

Semester 1

Cultural Studies: Traditions in Central (Elective)

Course # HUSS 1034

Credits 6

Pre-requisites and Co-requisites: None

Course Description

The course explores the concepts of *culture*, *tradition*, and *change* in Central Asia. The focus is on factors that have produced the cultural complexities of contemporary Central Asia and how key life-cycle events and celebrations (marriage and death), the verbal arts, music, films, and dance embody and transmit the cultural memory and values of the region's diverse peoples. The course helps students to explain how Central Asia's cultures and cultural expressions present a diverse set of influences and values. The students delve into customs and practices that are subject to change and innovation. Cultural expressions are the heritage of a complicated past, as well as valuable resources for nurturing innovation, understanding, and cooperation within contemporary societies. The students discuss the role of state and non-state cultural and art institutions and global organizations in safeguarding and revitalizing the cultural heritage of Central Asia.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon the completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Explore values, customs, and social systems and practices of various cultures to interpret the diversity of Central Asian cultures.
- Explain how cultural practices reflect the complex relationships between various aspects of life and identities in Central Asia.
- Analyze issues of identity and value of contemporary Central Asian culture to cultivate a critical approach to the study of cultural practices
- Explore one's own cultural identity and values to embrace the co-existence of identities and cultures throughout Central Asia and the world.
- Produce proposals for cultural heritage projects

Course Assessments and Grading

Item	Weight
Class participation	10%
Self-Reflection Essay	20%
Reading response	20%
Group Oral Presentation	20%

Writing a project	30%
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