

PSCI 355: Politics: Soviet Successor States (Russia and Its Neighbours)

Winter 2015, University of Waterloo
RCH 306, 8:30-11:20F

Instructor: John (Ivan) Jaworsky

Email Address: jjaworsk@uwaterloo.ca

Office Location: Hagey Hall 307

Office Hours: 1:30-3:00 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 readily 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 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 6, 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 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 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 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

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

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

Van Herpen, Putin's Wars (2014), Introduction and Chapters 1-2

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

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

Van Herpen, Putin's Wars (2014), Chapters 3-5

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: [Working Paper 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 or PSCI 353.

Optional: Shushkevich, "Belavezha Forest Viskuli December 78, 1991," Demokratizatsiya 21, No. 3 (Summer 2013): 317-338.

Weeks 4. 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.

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

Week 5. RUSSIAN NATIONALISM: TRENDS AND TENDENCIES

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

"Xenophobia and Migrants," Russian Analytical Digest, No. 141, 23 December 2013.

Kolsto, "Russia's Nationalists Flirt with Democracy," Journal of Democracy 25, No. 3 (July 2014): 120-134.

Week 6. RELIGION AND POLITICS IN THE POST-SOVIET REGION

Torbakov, "The Russian Orthodox Church and Contestations over History in Contemporary Russia," Demokratizatsiya 22, No. 1 (Winter 2014): 145-170.

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.

Malashenko, "Islam in Russia," Russia in Global Affairs No. 3 (July-September 2014).

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

Taylor, "Kudrin's Complaint: Does Russia Face a Guns vs. Butter Dilemma?", PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo No. 254 (June 2013).

Renz, "Russian Military Capabilities after 20 Years of Reform," Survival No. 56, No. 3 (2014): 61-84.

Golts, "Reform: The End of the First Phase -- Will There Be a Second?" The Journal of Slavic Military Studies 27, No. 1 (Jan. 2014): 131-146.

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>

Week 8. RUSSIA'S FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES IN THE "NEAR" AND "FAR" ABROAD

Starr and Cornell, eds. Putin's Grand Strategy (2014), Chapters 1-3. Available at: <http://www.silkroadstudies.org/resources/1409GrandStrategy.pdf>

Liik, "Introduction: Russia's Pivot to (Eur)asia," in Russia's Pivot to Eurasia (ECFR: London, 2014), pp. 5-16.

Saari, "Russia's Post-Orange Revolution Strategies to Increase Its Influence in Former Soviet Republics," Europe-Asia Studies 66, No. 1 (Jan. 2014): 50-66.

Lukin, "Eurasian Integration and the Clash of Values," Survival 56, No. 3 (June-July 2014): 43-60.

Week 9. RUSSIA AND UKRAINE I

Kappeler, "Ukraine and Russia: Legacies of the imperial past and competing memories", Journal of Eurasian Studies 5, No. 2 (July 2014): 107-115.

Timothy Snyder, "Ukraine: From Propaganda to Reality", Talk at Chicago Humanities Festival, 14 November 2014, available at the following URL: [Talk at Chicago Humanities Festival](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKFObB6_naw&feature=share) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKFObB6_naw&feature=share

Week 10. RUSSIA AND UKRAINE II

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

Shevtsova, "The Russia Factor," Journal of Democracy 25, No. 3 (July 2014): 74-82.

Freedman, "Ukraine and the Art of Limited War," Survival 56, No. 6 (2014): 7-38.

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

Kubicek, "Energy politics and geopolitical competition in the Caspian Basin", Journal of Eurasian Studies 4, No. 2 (July 2013): 171-180.

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

Kim and Blank, "Same Bed, Different Dreams: China's 'Peaceful Rise' and Sino-Russian Rivalry in Central Asia," Journal of Contemporary China 22, No. 83 (2013): 773-790.

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).

Nodia, "The Revenge of Geopolitics," Journal of Democracy 25, No. 4 (October 2014): 139-150.

Ben, "On Re-examining Western Attitudes to Russia," International Affairs 90, No. 6 (2014): 1319-1328.

TBA