

INTL 4370H
Problems of Communism and Post-Communism

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Course Description

This course utilizes a multi-disciplinary perspective to examine fundamental issues associated with communism and post-communism. During the semester, we will address the communist experience and a variety of social, political and foreign policy changes and challenges in selected post-communist states.

Course Requirements

The class will be conducted according to a seminar discussion mode. Specific reading will be assigned for each seminar meeting. You are expected to read and ponder the assigned materials before coming to class and be prepared to discuss them and the issues they raise in the class meetings. The quality of informed participation in class discussion will represent 20% of your final grade.

Students are also encouraged to review a number of periodicals and websites on a regular basis. These include at least one national paper such as *The New York Times*, the English language edition of the *Moscow Times* or *Moscow News Weekly*, and such scholarly journals as *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*, *Europe-Asia Studies*, *Transition*, *Problems of Post-Communism*, and *Post-Communism and Transition Studies*.

You are also encouraged to use the web connections noted below as well as other Internet sources to follow issues related to the course:

Transition Online www.tol.cz (please note the useful links all of the sites provide)

Open Society Archives www.osa.ceu.hu

Central Intelligence Agency www.cia.gov/index.html

Department of State www.state.gov/www/ind.html

CNN www.cnn.com

Radio Free Europe www.rferl.org.

You will also be expected to write four one-page (single spaced) essays during the first six weeks of the course for another 20% of your course grade. The purpose of the papers is to provide you an opportunity to reflect on course readings and discussions by entering your own personal reflections and reactions. We can carry on a dialogue in response to ideas encountered during these weeks. *Please be bold and creative*; this is an opportunity for you to become deeply engaged with ideas raised in this class. (It also affords the instructor an opportunity to better understand your thoughts, feelings, and reflections as you engage the course materials.) One typed page (single-spaced) should be handed in four times during the first six weeks.

The next 20% of your course grade will be based upon an essay and short question-type midterm exam.

The next 20% involves an independent project. You will conduct independent research and prepare a paper that is intended to investigate an issue addressed in the course. You will choose a topic by the seventh week and turn in a preliminary statement describing and outlining your research topic at the tenth week. A final 7-10 page (typed, double-spaced) paper will be handed in at the final class session. Each of you will be given an opportunity to present your research during the final week of class. The nature and requirements of the paper and presentations will be discussed in detail during the semester.

A final exam will represent the remaining 20% of your course grade. The essay exam will cover all aspects of the course and will be discussed in some detail in the weeks preceding the examination.

In summary, the requirements of the course are:

Class Participation	20%
Papers and Journal	20%
Midterm	20%
Research Paper	20%
Final Exam	20%

Course Outline

1. Introduction and Orientation
2. The Rise (and Fall) of Soviet Communism
Lenin's Tomb, pp. ix-276.

3. Revolution and Change in the USSR: A New Russia?
Lenin's Tomb, 277-543

- 4-5. The Problem of Overmilitarization and Weapons of Mass Destruction
Biohazard, in entirety

- 6-7. Putin's Russia: Past Imperfect, Future Uncertain
Putin's Russia, in entirety

- 8-9. The Problem of Civil Society in Post-Communist Europe
The Weakness of Civil Society, in entirety

- 10-11. Post-Communism and Islamic Fundamentalism in Central Asia
Jihad, in entirety

- 12-13. Reports on research projects

14. Summary and review