Book Room (180 Bloor Street W., Lower Level, 416-922-3557)

- Adeb Khalid, *Islam after Communism*, California, 2007
- Madeleine Reeves, Johan Rasayanagam, and Judith Beyer, eds. *Ethnographies of the State in Central Asia: Performing Politics*. Indiana University Press, 2013
- Eric McGlinchey, *Blood, Chaos, Dynasty*, Pittsburgh, 2012
- Noah Coburn, *Bazaar Politics*, Stanford UP, 2011

Requirements

Participation (15%). Since this is a seminar, come ready to discuss the material. Active participation ensures that I won't have to guess what you know.

Presentations (10%): Each class begins with a 5-minute student presentation. A top presentation shows familiarity with the material but does **not** summarize the readings; instead, it poses thoughtful ways to analyze the week's materials. A sign-up sheet will be circulated during our first class meeting.

Reaction to Film I (3%). Write a reaction to the film "The Orator" screened on January 14. Your reaction should be ½ to 1 page in length – that includes questions, commentary, or analysis of the film. Full credit will be given if you demonstrate that you watched the film closely. Due on January 21, but I will accept—without penalty—submissions through January 28, after which I will not accept late submissions.

Reaction to Film II (3%). Write a reaction to the film screened on March 18. Your reaction should be ½ to 1 page in length – that includes questions, commentary, or analysis of the film. Full credit will be given if you demonstrate that you watched the film closely. Due on March 25, but I will accept—without penalty—submissions through April 1, after which I will not accept late submissions.

Response Papers (18%): For each of 6 weeks (excluding weeks 1, 2, 10, and the week of your presentation), write a response paper—½ to 1 page in length – that addresses the readings via questions, commentary, or analysis. Each response should mention each of the readings. Email it by 7 pm the day before class. After this time, a **maximum of ½ total marks available; no papers are accepted more than a week late.**

Summarize the News (16%): Choose a specific topic about the relationship between state and society in Central Asia/Afghanistan. Write a report that summarizes how at least 20 different major news sources (from agencies based in at least 6 different countries) cover this topic. The summary should be between 900 and 1100 words (please provide a word count). Longer or shorter papers are penalized a full letter grade. Due on February 11. Late submissions are penalized a flat 15% of the possible grade, whether submitted 7 minutes or 7 days late. No papers are accepted more than 7 days late. Details will follow.

Problematize the News (35%): Write a concise report (2200-2800 words; please provide a word-count) that, based on **scholarly** research on related/similar topics, problematizes the news coverage of your topic. Longer or shorter papers are penalized a full letter grade. Due on April 1. Late submissions are penalized a flat 15%, whether they are 7 minutes or 7 days late. No papers are accepted after 7 days. Details will follow.

Course Policies

Office hours: No appointment is needed. If you cannot make office hours but would like to meet, email me to schedule a mutually agreeable time. Email is great, but extended conversations are conducted face to face.

Email: Please consult the syllabus and other course information before submitting inquiries by email. If you have a simple question, send me a message. If you do not receive a reply within 3 days, please resend.

Keep copies: Students are strongly advised to keep draft work and hard copies of their assignments until the marked assignments have been returned.

Late penalty: Reactions to the film may be submitted up to two weeks after the due date without penalty; I will not accept submissions after that. Weekly response papers emailed after 7 pm the evening before the relevant class receive a maximum of ½ total marks available; no response papers are accepted more than a week late. For both “summarize the headlines” and “problematize the headlines,” late submissions are penalized a flat 15%; papers will not be accepted more than 7 days late.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and will be dealt with accordingly. For further clarification and information, please see the University of Toronto’s policy on Plagiarism at <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html>. This course uses Turnitin.com, a web-based program to deter plagiarism. Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. The terms that apply to the University’s use of Turnitin.com are described on the Turnitin.com web site.

Extensions: Sometimes extraordinary circumstances justify an extension. I discuss possible extensions during office hours, not via email. I consider such circumstances only until 2 weeks before the due date. After that, I discuss extensions only if a student has an official note from a doctor or from the University.

Missed Assignments: If, due to a bona-fide emergency, you miss an assignment you must: 1) contact me within 48 hours with a complete explanation, and 2) provide official documentation. I consider the your request on an individual basis; in some cases, I authorize make-up assignments, in other cases I do not.

Medical or Other Documentation: If an illness or other event interferes with your ability to complete your work on schedule, you need to provide official documentation. If you are truly incapacitated, your documentation must show this. I scrutinize the documentation to see how *long* of an extension, if any, is warranted, based on the severity and duration of your incapacitation.

Accessibility Needs: The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations or have any accessibility concerns, visit <http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility> as soon as possible.

Notice of Collection: The U. of Toronto respects your privacy. The information on medical certificates is collected pursuant to section 2(14) of the University of Toronto Act, 1971. It is collected for the purpose of administering accommodations for academic purposes based on medical grounds. The department will maintain a record of all medical certificates received. At all times it will be protected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. If you have questions, please refer to www.utoronto.ca/privacy or contact the University's Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Office at 416-946-5835. Room 201, McMurrich Bldg., 12 Queen's Park Crescent, Toronto, ON, M5S 1A1.

Course Outline

Week 1 (January 7)

- Introduction

Week 2 (January 14): The Region and the Debates (In-class film: "The Orator")

- Introduction, *Ethnographies of the State*
- Anna Grzymala-Busse and Pauline Jones Luong. "Reconceptualizing the state: lessons from post-communism." *Politics & Society* 30(4), 2002: 529-554
- Jeff Sahadeo, "Epidemic and Empire: Ethnicity, Class, and 'Civilization' in the 1892 Tashkent Cholera Riot," *Slavic Review* 64(1), Spring 2005: 117-39

Week 3 (January 21): Early Soviet Period (Review of "The Orator" due)

- Niccolò Pianciola and Paolo Sartori, "Waqf in Turkestan: the colonial legacy and the fate of an Islamic institution in early Soviet Central Asia, 1917-1924," *Central Asian Survey* 26(4), 2007
- Francine Hirsch, "Towards an Empire of Nations: Border-Making and the Formation of 'Soviet' National Identities," *Russian Review*, 59(2), 2000: 201-26.
- Steven Sabol, "The Creation of Soviet Central Asia: the 1924 National Delimitation," *Central Asian Survey* 4(2), 1995: 225-41
- Adrienne Edgar, "Bolshevism, Patriarchy, and the Nation: The Soviet 'Emancipation' of Muslim Women in Pan-Islamic Perspective," *Slavic Review* 65(2), 2006

Week 4 (January 28): Soviet Period

- Khalid, first half
- *Ethnographies of the State*, Ch. 12 by Cynthia Werner and Kathleen Purvis-Roberts
- Eren Tasar, "Islamically informed Soviet patriotism in postwar Kyrgyzstan," *Cahiers du monde russe* 52(2), 2012: 387-404

Week 5 (February 4): Islam

- Khalid, second half
- Eric McGlinchey, "Divided Faith: Trapped between State and Islam in Uzbekistan," in Jeff Sahadeo and Russell Zanca, eds., *Everyday Life in Central Asia*, Indiana UP, 2007
- Thomas Barfield, "An Islamic State Is a State Run by Good Muslims: Religion as a Way of Life and Not an Ideology in Afghanistan," in Robert W. Hefner, ed., *Remaking Muslim Politics: Pluralism, Contestation, Democratization*, Princeton University Press, 2004, pp. 213–39

Week 6 (February 11): Afghanistan I ("Summarize the News" assignment due today via turnitin.com)

- Kristian Berg Harpviken, "Transcending Traditionalism: The Emergence of Non-State Military Formations in Afghanistan," *Journal of Peace Research* 34, August 1997: 271-87
- Thomas Barfield, "Problems in establishing legitimacy in Afghanistan," *Iranian Studies* 37(2), 2004: 263-93
- Thomas Barfield, "Culture and Custom in Nation-Building: Law in Afghanistan," *Maine Law Review* 60(2), 2008: 348–73
- Wilde, Andreas, and Katja Mielke. "Order, stability, and change in Afghanistan: from top-down to bottom-up state-making," *Central Asian Survey* 32(3), 2013: 353-70

Week 7 (February 25): Comparative Perspectives on State, Society, and Regime

- McGlinchey, Introduction
- Edward Schatz, "The Soft Authoritarian 'Tool Kit': Agenda-Setting Power in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan," *Comparative Politics*, 2009: 203-22
- Scott Radnitz, "The Color of Money: Privatization, Economic Dispersion, and the Post-Soviet Revolutions," *Comparative Politics* 42(2), 2010: 127-146

Week 8 (March 4): Uzbekistan

- *Ethnographies of the State*, Ch. 10 (Trevisani), Ch. 9 (Kendzior)
- McGlinchey, chapter on Uzbekistan
- Neema Noori, "Expanding State Authority, Cutting Back Local Services: Decentralization and its Contradictions in Uzbekistan," *Central Asian Survey* 25(4), 2006: 533-49

Week 9 (March 11): Kyrgyzstan

- McGlinchey, chapter on Kyrgyzstan
- *Ethnographies of the State*, Ch. 3 (Ismailbekova), Ch. 4 (Beyer), Ch. 11 (Liu), Ch. 8 (Reeves)

Week 10 (March 18): In-Class Film Screening, Title TBA

- Ed Schatz, "Transnational Image Making and Soft Authoritarian Kazakhstan," *Slavic Review*, 2008: 50-62
- Erica Marat, "Nation branding in Central Asia: a new campaign to present ideas about the state and the nation," *Europe-Asia Studies* 61(7), 2009: 1123-1136.

Week 11 (March 25): Kazakhstan

- *Ethnographies of the State*, Ch. 2 (Dubuisson), Ch. 5 (Bissenova), Ch. 6 (Laszczkowski)
- McGlinchey, chapter on Kazakhstan

Week 12 (April 1): Afghanistan II ("Problematize the News" assignment due today via turnitin.com)

- Coburn, entire book
- Antonio Giustozzi, Afghanistan Regional Forum No. 10, September 2013, George Washington University, Central Asia Program, "The Next Congo: Regional Competition for Influence in Afghanistan in the Wake of NATO Withdrawal," http://www.centralasiaprogram.org/images/Afghan_Forum_10_September_2013.pdf