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 SOCIOLOGICAL, POLITICAL, CULTURAL, AND/OR INTELLECTUAL QUESTIONS IN CONTEMPORARY AND/OR HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Syllabus

January 22, 24: Introduction and Historical Background

History of the USSR


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?”

April 16, 18: Russia and Ukraine: Lilia Shevtsova, “The Authoritarian Resurgence: Forward to the Past in Russia,”


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.
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 QUIZES 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.