

Soviet and Post-Soviet Foreign Policy Political Science 555

Spring 2001

Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30-3:18

Mr. Doug Perkins

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The first half of this course introduces students to the "Russian Civilization"⁹⁹ and provides a historical overview of Russian and Soviet foreign policy from the Tsarist period through the end of the Cold War. The second half deals with foreign policy developments in Post-Soviet Russia and the Newly Independent States, focusing primarily on security and military policy. Each class session will begin with a discussion of current events in Post-Soviet Eurasia. This course is reading intensive **and students are expected to come to class prepared to engage in meaningful conversation about the daily readings and current events.** Students will be graded based on their performance on two exams and three writing assignments. Interaction with the instructor, both in-person and virtually, is strongly encouraged. No previous knowledge of Soviet or Post-Soviet politics is assumed or required.

Course Requirements

- Midterm Exam (multiple choice and map quiz): 25%
- Essay One: 15% (5-7 pages)
 - o Part One: Summary of the hypotheses and findings of Huntington's *Clash of Civilizations*
 - o Part Two: Review of Billington's *Icon and the Axe* and a description of the "Russian civilization"
 - o Part Three: Your analysis/reaction/synthesis of the two works (eg "What effect does Russian culture have on its foreign and security policy?")
- Essay Two: 15% (5-7 pages)
 - o Causes, Consequences, and Implications of the Chechen Conflicts
- Essay Three: 15% (5-7 pages)
 - o Examination of a foreign policy/security issue of to chose from)
- Final Exam (multiple choice and short essay): 30%

your choice (I will provide a list

Students who consistently make valuable contributions to grade raised by 1/2 mark (for example, from a B to a B+).

class discussions will have their final

Reading Materials

The following are available at SBX and Amazon.com. **You are expected to have read the**

assigned **material at least once before coming to class each day**. There will be no pop quizzes, but you will find lectures to make more sense if you come prepared. You are responsible for the material in the books even if it is not covered in class. Additionally, you are responsible for material covered in class, even if it is not covered in the books. Consult the appropriate study guide or, better yet, the instructor if you have any questions.

Required Reading. The following books will be read in their entirety.

- o Billington, James H. 1970. *The Icon and the Axe: An Interpretive History of Russian Culture*. New York: Random House. 776 pp. Paperback (around \$18 new). (B) I suggest supplementing this book with Mikhail Lermontov's *Hero of Our Time*, Alexander Pushkin's *The Captain's Daughter*, and Lev Tolstoi's *Hadji Murad*; all of which are available free of charge on the internet (see below) or for a fee at any good bookstore.
- o Huntington, Samuel P. 1996. *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of the World Order*. New York: Simon & Schuster. 367 pp. Paperback. (around \$13 new). (H) There is also an article by Huntington in *Foreign Affairs* article by the same name. Note, however, that the article does not provide the same depth of Eurasian coverage as the book.
- o Lieven, Anatol. 1999. *Chechnya: Tombstone of Russian Power*. New Haven: Yale University Press. 436 pp. Paperback. (around \$18 new). (L) Alternatively, you can read Knezy's and Sedlickas' *The War in Chechnya* (see below).
- o Odom, William and Robert Dujarric. 1995. *Commonwealth or Empire? Russia, Central Asia, and the Transcaucasus*. Indianapolis: Hudson Institute. 290 pp. Paperback. (around \$13 new). (I) I also recommend Richard Staar's *The New Military in Russia: Ten Myths That Shape the Image* (see below).
- o Nation, R. Craig. 1992. *Black earth, red star: a history of Soviet security policy 1917-1991*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. 342 pp. Paperback. (around \$17 new). (N)

From the internet:

- o Gvosdev, Nikolas
 - o "Some Points to Consider about Orthodoxy in Evaluating Church-State Relations" (**Gi**)
 - o "The Slavophile Conception of the State" (G2)
 - o "Moscow--The Third Rome: Interpretations and Implications for Church-State Relations" (**G3**)
 - o "The Test of Russian Power: Russian Resolve and the War in Chechnya" (G4)
 - o *National Security Concept of the Russian Federation* ~**SC**)
 - o *Russian Federation Military Doctrine* (**MD**)

o 2000 o 2000

Suggested Reading:

- o Knezy's, Stasys and Romanas Sedlickas. 1999. *The War in Chechnya*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press. 334 pp. Hardback. (around \$26 New). (K) I highly recommend this book to those of you who are interested in the Russian army and military tactics. It is a little technical, but well worth the extra time.
- o Staar, Richard F. 1996. *The New Military in Russia: Ten Myths That Shape* Annapolis: Naval Institute Press. 248 pp. Paperback. (around \$17 new). (S)

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Image*

From the internet:

- o Lermontov, Mikhail Y. *Hero of Our Time*. (LE)
- o Pushkin, Alexander S. *The Captain's Daughter*. (P)
- o Tolstoi, Lev N. *Hadji Murad*. (T) I also recommend *The Cossacks*, but could not find a copy on-line.

Additional required and additional readings will be posted to the website and/or handed out in class. I expect you to keep up with Eurasian security and foreign policy developments by reading pertinent articles from the New York Times and Russia Today on a regular basis.

Course Outline & Reading Assignments

Lecture outlines will be posted to the course website through out the quarter. Readings and assignments are listed next to each topic.

| Date | Title | Readings and Assignments |
|-------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 3/27 | | Introduction to Eurasian |
| | Security Dilemmas | none |
| 3/29 | | The Clash of |
| | Civilizations | H (all) |
| 4/3 | Russia and the Clash of Civilizations | H (all); G4 |
| 4/5 | Introduction to the "Orthodox Civilization" | B (all); Gi; G2; G3; LE; P; 1 |
| 4/10 | | The Russian Civilization: |
| | the Icon and the Axe | B (all); LE: P; T |
| 4/12 | | The Tsars, the Bolsheviks, |
| | and the West | B (all); N (1&2) |
| 4/17 | | Stalin's Foreign Policy |
| | B (all); N (3-5) Essay One Due | |
| 4/19 | | The Cold War (Movie |
| | Day) N(3-8) | |
| 4/24 | | On Coexistence, Detente, |
| | and New Thinking | N (6-8) |
| 4/26 | | Afghanistan and the |
| | Collapse of the Soviet Union | N(8) |
| 5/1 | Midterm Exam | Midterm Exam |
| 5/3 | Research Day | Research Day |
| 5/8 | Russian Foreign and Security Policy | NSC; MD; 5 (2,6,7,9,10) |
| 5/10 | | The Russian Military |
| | O (2); 5 (1,3,4) | |
| 5/15 | | The First Chechen |
| | Conflict L (all); K (all) | |
| 5/17 | | The Second Chechen |
| | Conflict L (all); K (all) | |
| 5/21 | | Issues in Moldova, |
| | Belarus, and Ukraine | S (12) Essay Two Due |
| 5/23 | | Issues in the |
| | Transcaucasus | O (1,4); 5 (6) |
| 5/28 | | Issues in Central Asia |
| | 0(1,3,5); 5 (6) | |

5/30
and Foreign Policy
6/5 Final Exam

The Russian Civilization
TBA
Final Exam Essay Three

Due
Additional Notes

All of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation) will be tolerated. Any cases will be reported to the Committee on Academic Misconduct and handled according to University policy. Paraphrasing others' words is fine and often helpful; just be sure to credit the original source.

Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor and seeking available assistance in a timely manner. Course materials are available in alternative formats upon request.

About the Instructor

I am a doctoral candidate in political science and conduct research on comparative political party formation, church-state relations, and Russian security. I work full-time as the Assistant Director of the OSU Political Research Laboratory and part-time as an All-Source Technician (*350-B*) for the National Ground Intelligence Center. I am here because I love teaching and the subject matter I am presenting. If you have problems with the course material, the manner in which it is being presented, or even the instructor (me), please let me know.

How to Make the Best Grade Possible

- o Become familiar with the readings before coming to class
 - o Read the material as many times as it takes to understand it
 - o Take notes as you read (either in the book or separately)
 - o Present any questions you have (during class or office hours, or by e-mail)
- o Be an active participant during class
 - o Take notes if you need to, but pay attention!
 - o Ask questions/interact with the instructor
 - o Challenge yourself, your classmates, and your instructor
- o Take advantage of your instructor (me!)
 - o Make sure I know your name, and help me learn it
 - o Discuss assignments (and exams) with me **BEFORE** they are due
 - o Utilize my availability via office hours and e-mail
- 0 Challenge yourself to do more than "get by." Learning is Fun!!!