

## **Political Science 271W/471/RST 271. Russia and Eastern Europe: Politics and International Relations**

Spring, 2006

Tuesday-Thursday, 9:40-11:00

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**Course description:** For the small countries of Eastern Europe, politics has long taken place in the shadow of larger actors, and continues to be decisively influenced by events beyond national borders. Meanwhile, the dramatic shifts in international affairs in this century have had their origins in domestic upheavals, often in Russia. This course will survey the politics and international relations of the region during the Cold War, the rise and fall of the Soviet satellite system, the politics of simultaneous political and economic transitions from Communism, and post-Communist international relations.

**Requirements:** This course is a seminar with a heavy reading load, and students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings. Assignments are as follows:

- Prepare a written question for discussion of the readings or some issue that they provoked each week, and send it to the class list.
- Five 2- page (under 600 word) papers. Students with last names beginning with A-G write papers on odd-numbered weeks, and those with last names beginning with H-Z on even-numbered weeks. The first paper is due in week 2, and the last in week 11. Papers are due by 12:00 noon Wednesday. Please send the papers by e-mail.
- One ten-page research paper, due at 12:00 noon Monday, April 20, demonstrating original research using primary sources. Papers should clearly specify a hypothesis and test it using empirical data: case studies, statistics, or both. Submit in paper and by email (for distribution). Note: no extensions can be granted on the papers because we all have to read them before the presentations.
- An oral presentation of one's own research paper, and comments on one colleague's paper. The papers will be distributed to all students, and all should come prepared to discuss them.
- There are no exams for this course.

**Short Paper Topics:** Write a critical review, as a social scientist, of the readings assigned for the week. Make a clear argument and defend it with appropriate citations and examples. Above all, be a tough critic. A good social scientist can always find something to criticize. Do NOT summarize the authors' positions, but instead concentrate on your own argument. Please submit all papers by e-mail. I reserve the right to distribute some of them electronically.

**Grading** will be 30% for discussion, 6% for each short paper, 30% for the research paper, and 10% for the presentation/discussion of the research papers.

**Internet Discussion:** In addition to class meetings, this course includes an e-mail discussion forum. Registered students are automatically enrolled, and others should speak to the professor. Any message sent to “psc271@mail.rochester.edu” will automatically be distributed to everyone in the course. Students are welcome to use this forum to ask questions, make comments, share information, and generally continue class discussion outside of class. Always check your e-mail before class, since the professor may use this forum to send announcements, discussion questions, and short electronic readings.

**RFE/RL Reports:** Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty sends daily reports by e-mail on current political, economic, and business events in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Although this news is sent in digest form, this is one of the richest sources available in English on current events in the region. Subscription is free of charge, and students in the course are expected to subscribe.

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**JRL Reports:** Johnson’s Russia List is the leading free source of news about Russia on the internet. It offers two levels of service: List one (EEUROPE-NEWS), with two or three more selective lists of messages per day, and List Two (EEUROPE-CHANGES), with four or five more comprehensive ones. To subscribe send a message addressed to: [listmanager@hookup.net](mailto:listmanager@hookup.net) with the following in the first line of the body of the message: subscribe eeurope-news [or subscribe eeurope-changes].

**Some useful World Wide Web sites to get your research started:**

**Program on New Approaches to Russian Security (PONARS):**

<http://www.csis.org/ruseura/ponars/>

**Transitions Online (TOL), for current reporting and an archive of Open Media Research Institute and older RFE/RL reports):** [www.tol.cz](http://www.tol.cz)

**Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty:** <http://www.rferl.org/index.html>

**ICPSR (for a wide range of data sets--PSC has an account, so you can get them at no charge):** <http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/>

**Centre for Economic Performance, London School of Economics:**

<http://cep.lse.ac.uk/>

**Russia On-Line:** <http://www.online.ru/>

**World Bank:** <http://www.worldbank.org/>

**IMF:** <http://www.imf.org/external/>

**St. Petersburg Times:** <http://www.sptimes.ru/>

**Books Recommended for Purchase (in order of use):**

John Lewis Gaddis. *We Now Know: Rethinking Cold War History*. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1997).

Hope M. Harrison. *Driving the Soviets up the Wall: Soviet-East German Relations, 1952-1961*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003.

Randall W. Stone. *Satellites and Commissars: Strategy and Conflict in the Politics of Soviet-Bloc Trade*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996).

Randall W. Stone. *Lending Credibility: The International Monetary Fund and the Post-Communist Transition*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002).

Celeste A. Wallander. *Mortal Friends, Best Enemies: German-Russian Cooperation after the Cold War* (Ithaca: Cornell Univ. Press, 1999).

Rawi Abdelal, *National Purpose in the World Economy: Post-Soviet States in Comparative Perspective* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2001).

## Week One

**Thursday, January 19: Course Overview**

## Week Two

**Tuesday, January 24: Lecture: Soviet Foreign Policy under Lenin and Stalin**

**Thursday, January 26: Discussion: The Early Cold War**

John Lewis Gaddis. *We Now Know: Rethinking Cold War History*. (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1997), Chpts. 1-5.

## Week Three

**Tuesday, January 31: Lecture: The Soviet bloc**

**Thursday, February 2: Discussion: Puzzles of the Cold War**

Hope M. Harrison. *Driving the Soviets up the Wall: Soviet-East German Relations, 1952-1961*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003.

## Week Four

**Tuesday, February 7: Lecture: From Khrushchev to Brezhnev**

**Thursday, February 9: Discussion: Puzzles of the Cold War, II**

Gaddis, chpts. 6-10.

## Week Five

**Tuesday, February 14: Lecture: LBJ, RMN and the Rise of Détente**

**Thursday, February 16: Discussion: The Rise of Détente**

Raymond L. Garthoff, *Detente and Confrontation: American-Soviet Relations from Nixon to Reagan*, (Washington: Brookings, 1985), Chpts. 2, 3, 11.

Henry Kissinger, *Years of Upheaval*, Chpts. 7, 12 (pp. 228-301, 545-613.)

Georgi Arbatov, *The System: An Insider's Life in Soviet Politics*, Chpt. 8.

## Week Six

**Tuesday, February 21: Lecture: The Decline of Détente**

**Thursday, February 23: Discussion: The Decline of Detente**

\*Garthoff, *Detente and Confrontation*, Chpts. 26, 27, 29 (pp. 887-982, 1068-1089).

\*Arbatov, *The System*, Chpt. 9.

\*Zbigniew Brzezinski, *Power and Principle: Memoirs of the National Security Adviser, 1977-1981*, (New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 1983), Chpt. 12.

**Week Seven**

**Tuesday, February 28: Lecture: Central Planning and the Soviet Satellite System**

**Thursday, March 2: Discussion: Satellites and Commissars**

Randall W. Stone. *Satellites and Commissars: Strategy and Conflict in the Politics of Soviet-Bloc Trade*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996).

\*\*\***Reminder:** Come talk to me about your paper, if you haven't yet\*\*\*

**Week Eight**

**Tuesday, March 7: Lecture: Gorbachev and the End of the Cold War**

**Thursday, March 9: Discussion**

\*Mikhail Gorbachev, *Perestroika: New Thinking for Our Country and the World*, (New York: Harper & Row, 1987), pp. 135-51.

\*Raymond L. Garthoff, *The Great Transition: American-Soviet Relations and the End of the Cold War*, (Washington: Brookings, 1994), Chpts. 5, 6.

\*Jeffrey T. Checkel, *Ideas and International Political Change*, (New Haven: Yale Univ. Press, 1997), Chpt. 5.

**March 13-17, Spring Break**

**Week Nine**

**Tuesday, March 21: Discussion: Strategies of Transition**

\*Adam Przeworski, *Democracy and the Market: Political and Economic Reforms in Eastern Europe and Latin America*, (New York: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1991), Chpt. 4.

Joel Hellman, “Winners Take All: The Politics of Partial Reform in Post-Communist Transitions,” *World Politics* 50, No. 2 (January, 1998).

**Thursday, March 23: No class**

**Week Ten**

**Tuesday, March 28: Lecture: The IMF and the Post-Communist Transition**

**Thursday, March 30: Discussion**

Randall W. Stone, *Lending Credibility: The International Monetary Fund and the Post-Communist Transition* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002). Chapters 1-2, 4-9.

**Week Eleven**

**Tuesday, April 4: Lecture: Russian Foreign Policy after the Cold War**

**Thursday, April 6: Discussion**

Celeste A. Wallander, *Mortal Friends, Best Enemies: German-Russian Cooperation after the Cold War* (Ithaca: Cornell Univ. Press, 1999).

James M. Goldgeier, *Not Whether but When: The U.S. Decision to Enlarge NATO*, (Washington, D.C.: Brookings, 1999), Chpt. 4 (pp. 77-107).

**Week Twelve**

**Tuesday, April 11: Lecture: Democracy in Russia and Eastern Europe—Evidence of the First Decade**

**Thursday, April 13: Discussion**

Rawi Abdelal, *National Purpose in the World Economy: Post-Soviet States in Comparative Perspective* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2001), Chpts. 1, 3, 5.

**Week Thirteen**

**\*\*Ten-page research papers due 12:00 noon Monday, April 17. Please submit in paper and also send to Prof. Stone by e-mail for electronic distribution\*\***

**Tuesday, April 18: Lecture: Russia and the West—Continuity and Change**

**Thursday, April 20: Presentation of student papers**

**Week Fourteen**

**Tuesday, April 25: Presentation of student papers**

**Thursday, April 27: Presentation of student papers**

**Week Fifteen**

**Thursday, May 2: Presentation of student papers**