

**Politics of Post-Communism**  
**POLS 4360 A (Regular Section)**  
**POLS 4830H B (Honors Component)**  
**Fall 2005**  
**West Hall 305, TR 9:30 to 10:45 am**  
**Jim Peterson**  
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Texts: Minton F. Goldman, Ed. *Russia, The Eurasian Republics, and Central/Eastern Europe*, tenth edition. Dubuque, Iowa: McGraw-Hill/Dushkin Company, 2005.

Thomas F. Remington. *Politics in Russia*, Third Edition. New York: Pearson/Longman, 2004.

The post-communist world has figured importantly into the overall architecture of America's battle against terrorism in the post-9/11 world. In 2003, Russia opposed the American-led effort to gain U.N. support for a military effort to disarm Iraq. On the other hand, Central European States in the New Europe such as Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Romania offered both support and specialized military units for the war in Iraq. Earlier, in the immediate post-9/11 period the Central Asian nations or "stans" provided the use of their territory in the battle to dethrone the Taliban in Afghanistan. In fact, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan provided military bases for the use of American troops. Further, America's goal both to strengthen and to broaden NATO has directly involved this post-communist world. In 1999 NATO admitted three former communist states to be part of its team, and in 2004 an additional seven nations entered that regional military organization. Clearly, the crisis over the terrorist threat further east played a role in making that list of invitees as long as it was.

At the same time, it is vital to explore the rich twentieth century history and politics of the region on its own terms. Thus, lectures and discussions will cover such topics as the Russian Revolution of 1917, the creation of independent states in East Europe after World War I, the impact of Nazism on the region in the 1930s/40s, the communist revolutions in East Europe directly after 1945, the nature of the communist regimes during the four decades of Cold War, the Cold War challenges to Communism from within, the Gorbachev reforms in Russia from 1985-91, the East European Revolutions of 1989, the collapse of communism in the Soviet Union in 1991, the establishment of market-based democracies in the entire region during the last decade and a half, and the international relations among all of these diverse nations.

There will be two exams during the term, a final exam, and a five-page paper on changes in one country of the student's choosing. Students will give talks to the entire class based on the paper. Students registered for the honors section (POLS 4830H B)

will write five-page papers in place of the first two exams. In the first paper they will explain why the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, and Poland are being integrated into western structures like NATO and the EU more rapidly than the rest of the countries in the region. Students must take account of 20<sup>th</sup> century political history in their paper. In the second paper, honors students will compare the recent political experience of the southeast Balkan nations with the successor states to the old Soviet Union. Are there differences between these sets of states, or has their political experience been similar. There must be specific references to two specific nations within each region. The honors students will do the same regular paper, oral presentation, and final exam that the other students do.

Each of the four pieces of work will count for 25% of the final grade. In calculating the final grade for students whose grade falls exactly between two levels, factors such as class participation, the oral presentation, upward or downward progress in grades, and attendance will play a role. A good attendance record is one in which the student has missed five or fewer classes during the term. Students who need the assistance of the Access Office should inform the instructor as well as that office during the first week of classes. Incompletes will be given only in situations of extreme personal hardship.

<b>Week</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Topics</b>	<b>Readings</b>
1	Aug. 16 Aug. 18	Introduction to the Region Rise of the Eur. Communist Systems	----- MG 88-92
2	Aug. 23 Aug. 25	Collapse of Eur. Communism Post-Communist Eur. Development	MG 92-95 MG 95-102 MG 251-2
3	Aug. 30  Sept. 1	The Czech Republic  Slovakia	MG 123-33 MG 253 MG 133-43
4	Sept. 6  Sept. 8	Hungary  Poland	MG 144-58 MG 259 MG 159-72 MG 256-8
5	Sept. 13 Sept. 15	<b>Review for Exam # 1</b> <b>Exam # 1</b>	
6	Sept. 20 Sept. 22	Bulgaria Romania	MG 112-121 MG 173-182 MG 261-2

7	Sept. 27	The Former Yugoslavia	MG 183-206
	Sept. 29	Albania	MG 260, 263-4 MG 103-111 MG 250, 254-5
8	Oct. 4	Baltics, Belarus, and Ukraine	MG 54-60 MG 240-44
	Oct. 6	Georgia, Moldova, and Armenia	MG 60-65 MG 245-6
9	Oct. 11	Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan	MG 65-71 MG 247-9
	Oct. 13	Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyz.	MG 71-75 MG 230-9
10	Oct. 20	<b>Review for Exam # 2</b>	
11	Oct. 25	<b>Exam # 2</b>	
	Oct. 27	Early Russian Political History	Rem, 1-29
12	Nov. 1	The Soviet System	Rem. 30-51
	Nov. 3	Early Post-Soviet System	Rem. 52-85
13	Nov. 8	Role of Russian People	Rem. 86-120
	Nov. 10	Russian Political Culture	Rem. 121-146
14	Nov. 15	Russian Political Linkages	Rem. 147-197
	Nov. 17	Russia's Reforms	Rem. 198-227
		<b>Papers Due</b>	
15	Nov. 22	Legal System in Russia	Rem. 228-263
16	Nov. 29	Russian Foreign Policy	Rem. 264-272
	Dec. 1	<b>Review for Final Exam</b>	
17	<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>Thursday, Dec. 8, 10:15 to 12:15, WH 305</b>	