Rise & Fall of Communism in the USSR & Eastern Europe

POL 3340G

Winter 2016

Wednesday: 11:30 – 1:30
Room: UCC 65
Office Hours: Or by appointment

Instructor: Prof. Marta Dyczok
Office: SH 2246
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e-mail: mdyczok@uwo.ca

Course Description

This course looks at the communist experience in Eastern Europe and the USSR in the twentieth century. It explores the historical, political, ideological, economic, social, and foreign policy dimensions of this era. Students will be encouraged to explore definitions, theoretical and geographic concepts such as Eastern Europe and ideology, think critically, construct their own arguments and present their own views. The course will be conducted in a lecture format, with regular class discussions.

Prerequisite(s): Political Science 231E or 245E.
Anti-requisite: former History 350F/G, the former Political Science 340F

Regulations

Important Notice Re: Prerequisites/Antirequisites Please Note: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites, and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. Lack of prerequisites may not be used as a basis for an appeal. If you are found to be ineligible for a course, you may be removed from it at any time and you will receive no adjustment to your fees. This decision cannot be appealed. If you find that you do not have the course prerequisites, it is in your best interest to drop the course well before the end of the add/drop period. Your prompt attention to this matter will not only help protect your academic record, but will ensure that spaces become available for students who require the course in question for graduation.
**Learning Outcomes**

At the end of this class students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the main developments during the communist period in Russia and Eastern Europe;
- Critically evaluate competing theoretical approaches, historical narratives, and sources relating to the communist experience in the area under study;
- Explain the similarities and differences between the communist impact on Soviet republics and East European states;
- Demonstrate in-depth expertise in the country that each student will study individually;
- Express themselves clearly and analytically in written assignments.

**Plagiarism and Cheating**

Plagiarism and cheating are considered extremely serious academic offences and carry penalties varying from failure in an assignment of exam to debarment from the University. All Pol 3340G students are expected to familiarise themselves with the definitions of plagiarism and cheating as established in University of Western Ontario before submitting written work or entering the exam (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism Checking: The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form for plagiarism checking.

**Course Requirements**

Students are expected to attend all classes and do all the required readings. Each class will end with a discussion of current events in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, for which students are required to prepare by following assigned media and electronic news/information sources. A film will be screened during the course and attendance is mandatory. Students will write one short essay due **week 5** and one research paper due **week 11**. A brief topic proposal for the research paper (including some indication of sources) should be submitted by **week 6**. A film will be screened on 23 March 2016, attendance is mandatory.
**Grading**

Grades will be assigned according to the following breakdown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>weekly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Essay</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>3 February 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>23 March 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposal due</td>
<td></td>
<td>10 February 201</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take Home examination</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>April exam period</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Readings**

The collapse of communism and the Soviet Union has caused political scientists and historians to look at the post-communist countries in a new light. There is no textbook for the course. A course reader containing most of the compulsory weekly readings will be available for purchase in the UWO bookstore. Purchase is optional. The readings are also available in 2 hour reserve at the Weldon Library. Additional suggestions may be made throughout the course.

**Selected Journals**

(many of these are available electronically at Weldon Library)

Canadian Slavonic Papers
Central Asian Survey
Communist and Post-Communist Studies (formerly Studies in Comparative Communism)
Communist Economies and Economic Transformation
Demokratizatsiia
East European Constitutional Review
East European Politics and Societies
Europe-Asia Studies (formerly Soviet Studies)
Journal of Communist Studies
Journal of Democracy
Nationalities Papers
Post-Soviet Affairs (formerly Soviet Economy)
Problems of Post-Communism
Russian History
Russian Review
Slavic Review
COURSE SCHEDULE

I. INTRODUCTION

Week 1. Library Instruction
(6 January 2016)
Please meet at the reference desk at Weldon Library.

Week 2. Introduction to the course, themes, Inventing Eastern Europe
(13 January 2016)

Required:

Davies, Norman, *Europe East and West* (London: Jonathan Cape, 2006), Chapter 7

Recommended:

II. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3. Pre-1944 Political History
(20 January 2016)

Required:


Pearson, Raymond, The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Empire (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1998), Chapter 1

Recommended:


Crampton, R. J., Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century – and After, 2nd ed. (London and New York: Routledge, 1997), Chapter 2

Longworth, Philip, The Making of Eastern Europe. From Pre History to Postcommunism, 2nd ed. (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1997), Chapter 3


4. The Communist Takeovers, 1944-1948
(27 January 2016)

Required:

Crampton, R. J., Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century – and After, 2nd ed. (London and New York: Routledge, 1997), Chapter 13

Naimark, Norman and Leonid Gibianski (eds.) The Establishment of Communist Regimes in Eastern Europe, 1944-1949 (Boulder, Colo.: Westview, 1997), Introduction


Recommended:

5. High Stalinism
(3 February 2016)
SHORT ESSAY DUE IN CLASS

Required:

Kravchenko, Victor, *I chose freedom, the personal and political life of a Soviet official* (Garden City, N. Y., Garden City, 1947), Chapter 1

Recommended:

Fowkes, Ben, *The Rise and Fall of Communism in Eastern Europe*, 2nd ed. (New York: St. Martin’s Press, 1995) Chapter 4

6. Revisionism and Decline  
(10 February 2016)  
RESEARCH PAPER PROPOSAL DUE IN CLASS

Required:


Recommended:


Swain, Geoffrey and Nigel Swain, *Eastern Europe Since 1945*, 2nd ed. (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1998), Chapter 4-7


15-17 February 2016 Reading Week, No Classes

III. THE COMMUNIST SYSTEM

7. Politics – The Structure  
(24 February 2016)

Required:


8. **Ideology**  
(2 March 2016)

**Required:**
Kornai, Janos, *The Socialist System. The Political Economy of Communism*  
(Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1992), Chapter 4, Ideology, pp. 49-61

(Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2003)

**Recommended:**
Adam, Jan, *Why Did the Socialist System Collapse in Central and Eastern European Countries? The Case of Poland, the former Czechoslovakia and Hungary*  
(Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1996), Chapter 6

Lovenduski, Joni and Jean Woodall, *Politics and Society in Eastern Europe. Comparative Government and Politics*  
(Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1987), Chapters 7-8

Nelson, Daniel and Stephen White, *Communist Legislatures in Comparative Perspective*  
(London: Macmillan, 1982), Chapter 1

Sakwa, Richard, *Soviet Politics. An Introduction*  
(London and New York: Routledge, 1989), Chapters 6, 7, 10
9. Economics  
(9 March 2016)

Required:


Recommended:


10. Society  
(16 March 2016)

Required:


Yanosik, Joseph, *Plastic People of the Universe* (March 1996)

Recommended:


Lewis, Paul G. (ed.) *Eastern Europe. Political Crisis and Legitimation* (London, 1984), Chapters 1, 4


Milocs, Czeslaw, *The Captive Mind* (Knopf, 1953)


11. FILM

(23 March 2016)

**RESEARCH PAPER DUE IN CLASS**

*Fireman’s Ball* (Hori ma panenko) 1967 Czechoslovakia directed by Milocz Forman (71 minutes)

The fire department in a small town is having a big party when the ex-boss of the department celebrates his 86th birthday. The whole town is invited but things don’t go as planned. Someone is stealing the prizes to the lottery and the candidates for the Miss Fire-Department beauty contest are neither willing nor particularly beautiful.

**IV. FOREIGN POLICY AND COLLAPSE**

12. Communist Europe and ‘The West’

(30 March 2016)

**Required:**


Recommended:


Zubok, Vladislav M. *A Failed Empire: The Soviet Union in the Cold War from Stalin to Gorbachev* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2007)

13. Collapse/Implosion/Dissolution
(6 April 2016)

Required:


Recommended:

Brown, Archie *Seven Years That Changed the World* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007)


**SUPPORT SERVICES**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western [http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/](http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.
Prerequisite checking - the student’s responsibility
"Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites."

Essay course requirements
With the exception of 1000-level courses, most courses in the Department of Political Science are essay courses. Total written assignments (excluding examinations) will be at least 3,000 words in Politics 1020E, at least 5,000 words in a full course numbered 2000 or above, and at least 2,500 words in a half course numbered 2000 or above.

Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)
"Personal Response Systems ("clickers") may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:
• the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence,
• the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence."

Security and Confidentiality of Student Work (refer to current Western Academic Calendar (http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/)
"Submitting or Returning Student Assignments, Tests and Exams - All student assignments, tests and exams will be handled in a secure and confidential manner. Particularly in this respect, leaving student work unattended in public areas for pickup is not permitted."

Duplication of work
Undergraduate students who submit similar assignments on closely related topics in two different courses must obtain the consent of both instructors prior to the submission of the assignment. If prior approval is not obtained, each instructor reserves the right not to accept the assignment.

Grade adjustments
In order to ensure that comparable standards are applied in political science courses, the Department may require instructors to adjust final marks to conform to Departmental guidelines.

Academic Offences
"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf
Submission of Course Requirements

ESSAYS, ASSIGNMENTS, TAKE-HOME EXAMS MUST BE SUBMITTED ACCORDING TO PROCEDURES SPECIFIED BY YOUR INSTRUCTOR (I.E., IN CLASS, DURING OFFICE HOURS, TA'S OFFICE HOURS) OR UNDER THE INSTRUCTOR'S OFFICE DOOR.

THE MAIN OFFICE DOES NOT DATE-STAMP OR ACCEPT ANY OF THE ABOVE.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

EXAMINATIONS/ATTENDANCE (Sen. Min. Feb.4/49, May 23/58, S.94, S.3538, S.3632, S.04-097) A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations: 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year. 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Medical Policy, Late Assignments, etc.

Students registered in Social Science should refer to http://counselling.ssc.uwo.ca/procedures/having_problems/index.html for information on Medical Policy, Term Tests, Final Examinations, Late Assignments, Short Absences, Extended Absences, Documentation and other Academic Concerns. Non-Social Science students should refer to their home faculty’s academic counselling office.

University Policy on Cheating and Academic Misconduct

Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence." (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

Plagiarism Checking: "All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (http://www.turnitin.com )."

Multiple-choice tests/exams: "Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating."

Note: Information excerpted and quoted above are Senate regulations from the Handbook of Scholarship and Academic Policy. http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/academic_policies/index.html
PLAGIARISM*

In writing scholarly papers, you must keep firmly in mind the need to avoid plagiarism. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged borrowing of another writer's words or ideas. Different forms of writing require different types of acknowledgement. The following rules pertain to the acknowledgements necessary in academic papers.

A. In using another writer's words, you must both place the words in quotation marks and acknowledge that the words are those of another writer.

You are plagiarizing if you use a sequence of words, a sentence or a paragraph taken from other writers without acknowledging them to be theirs. Acknowledgement is indicated either by (1) mentioning the author and work from which the words are borrowed in the text of your paper; or by (2) placing a footnote number at the end of the quotation in your text, and including a correspondingly numbered footnote at the bottom of the page (or in a separate reference section at the end of your essay). This footnote should indicate author, title of the work, place and date of publication, and page number.

Method (2) given above is usually preferable for academic essays because it provides the reader with more information about your sources and leaves your text uncluttered with parenthetical and tangential references. In either case words taken from another author must be enclosed in quotation marks or set off from your text by single spacing and indentation in such a way that they cannot be mistaken for your own words. Note that you cannot avoid indicating quotation simply by changing a word or phrase in a sentence or paragraph which is not your own.

B. In adopting other writers' ideas, you must acknowledge that they are theirs.

You are plagiarizing if you adopt, summarize, or paraphrase other writers' trains of argument, ideas or sequences of ideas without acknowledging their authorship according to the method of acknowledgement given in 'A' above. Since the words are your own, they need not be enclosed in quotation marks. Be certain, however, that the words you use are entirely your own; where you must use words or phrases from your source, these should be enclosed in quotation marks, as in 'A' above.

Clearly, it is possible for you to formulate arguments or ideas independently of another writer who has expounded the same ideas, and whom you have not read. Where you got your ideas is the important consideration here. Do not be afraid to present an argument or idea without acknowledgement to another writer, if you have arrived at it entirely independently. Acknowledge it if you have derived it from a source outside your own thinking on the subject.

In short, use of acknowledgements and, when necessary, quotation marks is necessary to distinguish clearly between what is yours and what is not. Since the rules have been explained to you, if you fail to make this distinction your instructor very likely will do so for you, and they will be forced to regard your omission as intentional literary theft. Plagiarism is a serious offence which may result in a student's receiving an 'F' in a course or, in extreme cases in their suspension from the University.

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Adopted by the council of the Faculty of Social Science, October, 1970; approved by the Dept. of History August 13, 1991
Accessibility at Western: Please contact poliscie@uwo.ca if you require any information in plain text format, or if any other accommodation can make the course material and/or physical space accessible to you.

SUPPORT SERVICES
The Registrar’s office can be accessed for Student Support Services at http://www.registrar.uwo.ca

Student Support Services (including the services provided by the USC listed here) can be reached at: http://westernusc.ca/services/

Student Development Services can be reached at: http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.