

**CENTRE FOR INNER ASIAN STUDIES
SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES**

Course	: PhD
Course No.	:
Course Title	: Political Economy of Regional Cooperation in Central Asia
Course type	: Optional
Course Teacher	: Prof. Sangeeta Thapliyal
Total No. of Credits	: 2(Two)
Semester	: Monsoon
Contact Hours	: 02 hours per week

Course Objectives: The Course deals with the economy of the five Central Asian countries and the political economy of their regional cooperation. It begins with the theoretical approaches to understand regional cooperation by discussing examples from different regions. To understand Central Asia the course begins with its geographical characteristics, natural resources like Oil and Gas, initiatives by the individual countries to harness the resources. It discusses the interests and involvement of the extra-regional countries in harnessing the natural resources in Central Asia. The student would learn about the initiatives taken by the Central Asian countries towards their economic development through regional cooperation, how politics within the countries and region impacts their decisions and outcomes.

Learning outcomes:

1. The students will understand geoeconomics of Central Asia.
2. Understand new great game in the region.
3. Critically learn the linkage between politics and economics

Evaluation Methods: Mid term tests/assignments, End Semester Exam

Course Content:

1. Political Economy: Theoretical Approaches

International Political Economy
Regionalism
Regional Cooperation in Central Asia

2. Geophysical Characteristics

Landlocked Countries: Characteristics
Land: Land Reforms and its Impact on Conflict
Border: Border Disputes & Conflict Potential, Cross Border Migration; Border Management; Cross Border Movement of Persons, Goods and Services
Demography: Population Distribution and Growth Pattern, Rural-Urban Distribution

3. Natural Resources and geopolitical dynamics

Availability of Natural resources in Central Asia
Politics of Natural Resource Management, Resource Distribution and Geo-political Implications

Transboundary water issues
Oil & Gas Politics
Environmental Challenges: Aral Sea

4. Infrastructural Development and Regional Prospects

Oil and Gas Pipelines, national policies, regional initiatives, involvement of external players
Roads and Railways: Legal and Regulatory Framework, Transport & Logistics Services, Regional Cooperation in Transport and Custom Transit
Regional Cooperation and Management in Transport and Communication
Transport and Trade Linkages

5. Regionalism and Multilateralism in Central Asia

Regional Integration in Central Asia: Problems and Potential Areas
Regional Organizations (CIS, CACO, CAREC, ECO, Eurasian Economic Union, SCO and SPECA): Objective, Progress and Prospects

Readings:

Akiner, Shirin, 2004, *The Caspian: Politics, Energy and Security*, NY: Routledge.

Aris, Stephen, 2011, *Eurasian Regionalism: the Shanghai Cooperation Organization*, Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan.

Bourantonish, Dimitris et al, 2008, *Multilateralism and Security Institutions in an era of Globalization*, NY: Routledge.

Cummings, Sally N., 2010, *Oil, Transition and Security in Central Asia*, NY: Routledge.

Emilian Kavalski, (ed.) 2010, *The New Central Asia: The Regional Impact of International Actors*, Singapore: World Scientific.

Eric W. Seivers, 2003, *The post-Soviet Decline of Central Asia: Sustainable Development and Comprehensive Capital*, London: Routledge Curzon.

Joshi, Nirmala (ed.) 2011, *Reconnecting India and Central Asia: Emerging Security and Economic Dimensions*, Delhi: Pentagon.

Joy, Ajish P. 2007, *India, Central Asia and Russia: Potential for Regional Cooperation*, New Delhi: Samskriti in association with ORF.

Malhotra, Rashpal et al (eds.) 2013, *Perspectives on Bilateral and Regional Cooperation: South and Central Asia*, Chandigarh: Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID).

Najman, Boris et al, 2007, *the Economics and Politics of Oil in Caspian Basin: The Redistribution of Oil in Azerbaijan and Central Asia*, NY: Routledge.

P. Stobdan, 2020, *India and Central Asia: The Strategic Dimension*, New Delhi: Knowledge World.

Peck, Anne E, 2004, *Economic Development in Kazakhstan: The Role of Large Enterprise and Foreign Investment*, NY: Routledge.

Pompret, Richard, 1995, *The Economies of Central Asia*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Pompret, Richard, 2006, *The Central Asian Economies since Independence*, Princeton: Princeton University Press

Starr, Frederick A, 2007, *The New Silk Roads: Transport and Trade in Greater Central Asia*, Washington: Johns Hopkins University-SAIS.

Tentas, James C., 2010, *Security and Internal Affairs of Central Asia*, NY: Nova Science Publishers.

Warikoo, K. (ed.) 2011 *Central Asia and South Asia: Energy Cooperation and Transport Linkages*, New Delhi: Pentagon.

Warikoo, K. (ed.)2011, *Religion and Security in South and Central Asia*,London/NY: Routledge.