PSCI 355: Politics: Soviet Successor States
Winter 2013, University of Waterloo
PHY 313, 1:30-4:20W

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Office Location: Hagey Hall 307
Office Hours: 3:00-4:30 TTh

Contact Policy: If you have questions that require only a brief answer, feel free to contact me by email. If you have more complex questions or need to speak to me concerning some aspect of the course, come to see me during my regular office hours. I am also available to students outside of these office hours. If you are in the department and my door is open, I am usually available to talk with you. You can also arrange to meet with me at a specific time outside of my regular office hours; just send me an email message and we will find a mutually convenient time to meet.

Teaching Assistants: No Teaching Assistant for this course

Course Description: This course will focus on the consequences of the disintegration of the USSR, its replacement by a new system of independent states, and the various factors which influence relations among these successor states.

Pre-Requisites: One of PSCI 250, 281, 282, or permission of instructor.

Texts: There is no text for this course. Course materials (see the schedule of lectures and readings below) can be accessed as e-materials or, if necessary, will be placed on reserve in the Dana Porter (Arts) library.

Course Requirements and Format:
There will be a compulsory short-answer in-class mid-term exam, worth 20% of the final mark, written on March 13, and a compulsory end-of-term exam, held during the regular exam period, worth 40% of the final mark. Students should not make travel plans for April until the date of the final course exam has been finalized. Students are also required to write a course essay, due when the class meets for the last time (April 3). The essay will be worth 40% of the final mark. The essay topic must be approved by the instructor, and students are encouraged to consult with the
instructor as they work on the course essay. You will be provided with separate instructions concerning the essay.

**Student travel plans are not an acceptable reason for granting an alternative examination time. Students who are unable to write an exam for medical reasons (serious illness), or because of a severe personal or family crisis, must provide the instructor with the appropriate documentation.**

Classes will consist primarily of lectures, and the selected use of audio-visual aids. Students are strongly encouraged to ask questions and engage in discussion during the classes.

The course will be administered using D2L (LEARN), and I will communicate with students using this system.

**Late Policy:**

Essays submitted after the due date will be subject to a penalty of 4% (of the essay grade) per day. Extensions will be granted only in the case of documented medical or personal/family emergencies.

**University Regulations:**

**Cross-listed courses:**
Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

**Academic Integrity:**

*Academic Integrity:* In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

*Discipline:* A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm.

*Grievance:* A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 -

**Appeals:** A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm.

*Academic Integrity website (Arts):* http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

*Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo):* http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/

**Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:**

*Note for students with disabilities:* The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

**Schedule:**

**Week 1.** INTRODUCTION: THE CONTEXT AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE COLLAPSE OF THE USSR

**Week 2.** ETHNICITY, NATIONALISM, AND EMPIRE IN THE TSARIST, SOVIET, AND COMPARATIVE CONTEXTS: THE LEGACY OF THE PAST


**Weeks 3-4.** THE COLLAPSE OF THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS AFTERMATH


weeks 5-6. the fallout of the soviet collapse: ethnic minorities, diasporas, and citizenship


Week 7. federalism in Russia and the challenge of chechnya


Charles King and Rajan Menon, “Prisoners of the Caucasus,” Foreign Affairs 89, No. 4 (July-August 2010).

**Week 8. THE CIS, ENERGY RESOURCES, AND GEOPOLITICS**


**Week 9. THE COLLAPSE OF THE RED ARMY, AND THE INTRODUCTION OF MILITARY REFORMS**


**Optional:** If you would like to get some additional insights into the life of conscripts in the Russian army, read some of following letters, written by an ordinary soldier. The first one can be found here: Letters http://www.opendemocracy.net/od-russia/tolyas-letters/soldier%E2%80%99s-tale-1

**Weeks 10-11. RUSSIA’S FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES IN THE “NEAR” AND “FAR” ABROAD**


**Week 12. RUSSIA’S CONTINUING SEARCH FOR IDENTITY**

