

# PSCI 355: Politics: Soviet Successor States

Winter 2013, University of Waterloo  
PHY 313, 1:30-4:20W

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**Instructor:** John (Ivan) Jaworsky

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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 -

Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4,  
<http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm>.

**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](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html)

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

Smith, "Non-Russians in the Soviet Union and after," Chapter 18 in The Cambridge History of Russia (2006) Volume 3. NB – this book is available as an e-book (on-line) through the UW library.

Lieven, "The Russian Empire and the Soviet Union as Imperial Polities," Journal of Contemporary History 30, No. 4 (1995): 607-636.

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

Laqueur, "Gorbachev and Epimetheus: The Origins of the Russian Crisis," Journal of Contemporary History 28, No. 3 (June 1993): 387-419.

Ryabov, Andrei, "Disintegrating Community or Coherent Region?" Russian Politics and Law 50, No. 4 (July-August 2012): 7-22.

Kanet, "The Return of Imperial Russia," in Matthew Sussex, Conflict in the Former USSR (Cambridge UP, 2012), Chapter 2. NB – This book is available as an e-book (on-line) through the University of Waterloo library, but only one user at a time can have access to the book.

Shevel, "Russian Nation-building from Yel'tsin to Medvedev: Ethnic, Civic or Purposefully Ambiguous?" Europe-Asia Studies 63, No. 2 (March 2011): 179-202.

Gorenburg, "Great Promise Unfulfilled: How Russia lost its way after independence," PONARS Working Paper No. 026, February 1, 2006, available at the following URL: [Article http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/ruseur\\_wp\\_026.pdf](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.

### **Weeks 5-6. THE FALLOUT OF THE SOVIET COLLAPSE: ETHNIC MINORITIES, DIASPORAS, AND CITIZENSHIP**

Kolstø, "Beyond Russia, Becoming Local: Trajectories of Adaption to the Fall of the Soviet Union among Ethnic Russians in the former Soviet Republics," Journal of Eurasian Studies 2, No. 2 (July 2011): 153-163.

Smith, "Transnational Politics and the Politics of the Russian Diaspora," Ethnic and Racial Studies 22, No. 3 (May 1999): 500-523.

Pain, "Xenophobia and Ethnopolitical Extremism in Post-Soviet Russia: Dynamics and Growth Factors," Nationalities Papers Vol. 35, No. 5 (Nov. 2007): 895 – 911.

Peyrouse, "The 'Imperial Minority': An Interpretative Framework of the Russians in Kazakhstan in the 1990s," Nationalities Papers 36, No. 1 (March 2008): 105 – 123.

Kosmarskaya, "Russia and Post-Soviet 'Russian Diaspora': Contrasting Visions, Conflicting Projects," Nationalism and Ethnic Politics 17, No. 1 (2011): 54-74.

### **Week 7. FEDERALISM IN RUSSIA AND THE CHALLENGE OF CHECHNYA**

Ross, Cameron, "Federalism and Inter-governmental Relations in Russia," Journal of Communist Studies and Transition Politics 26, No. 2 (June 2010): 165-187.

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

Sakwa, "The Revenge of the Caucasus: Chechenization and the Dual State in Russia," Nationalities Papers 38, No. 5 (2010): 601-622.

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

O'Hara, "Great game or Grubby game? The struggle for control of the Caspian," Geopolitics 9, No. 1 (March 2004): 138-160.

Orttung, Robert W. and Overland, Indra, "A limited toolbox: Explaining the constraints on Russia's foreign energy policy," Journal of Eurasian Studies, 2, No. 1 (2011): 74-85.

Lough, John, "Russia's Energy Diplomacy," Chatham House Briefing Paper, May 2011, available at the following URL: [Chatham House](http://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/19352_0511bp_lough.pdf)  
[http://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/19352\\_0511bp\\_lough.pdf](http://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/19352_0511bp_lough.pdf)

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

Golts and Putnam, "State Militarism and Its Legacies: Why Military Reform Has Failed in Russia," International Security 29.2 (2004) 121-158.

Bartles, "Defense Reforms of Russian Defense Minister Anatolii Serdyukov," The Journal of Slavic Military Studies 24, No. 1 (2011): 55-80.

Renz and Thornton, "Russian Military Modernization: Cause, Course, and Consequences," Problems of Post-Communism 59, No. 1 (Jan.-Feb. 2012): 44-54.

**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) <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**

Kubyshekin and Sergunin, "The Problem of the 'Special Path' in Russian Foreign Policy," Russian Politics and Law 50, No. 6 (Nov.-Dec. 2012): 7-18.

Silitski, "'Survival of the Fittest:' Domestic and International Dimensions of the Authoritarian Reaction in the Former Soviet Union Following the Colored Revolutions," Communist and Post-Communist Studies 43, No. 4 (December 2010): 339-350.

Saivetz, "The Ties That Bind? Russia's Evolving Relations with its Neighbors," Communist and Post-Communist Studies 45, No. 3-4 (Sept.-Dec. 2012): 401-412.

Sussex, "Twenty Years After the Fall: Continuity and Change in Russian Foreign and Security Policy," Global Change, Peace & Security 24, No. 2 (June 2012): 203-217.

Lomagin, Nikita, "Interest groups in Russian foreign policy: The invisible hand of the Russian Orthodox Church," International Politics 49, No. 4 (July 2012): 498-516.

## **Week 12. RUSSIA'S CONTINUING SEARCH FOR IDENTITY**

Starr, "The Fate of Empire in Post-Tsarist Russia and in the Post-Soviet Era," in Dawisha and Parrott, eds. The End of Empire? The Transformation of the USSR in Comparative Perspective (1996).

Gvosdev, "Russia: 'European But Not Western?'" Orbis 51, No. 1 (Winter 2007): 129-140.

Russian Analytical Digest, No. 112, "The Eurasian Union Project," 20 April 2012, available at the following URL: [Publications](http://www.css.ethz.ch/publications/DetailansichtPubDB_EN?rec_id=2108)  
[http://www.css.ethz.ch/publications/DetailansichtPubDB\\_EN?rec\\_id=2108](http://www.css.ethz.ch/publications/DetailansichtPubDB_EN?rec_id=2108)