

**PSCI 3209A Reconstruction and Transformation in Europe and Eurasia**

Winter 2021

<https://carletonca/polsci/>

Course to be delivered asynchronously and online: prerecorded lectures, assignments and assessment materials are available on CuLearn.

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Virtual office hours: Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Ottawa time: beginning January 19 and continuing until April 13) on Big Blue Button, accessed through CuLearn; or by appointment

Course description:

This course examines selected political problems related to regime upheaval, institution-building, conflict and identity in postcommunist states; the scope of the course includes selected cases from states of the former Soviet Union. The Soviet Union, which collapsed in 1991, included fifteen republics (among them, Russia) which became the independent states that are the primary focus of this course. To a limited extent, some cases from Central and East European politics will be included as well.

The region of study provides an excellent subject for exploring contemporary themes in comparative politics. While the countries share some common institutional features based on a shared membership in a former powerful state, they have pursued different political directions and embraced their own interpretations of national identity. Interpretations of the Soviet past continue to frame many contemporary political problems, so as a result, this course includes a thorough examination of the historical context.

The goals of the course are: 1) to gain a nuanced understanding of the politics of the countries of this region, 2) to analyze and reflect upon theoretical and scholarly debates that are especially relevant to this region, 3) to develop research skills appropriate to the third-year level of study, including analysis of primary source documents, 4) to encourage students to engage in peer-to-peer interaction to enhance each other's learning, recognizing the limits of such interaction within an asynchronous online format.

There are no synchronous lectures in this course; students will be expected to keep up with posted asynchronous lectures and required readings on a weekly basis. Prerecorded lectures, assignments and other essential course materials will be posted to CuLearn. Students are advised to do listen to all lectures, and complete all required readings, in the order presented.

*Continue to next page for required readings and course components: →*

Textbook and Required Readings:

Katherine Graney, *Russia, the former Soviet Republics and Europe since 1989: Transformation and Tragedy*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2019.

→ *This textbook contains required reading. Students may need to purchase this textbook, which is available in paperback and has been ordered from the University bookstore.*

Additional required readings are available electronically on Library Reserve. On the CuLearn page, click on “Library Reserve – View Course in Ares,” then click on “View Item” for the article you need.

Course requirements:

The table provides a short list of requirements and their percentages of the final grade. Details of each component are provided below the table. For all written work, see Statement on Written Work which follows on page 3 of this course outline.

Written Assignment 1	10%
Forum Post on Written Assignment 1	5%
Online midterm test	20%
Written Assignment 2	30%
Final Examination (Take-home Exam)	35%

Written Assignment 1: 10%. Due February 9, to be submitted to the designated online dropbox in pdf or Word. Students will be expected to complete a worksheet with specific assigned questions to answer, which will require research using specific online sources. Use complete sentences. The goal is to develop skills and knowledge essential for completing Written Assignment 2 due later in the term. The worksheet and accompanying instructions will be posted by the first week of classes.

Forum Post: 5% Due February 9. This forum post (150-200 words) is due the same day as Assignment 1, and is based on Assignment 1; the instructions for the post will be stated in the worksheet posted for Assignment 1. Students will post their response separately from the first assignment, in the online forum section of CuLearn; students’ posts will be visible to their peers in the class, so please keep them concise, constructive and tactful.

Online midterm test: 20%. Students must complete the online midterm test at a time of their choosing **between February 23 at 9:00 a.m. and March 1 at 5:00 p.m.** After opening the test, each student will have one hour to finish the test, which will consist of 20 multiple choice questions. The test will cover all course material, including posted lectures and required readings, up to and including Week 5. The test is open-book, but CuLearn will not allow the opening of a second browser window during the test. Students are required to complete the test individually without sharing their answers with other students until they have submitted their test answers.

Written Assignment 2: Due April 6, to be submitted to the designated online dropbox in pdf or Word. Suggested length: 12-15 pages, typed and double-spaced. This assignment is a

research paper that requires students to explore in depth a particular primary source document (instructions will be posted to CuLearn early in the term), to provide an original analysis, and to relate the issues raised by that document to relevant theoretical questions and scholarly debates covered in the course. The paper should demonstrate consideration and reflection on a minimum of eight peer-reviewed sources; this is not a quota to be fulfilled, but an essential minimum – as part of the assignment, students are expected to determine how much research is appropriate for their particular topic and approach.

Final Examination (Take-home Exam): 35%. The final examination will be posted to CuLearn no later than April 14, and is **due April 27 at 5:00 p.m. Ottawa time.** The final exam will be submitted to the designated online dropbox in CuLearn. Students will be expected to demonstrate understanding of all course material covered throughout the term, including prerecorded lectures and all assigned readings.

#### STATEMENT ON WRITTEN WORK:

In fairness to your fellow students, please submit your papers on time so as to facilitate prompt marking. The professor will consider an extension if warranted, but otherwise late penalties may apply. Written assignments should answer a specific question and make a clear argument, providing facts and evidence to support statements. Papers should analyze, rather than simply describe, the issues and events discussed. All sources should be properly referenced; Written Assignment 2 and the Final Examination should provide a bibliography. References should be complete and accurate, and provided as appropriate whenever you have referred to another author's idea, argument, or research. Quotations from secondary sources are to be avoided, as are quotations of more than fifty words in length from any one source. If you do choose to quote directly from a source, the citation should be indicated clearly with quotation marks and referenced. If you are unsure about referencing, please contact the professor well in advance of the due date.

**CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PROFESSOR:** Professor Chandler is available for virtual consultations using Big Blue Button, which is a tool within CuLearn. The professor has designated Tuesday mornings as the regular time for these consultations. This is a drop-in session; if you wish to make an individual appointment for a specific time, please contact the professor by email. Students may use email to contact the professor; the professor uses email for very short replies, so a virtual conversation or phone conversation might be more suitable for a question that requires a detailed answer. The professor typically reads work email Monday-Friday during daytime hours. See contact information on page 1 of this document.

#### Schedule of Lectures and Readings:

Of the twelve weeks of the course, between one to four short lectures are posted for each week. Students are advised to keep up with these lectures on a weekly basis.

Week 1 (January 12): Introduction; ethnic and linguistic diversity

Required reading:

Ronald Grigor Suny, “The Empire that Dared not Speak its Name: Making Nations in the Soviet State.” *Current History*, vol. 116, no. 792, October 2017, pp. 251-57.

Week 2 (January 19): Historical and Institutional Context: the Soviet Union; the Warsaw Pact

Required reading:

Graney, *Russia, the former Soviet Republics and Europe since 1989: Transformation and Tragedy*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2019: chapters 1-2

Vaclav Havel and Paul Wilson. “The Power of the Powerless.” *East European Politics and Societies and Cultures*, vol. 32, no. 2, May 2018, pp. 353–380.

Week 3 (January 26): Post-Soviet Statebuilding: Collapse and Conflict.

Required Reading:

Graney, chapter 3.

(Continue reading from Week 2): Havel, Vaclav, and Paul Wilson. “The Power of the Powerless.” *East European Politics and Societies and Cultures*, vol. 32, no. 2, May 2018, pp. 380–408.

Week 4 (February 2): Post-communist Regimes and Reform

Required Reading:

Graney, Chapter 6.

Diana Panke, “The European Court of Human Rights under scrutiny: explaining variation in non-compliance judgments.” *Comparative European Politics*, vol. 18 (April 2020), pp. 151–170.

Week 5 (February 9): Identity, Language, Culture

Graney, chapters 5 and 7

Alessandra Russo and Andrea Gawrich. “Overlap with Contestation? Comparing Norms and Policies of Regional Organizations in the Post-Soviet Space.” *Central Asian Survey*, vol. 36, no. 3, July 2017, pp. 331–352.

Kathleen E. Smith, “A Monument for Our Times? Commemorating Victims of Repression in Putin’s Russia.” *Europe-Asia Studies*, vol. 71, no. 8, Oct. 2019, pp. 1314–1344.

Week 6 (February 23) The Research Paper (lecture); Midterm test

Week 7 (March 2): The Colour Revolutions and their Significance

Required Reading:

Graney, chapters 4 and 8.

Ellen Carnaghan, “From Balcony to Barricade: Nationalism and Popular Mobilization in Georgia, Ukraine and Russia.” *Europe-Asia Studies*, vol. 68, no. 9, November 2016, pp. 1579-1607.

Week 8 (March 9). 21<sup>st</sup> century conflicts: Georgia, Ukraine

Required Reading:

Graney, chapter 9

Maria Popova, "Why the Orange Revolution was Short and Peaceful and the Euromaidan Long and Violent," *Problems of Post-Communism*, vol. 61, no. 6, November-December 2014, pp. 64-70.

Daniel Treisman, "Why Putin Took Crimea," *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 95, no. 3, 2016, pp. 47-54.

Week 9 (March 16). AuthoritarianismRequired Reading:

Graney, chapter 10

J. Paul Goode, "Russia's Ministry of Ambivalence: The Failure of Civic Nation-Building in Post-Soviet Russia." *Post-Soviet Affairs*, vol. 35, no. 2, Jan. 2019, pp. 140–160.

Alina Polyakova, "The Kremlin's Plot against Democracy: How Russia Updated its 2016 Playbook for 2020." *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 99, no. 5, Sept/Oct 2020, pp. 140-49.

Week 10 (March 23). Populism and NationalismRequired Reading:

Ivan Krastev and Leonard Benardo, "How can Nations atone for their sins?" *Prospect*, 14 July 2020, <https://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/magazine/how-can-nations-atone-for-their-sins-germany-russia-nazism-soviet-union>

David Paternotte and Roman Kuhar, "Disentangling and Locating the 'Global Right': Anti-Gender Campaigns in Europe." *Politics and Governance*, vol. 6, no. 3, 2018, 6-19.

Week 11 (March 30). The International EnvironmentRequired Reading:

Graney, chapter 11

Keith A. Darden, "Russian Revanche: External Threats and Regime Reactions," *Daedalus*, vol. 146, no. 2, spring 2017, 128-141.

Kimberly Marten, "NATO Enlargement: Evaluating its Consequences in Russia." *International Politics*, vol. 57, no. 3, June 2020, pp. 401-26.

Week 12 (April 6). Leadership and Civil SocietyRequired Reading:

Bohdan Harasymiw, "Civil Society as an Anti-Corruption Actor in Post-Euromaidan Ukraine." *Canadian Slavonic Papers/Revue Canadienne Des Slavistes*, vol. 61, no. 3, Jan. 2019, pp. 288–320.

Miriam Lansky and Elspeth Suthers. "Armenia's Velvet Revolution." *Journal of Democracy*, vol. 30, no. 2, Apr. 2019, pp. 85–99.

Paulina Pospieszna and Aleksandra Galus. "'Liberation Technology' or 'Net Delusion'? Civic Activists' Perceptions of Social Media as a Platform for Civic Activism in Belarus and Ukraine." *Europe-Asia Studies*, vol. 71, no. 10, Dec. 2019, pp. 1664–1684.

Week 13 (April 13). Conclusion

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### Accommodations during COVID

Due to COVID, instructors will not request or require a doctor's note when students seek accommodation for missed term work or exams due to illness. Instead, students will be asked to complete the self-declaration form available here: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/self-declaration.pdf>

### Academic Accommodations

#### Pregnancy

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

#### Religious obligation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: [carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf](https://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

#### Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.

#### Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: [carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support](https://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support)

### Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: [students.carleton.ca/course-outline](https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline)

### Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

More information on the University’s Academic Integrity Policy can be found at: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

### Intellectual property

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).