POLS 3553  
Government and Politics of Central Eurasia  
Instructor: Dr. Sam Watson

Fall Semester 2012  
Midwestern State University  
209 Prothro-Yeager  
5:30 – 8:20 p.m. T

Office: O’Donohoe 119  
Phone: 397-4746  
Hours: By appointment

Course Description

POLS 3553 is an upper division, undergraduate lecture course which focuses on the comparative political study of the Russian Federation and the fourteen other independent states of the former Soviet Union.

Course Goals

In this course, we will primarily examine the difficult process of dismantling an entrenched Marxist-Leninist political and centrally planned economic system in favor of more democratic and market oriented forms of political, economic, and social organization. Such a transition has been attempted, with mixed results, in most of the states of Central Eurasia since 1991. Principally through an examination of the establishment and traditional practice of Marxism-Leninism in what was the Soviet Union, we will seek answers as to why the reform communist processes of the Gorbachev era failed and why so many diverse forces have emerged since the dissolution of communist party rule. By doing so, we will attempt to make some assessment of the short and long term prospects for democracy and the market in the former Soviet republics.

Required Materials

1) Donald W. Treadgold and Herbert J. Ellison, Twentieth Century Russia, 9th edition (Westview)
2) Grigory Ioffe, Global Studies: Russia and the Near Abroad, 12th edition (McGraw-Hill)

Strongly Recommended Materials

1) A current map of Central Eurasia and the world.
Resource Materials

The University (Moffett) Library contains valuable resources which can aid students in their study and research for this course. In addition to many relevant books, a number of periodicals will be particularly useful (recent issues will be found on the current periodicals shelves; back issues are either bound or on microfilm/microfiche). A list of selected periodicals available in the library and local sources of broadcast media significant for political science research is attached to this syllabus.

Course Requirements

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<th>Course Requirements</th>
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<tr>
<td>First Examination</td>
<td>10/2</td>
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<td>Second Examination</td>
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<td>Final Examination</td>
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The midterm and final examinations consist of a series of short answer questions. The final exam tests only the material covered since the second exam.

Topics and Schedule of Assignments

--Introductory session 8/28

--New Currents in Old Russia 9/4
   (Treadgold, pp. 3–92)

--The Communists Take Power 9/11
   (Treadgold, pp. 95–190)

--Stalin’s Rule through World War II 9/18, 9/25
   (Treadgold, pp. 193-315)

--First Examination 10/2

--The Postwar Period 10/9
   (Treadgold, pp. 319-469)

--Russia and Its Nations 10/16, 10/23
   (Ioffe, pp. 9-100, 207-257; selected readings)

--The New Eastern Europe 10/30
   (Ioffe, pp. 101-133, 279-282, 287-290; selected readings)

--Second Examination 11/6
-- The Baltics 11/13
  (selected readings)

-- Transcaucasia 11/27
  (Ioffe, pp. 134-161, 264-267, 272-278; selected readings)

-- Central Asia 12/4
  (Ioffe, pp. 162-206, 283-286; selected readings)

-- Final Examination 12/11

No Class

11/20