

# COMPARATIVE MUSLIM SOCIETIES IN CENTRAL EURASIA

**Dr. Talant Mawkanuli**



This course is an interdisciplinary introduction to Comparative Muslim Societies in Central Eurasia focusing on the Muslim Central Asian republics (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), Afghanistan, and nearby Muslim societies such as Azerbaijan, Tatarstan, and Xinjiang. This course aims to help students develop an understanding of Islam as lived experiences with a focus on the everyday lives of Muslims in these societies from the perspective of how Islam informs culture and creates social and spiritual meaning for individual Muslims and Muslim communities. We will identify and examine some of the shared “fundamentals” of the religion; the Muslims’ understanding of their faith; the relationship of Islam to the political, economic and social lives of individual Muslims and how Islam shapes people’s sense of culture and identity; as well as the unity and diversity of Muslim communities in different parts of Central Eurasia from

anthropological, historical and sociological perspectives.

No prior knowledge of or exposure to Islam on the part of students is presumed. However, some background in the Eurasian Muslim world would be helpful, but not essential. The course will consist of lectures, reading assignments, and class discussions and will make extensive use of films and other visual media materials.

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**B-TERM**

**SAVERY 164**

**JULY 21 - AUGUST 19**

**TTH 2:30-5:20**

**5 CREDITS**