

# **The Government and Politics of Russia and the Former Soviet Union**

Spring 2019, 21:790:379:01; Tuesday, Thursday, 2:30-3:50pm  
Prof. Alexander J. Motyl; 728 Hill Hall; ajmotyl@andromeda.rutgers.edu

## **Learning Objectives**

- DEVELOP ARGUMENTS IN CLEAR AND COHERENT TEXTS AND ORAL COMMUNICATIONS
- READ A VARIETY OF TEXTS FOR MEANING AND INFORMED ANALYSIS
- EVALUATE INFORMATION CRITICALLY
- PRODUCE IDEAS AND TEXTS CREATIVELY
- UNDERSTAND AND USE METHODS AND FORMS OF INQUIRY SPECIFIC TO THE BROAD DISCIPLINARY CATEGORY (OR CATEGORIES) WITHIN WHICH THE COURSE FALLS
- UNDERSTAND PAST AND PRESENT INTERRELATIONSHIPS AMONG DIVERSE POLITICAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL, RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND/OR GENDER GROUPS
- UNDERSTAND AND ADDRESS DEFINING SOCIAL, POLITICAL, CULTURAL, AND/OR INTELLECTUAL QUESTIONS IN CONTEMPORARY AND/OR HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

## **Syllabus**

January 22, 24: Introduction and Historical Background

### **History of the USSR**

January 29, 31: Marxism and Leninism: Karl Marx, *The Communist Manifesto*,  
><http://www.anu.edu.au/polsci/marx/classics/manifesto.html><

February 5, 7: Revolution and Stalinism: “Seventeen Moments in Soviet History: 1917, 1921, 1924, 1929, 1934, 1936, 1939,” ><http://soviethistory.msu.edu/> <

February 12, 14: World War II and Post-Stalinist Politics: “Seventeen Moments: 1943, 1947, 1954, 1956, 1961”.

February 19, 21: National Communism and Gorbachev: “Seventeen Moments: 1968, 1973, 1980, 1985”.

February 26, 28: The Collapse of Communism: “Seventeen Moments: 1991”.

### **After Communism**

March 5, 7: Communist Party, Totalitarianism, and Democracy.  
FIRST PAPER DUE March 5.

March 12, 14: Empire, State, and Nation.  
SECOND PAPER DUE March 12.

March 26, 28: Central Planning and the Market.  
THIRD PAPER DUE March 26.

April 2, 4: Culture, Civil Society, and Corruption.  
FOURTH PAPER DUE April 2.

## **The Post-Communist States**

April 9, 11: Central Europe, the Balkans, Central Asia, and the Caucasus: Henry Hale, “25 Years after the USSR: What’s Gone Wrong?”  
><http://www.journalofdemocracy.org/sites/default/files/Hale-27-3.pdf><

April 16, 18: Russia and Ukraine: Lilia Shevtsova, “The Authoritarian Resurgence: Forward to the Past in Russia,”  
><http://www.journalofdemocracy.org/sites/default/files/Shevtsova-26-2.pdf><

April 23, 25: The Ukrainian Revolutions of 2004 and 2014: David Marples, “Comparing Maidan 2004 with Euromaidan 2014,”  
><https://ukraineanalysis.wordpress.com/2015/03/10/comparing-maidan-2004-with-euromaidan-2014/><

April 30-May 2: The Russo-Ukrainian War, 2014-2019:  
><http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/russo-ukraine-2016.htm><

## **Requirements**

1) Students must write four 1-page papers. Each paper must be exactly one page long, double-spaced, 12-point font, regular margins. Name, date, and assignment topic on one line! No citations or footnotes! **PAPERS THAT DEVIATE FROM THESE INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE PENALIZED BY 5 POINTS. HARD COPIES OF PAPERS MUST BE HANDED IN IN CLASS; NO ELECTRONIC VERSIONS ACCEPTED. NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED.**

Papers must be written in the form of speeches by:

1. A Ukrainian peasant writing in 1934 about the Holodomor. Due date: March 5.
2. A Lithuanian dissident arguing in 1989 that Lithuania should be independent. Due date: March 12.
3. A Kazakh economist arguing in 1992 that Kazakhstan needs to embrace globalization. Due date: March 26.
4. A Russian writer arguing in 1987 that socialist realism should be abandoned. Due date: April 2.

2) There will be two quizzes in the course of the semester. **MISSED QUIZZES RESULT IN GRADES OF “F”.** NO EXCEPTIONS. Dates will be announced in class.

3) Class attendance is mandatory.

## **Grades**

The four papers and two quizzes will count equally toward the final grade. **NO EXTRA-CREDIT WORK.**