Instructor: John (Ivan) Jaworsky
Email Address: jjaworsk@uwaterloo.ca
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, feel free to drop by. 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 settle on 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 Russia and its neighbouring 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 in the regular class location on March 1, 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 (March 29). 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 LEARN, and I will communicate with students using LEARN.

Late Policy:

Essays submitted after the due date will be subject to a penalty of 3% (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 course (requirement for all Arts 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. See the UWaterloo Academic Integrity webpage and the Arts Academic Integrity webpage for more information.

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. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties.
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 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4. When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72 - Student Appeals.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Note for students with disabilities: The AccessAbility Services office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), 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 AS office at the beginning of each academic term.

Schedule:


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


Week 3. THE COLLAPSE OF THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS AFTERMATH


Gorenburg, “Great Promise Unfulfilled: How Russia lost its way after independence,” PONARS Working Paper No. 026, February 1, 2006, available at the following URL: Working Paper http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/ruseur_wp_026.pdf N.B. This article provides a brief overview of major developments in Russia following the collapse of the USSR, and will be useful to students who have not taken PSCI 253 or PSCI 353.

Optional: Shushkevich, "Belavezha Forest Viskuli December 78, 1991," Demokratizatsiya 21, No. 3 (Summer 2013): 317-338. This is a detailed description of the discussions that led to the decision, by the leaders of the three "Slavic" republics of the Soviet Union, to "disband" the Soviet Union.

Weeks 4. THE FALLOUT OF THE SOVIET COLLAPSE: ETHNIC MINORITIES, DIASPORAS, AND CITIZENSHIP


Week 5. RUSSIAN NATIONALISM, FEDERALISM, AND THE PROBLEM OF CHECHNYA


Falkowski, "Ramzanistan: Russia’s Chechen Problem," OSW Point of View No. 54 (August 2015).

Week 6. RELIGION AND POLITICS IN RUSSIA

Chawrylo, "The altar and throne alliance: the Russian Orthodox Church vs. the government in Russia," OSW Studies No. 54 (December 2015).

Week 7. THE COLLAPSE OF THE RED ARMY, AND RUSSIA’S MILITARY


Optional: If you would like to get some 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

Week 8. RUSSIA’S FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES IN THE “NEAR” AND “FAR” ABROAD


Weeks 9-10. RUSSIA AND UKRAINE


Allison, "Russian 'deniable intervention' in Ukraine: how and why Russia broke the rules", International Affairs 90, No. 6 (November 2014): 1255-1297.


Timothy Snyder, "Ukraine: From Propaganda to Reality", Talk at Chicago Humanities Festival, 14 November 2014, available at the following URL: Talk https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKF0bB6_naw&feature=share

Week 11. RUSSIA, CENTRAL ASIA, AND ENERGY: RESOURCES AND GEOPOLITICS


**Week 12. RUSSIA AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION**
