

PSCI 3440
Russian and Central Asian Politics
Final Exam Study Guide
Monday, April 22 from 5:00-7:00

- This list of questions is provided to guide your review. I do not promise that any of the exam questions will be among those you find below (although some might). But if you can provide detailed and sophisticated answers to these questions, you should do very well.
- Bring an exam book (5% penalty for turning in an exam that's not in a book).
- Each essay question will suggest how many minutes to allot to your answer. If it calls for a 20-minute response, don't write for 40. You may provide an excellent answer, but will sacrifice elsewhere.
- Some essay questions will be short (nor more than 10-minute responses) and some longer (about a 20-minute response).
- Some questions on the exam will likely draw from more than one of the questions on this study guide.
- If you finish very early, you probably haven't said enough. The biggest reason for poor performance on exams is brevity. **Your goal is to demonstrate to us that you have not only memorized information, but that you understand it.**
- Be thorough, but at the same time don't fill your answers with fluff (content that really doesn't say anything).
- There will be a short answer section that was not included in earlier exams. See Section III below.
- It is essential that you bring an exam book (or two if you write a lot) to the exam. There will be a 5% deduction from your score if you do not.
- Cite specific readings, preferably by referring to the author's last name.
- As with earlier exams, if you can't/don't demonstrate that you've done the readings, you'll find it difficult to get a decent grade. In fact, since the material covered in class since the second exam is not extensive, this exam will emphasize assigned readings to the point where I expect it will be difficult to get more than a D if you haven't read them.

Some suggestions to avoid common problems from the earlier exams:

- A couple of minutes devoted to thinking through your answer before writing can go a long way. Stream-of-consciousness answers may provide a lot of information but are the kind of essays that often do not end up addressing the question fully. Develop a short outline or a list of the key points you want to get across. (I suggest doing so right in the exam booklet. We won't pay attention to it when grading.) Then refer to it as you are writing.
- The three biggest reasons for poor scores on earlier exams were brevity (with corresponding lack of detail), not answering the question (or not answering all of it), and not incorporating material from the readings.

Readings relevant to the final exam:

Cummings chs 5-7	Kudaibergen
Maza	Bissenova
Kubicek	Zhussipbek
International Crisis Group	Starr
Sarym	Kurbanov
Yaylymova	Bondarenko

Study questions. For Section I questions, draw from lecture and readings. Section II questions come from readings only. The questions in Section III are short answer questions.

Section I: Questions Drawn from Lectures and Readings

1. What are the factors that precipitate religious extremism in Central Asia? How does Cummings characterize "everyday Islam"?

2. I divided clans into kinship and neo-patrimonial clans. What is the difference? How does Cummings use terminology related to what I called "clans"? Starr divides them into three groupings. What are they?
3. What are the geopolitics of water in Central Asia? (*Crisis Group* and lecture)
4. What are the geopolitics of oil and (natural) gas in the Caspian Sea basin? (Maza, Kubicek and lecture)
5. How have Central Asian countries attempted to create post-communist identities? (Cummings and lecture) What does Sarym say about post-Soviet Kazakh identity in particular?

Section II: Questions Drawn Only from Readings

1. According to Cummings, Kurbanov and Bondarenko, what were the economic development challenges facing the new Central Asian countries after independence and how did they tackle it?
2. How does Bissenova explain "Islamicization"? What has been the response of the Central Asian governments? What is "political Islam" according to Zhussipbek? To what degree does he consider it dangerous?
3. According to Yaylymova and Kudaiberger, what has been the post-Soviet status of women in Central Asia?
4. Which is greater in Central Asia: internal or external threats to security?
5. How is Russia involved in the economic transformations of Central Asia?

Section III. Short answer questions: I will ask you ten of the following 15 questions.

1. What are the five possible export routes for Caspian Basin oil and natural gas?
2. What is the name of the sea that is drying up? What is causing it to happen?
3. What are the two main rivers in Central Asia?
4. Which countries are the upstream countries of Central Asia? Which are the downstream countries?
5. What is the legislation that governs LGBTQ identity in Russia, and what does it say?
6. What are the names of the separatist regions of Georgia (2), Azerbaijan and Moldova?
7. What crop is "king" in Central Asia, particularly Uzbekistan? Why is it a problem?
8. What is the name of the old capital of Kazakhstan? the new one (until recently)? The newest one (a few weeks ago)?
9. Which country had a succession that was settled by clan agreement?
10. What are the five littoral states bordering the Caspian Sea?
11. What is the full name of the organization created by Russia and patterned off the European Union?
12. What is the full name of the organization that brings together China, Russia, most of Central Asia, and much of the rest of Asia?
13. Who was the medieval Central Asian conqueror now claimed by Uzbekistan as a historical figure?
14. Who was the Kazakh leader who united the hordes in the 18th century?
15. What are the five post-Soviet states that have extensive oil and/or natural gas reserves?