

Political Science 349: Soviet and Post-Soviet Politics and Government

Iowa State University
Spring Semester 2004
Tuesday, Thursday, 12:40-2:00
Room: 105 Kildee

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Office Hours: Tuesday, 2-5; Thursday, 2-4

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Course Description:

This course is an introduction both to post-Soviet politics and to theories of political change. The people of the Soviet successor states have witnessed and have often shaped remarkable political change—they have participated in revolutions, won world wars, and endured state implosions. This course will explore these world-changing events and seek to understand their causes and consequences.

Course Materials:

The following readings are available for purchase at the University Store:

1. Zoltan Barany and Robert Moser, eds., *Russian Politics: Challenges of Democratization* (Cambridge U. Press, 2001).
2. Stephen White, Alex Pravda and Zvi Gitelman, eds., *Developments in Russian Politics 5* (Duke University Press, 2001).
3. Stephen Kotkin, *Armageddon Averted, The Soviet Collapse 1970-2000* (Oxford University Press, 2001).
4. The *New York Times*—Understanding current Russian events will be central to this course. Class discussion will draw from our readings in the *Times*. Course exams will also include current Russian events covered in the *Times*. You can sign-up for the *Times* at the University Book Store. The *Times* will be available for pick-up the second week of class.

Course Requirements:

1. Students are required to attend all classes.
2. Students are expected to have read the assigned readings prior to class.
3. There will be a short geography quiz the third week of class. On this quiz you will be asked to identify the fifteen successor states to the Former Soviet Union.
4. Students are required to write a **10 page paper**. Paper topics as well as a list of possible research resources will be distributed in class.
5. There will be **two mid-term exams and one comprehensive final exam**. Exams will include both multiple choice and essay questions.

****Make-up exams and quizzes will be given only if students have proper documentation.**

Academic Dishonesty:

The 2003-2005 Iowa State University Bulletin states academic dishonesty “occurs when a student uses or attempts to use unauthorized information in the taking of an exam; or submits as his or her own work themes, reports, drawings, laboratory notes, or other products prepared by another person; or knowingly assists another student in such acts of plagiarism” (p. 38). Students are encouraged to read the academic dishonesty section of the Bulletin (<http://www.iastate.edu/~catalog/2003-05/1-54.pdf>) and to remain vigilant against such lapses in their own work. Any cases of academic dishonesty in this course will be pursued according to the guidelines detailed in the Iowa State University Bulletin.

Disabilities:

If a student has a disability covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and requires accommodations, s/he should contact the Disability Resources office for information on appropriate policies and procedures. The Disability Resources office is located on the main floor of the Student Services Building, Room 1076. Their phone number is 515-294-6624.

Grading:

Geography Quiz	25
Surprise Quizzes	50
Mid-term 1	75
Mid-term 2	75
10 Page Paper	125
Final Exam—100 questions	150
Total	500 points

Grading Scale:

	A: 460-500	A-: 450-459
B+: 440-449	B: 410-439	B-: 400-409
C+: 390-399	C: 360-389	C-: 350-359
D+: 340-349	D: 310-339	D-: 300-309
F: 299 and below		

Schedule:**Week 1, January 13 & 15—Introduction****Tuesday: Course Introduction, No Readings****Thursday: Thinking like a Political Scientist**

1. Charles King, “How to Think,” (WebCT) or http://www.georgetown.edu/faculty/kingch/How_to_Think.htm
2. Charles King, “How to Write a Research Paper,” (WebCT) or http://www.georgetown.edu/faculty/kingch/How_to_Write_a_Research_Paper.htm

Week 2, January 20 & 22—What Was Communism?

1. Karl Friedrich and Zbigniew Brzezinski, Chapter 2, “The General Characteristics of Totalitarian Dictatorship,” in *Totalitarian Dictatorship and Autocracy*, pp. 15-27. (WebCT)
2. Stephen Kotkin, *Armageddon Averted* (Hereafter, Kotkin), pp. 10-30.
3. Robert Moser, “Introduction,” in Barany and Moser, *Russian Politics*, pp. 1-18.

Week 3, January 27 & 29—Life under Communism****NOTE: GEOGRAPHY QUIZ THIS WEEK**

1. Mary McAuley, *Soviet Politics 1917-1991*, Chapter 4, “Terror,” pp. 50-61. (WebCT)
2. Alexander Solzhenitsyn, “Arrest,” *The Gulag Archipelago*, pp. 3-23. (WebCT)
3. Henry Morton, “Housing Quality and Housing Classes in the Soviet Union,” in Herleman, *Quality of Life in the Soviet Union*, pp. 95-115. (WebCT)

Week 4, February 3 & 5—Gorbachev, Yeltsin and the Soviet Collapse

1. Kotkin, “Reviving the Dream,” pp. 31-57.
2. Kotkin, “The Drama of Reform,” pp. 58-85.
3. Kotkin, “Waiting for the End of the World,” pp. 86-112.

Week 5, February 10 & 12—Theories of the Soviet Collapse

****NOTE: PAPER TOPICS WILL BE HANDED OUT THIS WEEK**

1. Stephen White, "From Communism to Democracy?" in White, Pravda and Gitelman, *Developments in Russian Politics* 5, pp. 1-17.
2. Alexander Dallin, "Causes of the Collapse of the USSR," *Post-Soviet Affairs*, v.8, no. 4 (October 1992), pp. 279-303. (e-reserve)
3. Steven Solnick, "The Breakdown of Hierarchies in the Soviet Union and China," *World Politics* (January 1996), pp. 209-238. (WebCT)

Week 6, February 17 & 19—FIRST MIDTERM WEEK

Tuesday—REVIEW

Thursday—MIDTERM EXAM

Week 7, February 24 & 26—Russian and Post-Soviet Democratization

1. Zvi Gitelman, "Russian Democratization in Comparative Perspective," in White et. al., *Developments in Russian Politics* 5, pp. 289-302.
2. Michael McFaul, "The Fourth Wave of Democracy and Dictatorship: Noncooperative Transitions in the Postcommunist World," *World Politics* (January 2002), pp. 212-244. (WebCT)
3. Matthew Brzezinski, "Whatever It Takes," *New York Times Magazine*, (December 16, 2001) (article on Uzbekistan, Karimov's near totalitarian rule, religious freedoms). (WebCT)

Week 8, March 2 & 4—Shaping the State: Presidents and Parliaments

1. John Willerton, "The Presidency: From Yeltsin to Putin," in White et. al., *Developments in Russian Politics* 5, pp. 21-41.
2. Robert Moser, "Executive Legislative Relations in Russia, 1991-1999," in Barany and Moser, *Russian Politics*, pp. 64-102.
3. Juan Linz, "The Perils of Presidentialism," *Journal of Democracy*, v. 1, 1991, pp. 51-69. (WebCT)

Week 9, March 9 & 11—Shaping the State: Elections

1. Thomas Remington, "Parliamentary Politics in Russia," in White et. al., *Developments in Russian Politics* 5, pp. 42-61.
2. Michael McFaul, "Russian Electoral Trends," in Barany and Moser, *Russian Politics*, pp. 19-63.
3. Michael McFaul, "The Era of Liberalism versus Communism in Russia is Over," Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. (WebCT)

SPRING BREAK

Week 10, March 23 & 25—SECOND MIDTERM WEEK

Tuesday—REVIEW

Thursday—MIDTERM

Week 11, March 30 & April 1—The Challenge from the Regions

1. Kathryn Stoner-Weiss, "The Russian Central State in Crisis: Center and Periphery in the Post-Soviet Era," in Barany and Moser, *Russian Politics*, pp. 103-134.
2. Darell Slider, "Politics in the Regions," in White et. al., *Developments in Russian Politics* 5, pp. 147-168.
3. James Hughes, "From Federalization to Recentralization," in White et. al., *Developments in Russian Politics* 5, pp. 128-146.

Week 12, April 6 & April 8—Shaping the Economy: Privatization and Reform

1. Kotkin, "Survival and Cannibalism in the Rust Belt," pp. 113-141.
2. Joel Hellman, "Winners Take All: The Politics of Partial Reform in Postcommunist Transitions," *World Politics* v. 50, no. 2 (1998), pp. 203-234. (WebCT)

Week 13, April 13 & 15—Shaping the Economy: Mafia, Crime and Corruption

****NOTE: RESEARCH PAPERS ARE DUE ON TUESDAY**

1. Louise Shelley, "Crime and Corruption," in White et. al., *Developments in Russian Politics* 5, pp. 239-253.
2. Stephen Handelman, "The Russian Mafiya," *Foreign Affairs*, v. 73, no. 2 (March/April 1994), pp. 83-96. (WebCT)
3. Vadim Volkov, "Violent Entrepreneurship in Post-Communist Russia," *Europe-Asia Studies*, v.51, no. 5 (July 1999), pp. 741-754. (WebCT)
4. Peter Landesman, "Arms and the Man," *New York Times*, August 17, 2003, pp. 1-12. (WebCT)

Week 14, April 20 & 22—Russia's "Near Abroad"

1. Jeffrey S. Kopstein and David A. Reilly, "Geographic Diffusion and the Transformation of the Postcommunist World," *World Politics*, v. 53, no. 1 (2000), pp. 1-37. (WebCT)
2. Pauline Jones Luong and Erika Weinthal, "New Friends, New Fears in Central Asia," *Foreign Affairs* (Mar/Apr 2002). (WebCT)
3. Claudia Rosett, "Turkmenbashi: Megalomaniac, Tyrant and 'Ally'" *Wall Street Journal*, Aug 29, 2002, p. A.12. (WebCT)
4. Eric McGlinchey, "In For Life: Leadership Succession in Post-Soviet Central Asia," PONARS Policy Memo No. 312, Center for Strategic and International Studies (November 2003). (WebCT)

Week 15, April 27 & 29—Learning from the Past: Reflections on the Collapse

The below articles are from *Journal of Democracy*, v. 12, no. 4 (October 2001), all available on WebCT

1. Zbigniew Brzezinski, “The Primacy of History and Culture,” pp. 20-26.
2. Ghia Nodia, “The Impact of Nationalism,” pp. 27-34.
3. Anders Aslund, “The Advantages of Radical Reform,” pp. 42-48.
4. Charles Fairbanks, “Disillusionment in the Caucasus and Central Asia,” pp. 49-56.
5. Steven Fish, “Putin’s Path,” pp. 71-78.
6. Grigory Yavlinski, “Going Backwards,” pp. 79-86.
7. Michael McFaul, “A Mixed Record, an Uncertain Future,” pp. 87-94.

May 3-7—FINALS WEEK