

**Special Topics in Political Science:  
Eastern European Politics in Transition  
POL 380**

Mercer University  
Department of Political Science, Spring 2007

*Instructor:* Chris Grant, Ph.D.  
(478) 301-5519 (office)  
(478) 746-9992 (home)  
[grant\\_jc@mercer.edu](mailto:grant_jc@mercer.edu)  
[john.christopher.grant@gmail.com](mailto:john.christopher.grant@gmail.com)

*Class:* MWF  
2:00-2:50 pm  
Knight Hall 203

*Office Hrs:* MW 11 am-noon; 4:15-5 pm  
Th 1-3 pm  
Also, by appointment

*Offices:* Langdale 215  
Groover 215

*Web:* [http://faculty.mercer.edu/grant\\_jc/](http://faculty.mercer.edu/grant_jc/)

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What was once the Soviet Union has disappeared and with it, the regime stability that dominated the Eastern half of the European continent. We have discovered that communism had perhaps more faults than we had ever known and when it crumbled, social, physical, and financial infrastructures were in shambles. Added to this was a broad reaching mindset that the state would solve the individual's problems. All said, over the last 15 years this has been a part of the world that has been in transition.

Our exploration of the region's politics and future includes:

- A brief historical review
- Comprehensive understanding of geography
- In-depth coverage of modern Russian politics
- Discussion of European and Eurasian post-Communist nations
- An examination of nationality and ethnicity
- Discussions of economic and political viability of fragile regimes
- EU Enlargement and the former Communist nations
- The emerging powerful role of Russia in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Students can expect to be evaluated on several in-class assessments as well as group interaction in the development of a class simulation project.

**Required Texts (6):**

1. Finlan, Alistair. 2004. The Collapse of Yugoslavia, 1991-1999. Osprey Publishing.
2. Goldman, Minton F. 2005. Global Studies: Russia, the Eurasian Republics, and Central/Eastern Europe, 10<sup>th</sup> ed. McGraw-Hill
3. Grant, Chris. 2006. The Moldova Blog. [http://faculty.mercer.edu/grant\\_jc/moldova.html](http://faculty.mercer.edu/grant_jc/moldova.html)
4. Henighan, Stephen. 2002. Lost Province: Adventures in a Moldovan Family. Litdisco.
5. Hesli, Vicki L. 2007. Governments and Politics in Russia and the Post-Soviet Region. Houghton-Mifflin
6. Solzhenitsyn, Aleksandr I. 1998. One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovitch. Signet Classics.

Additional required reading will be assigned and is accessible through the class web or may be placed on reserve in the library. Students are responsible for these readings and any "handouts" given in class, as well.

### ***Points/Point Breakdown***

Assignment	%
Quizzes	20
Midterm	30
Final	30
Position Paper	10
Simulation Participation	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

Grade	% of points	Significance
A	92.0 - 100%	Excellence in every facet, a model for future students
B+	88.0 - 91.9%	Very Good Work consistently exceeding basic expectations
B	82.0 - 87.9%	Good Work consistently exceeding basic expectations
C+	78.0 - 81.9%	Basic Competency with some good effects
C	70.0 - 77.9%	Basic Competency without severe deficiency
D	60.0 - 69.9%	Basic competency is achieved but work is weak
F	0 - 59.9%	Work is too weak to receive credit for course

**Quizzes** will be given four times the semester. They will questions related to the politics, history, and geography of the region. The first will be a map quiz that will require identification of the 15 former republics of the Soviet Union. Together the quizzes count 20% of the course grade.

**Mid-Term** exam is comprised of identification responses (12 of 15) and essay questions (2 of 3) about the former Soviet Union and the current organization and function of government. The mid-term is worth 30% of the final grade in the course.

**Final** is mostly cumulative of content covered by the midterm with again 12 of 15 identification responses and 2 of 3 essay questions. An additional set of essay questions will allow a single course-comprehensive answer to be developed. The final is worth 30% of the final grade in the course.

**Simulation/Position Paper** Students will be broken into three groups for simulations that center on the resolution of territorial disputes, on EU expansion, or NATO entrance. Students will each be assigned a role to play and will write a 5 page position paper for that role. After receiving some feedback from the instructor, the last two weeks of class are reserved for the acting out of the simulation. Papers that do not demonstrate a firm command of the issues that underscore the position of their role will be asked to resubmit their papers (with a 20% grading penalty).

**Alternative Service-Learning Project** if a student wishes, she/he can opt to do research for a Moldovan NGO looking for funding sources and prepare a list of potential sources and draft a grant proposal. Students selecting this alternative will write a much more extensive paper but will not be required to participate in the simulation exercise. A maximum of five students may take this option and preference will be given to students furthest along in their studies.

**Writing Style** The position papers **must be typed**. You should use a standard sized (10-12 point) font and be aware that grammar, spelling and punctuation errors will be penalized. Late assignments will be penalized for every twenty-four hours they are late. Please be careful to spell correctly and use complete sentences. It never hurts to proofread your work. Your work will also be graded on overall quality, logic, and merit.

**Plagiarism** This is, of course, cheating by not giving credit for ideas not original to you. It can take the form of "copying," not noting direct or paraphrased quotations, or even failing to provide an adequate works cited list. Be careful to cite sources any time you borrow an idea or use another's work to make a point, even when it is the textbook from this class

### **Class Policies:**

**Honor Code** The Mercer Honor Code applies to all work completed in this class. Any class materials (tests, quizzes, papers, handouts) are not for broad distribution. If they are found in a "test file" it will be considered a violation of the honor code. I will actively pursue prosecution of violators through all means available at the university and students that cheat will be penalized. If you divulge the contents of class

materials to those not having received credit for POL 380 you will be considered as having violated the code. *I pledge myself neither to give nor receive help during tests nor for any individual assignments or papers, nor to use any information other than that allowed by the instructor. I further pledge that I will not allow to go unreported to the proper persons any violations of the Honor Code and that I will give true and complete information before the Honor Council*

**Attendance** More than four absences in this class will result in a penalty on your grade in this class. A 5 point reduction on your final average will be taken for each successive absence over three (5 points will be deducted from your final average for the 6<sup>th</sup> absence, 10 points for the 7<sup>th</sup>, and so on). Ten or more absences will result in automatic failure. **YOU SHOULD COME TO CLASS!** In most cases empty seats do not absorb more material than do students. Empty seats do not participate better than students (though this is not true in certain cases). Empty seats certainly do not impress the instructor with your effort in his class. Exceptions to this policy are those absences documented with official Mercer communication.

**Cell Phones and Pagers** need to be turned off for our class; repeated disruptions will result in a student being dismissed from class.

**Accommodations:** Students with a documented disability should inform the instructor at the close of the first class meeting. The instructor will refer you to the Student Support Services office for consultation regarding evaluation, documentation of your disability, and a recommendation as to accommodation, if any, to be provided. Students must provide instructors with an accommodation form from Student Support Services listing reasonable accommodation to sign and return to Student Support Services. The Student Support Services office is located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Connell Student Center.

In order to receive full use of services, students with documented disabilities should make arrangements with the Student Support Services Office at 301-2686 as soon as possible. Students with a documented disability who do not wish to receive services are also **strongly** encouraged to register with Student Support Services.

CLASS SCHEDULE					
	WEEK	DATES	TOPIC	READING	OTHER
The Origins of Soviet, European Communism	1	Jan 9-12	A Brief Russian & Eastern European History	<i>Hes 1</i>	Last Day to drop a class 1/12
	2	Jan 15-19	Lenin → Chernenko "The Eastern Bloc"	<i>Hes 2</i> <i>Gol pp. 9-87</i> <i>S—all</i> <i>Grant 3/5 &amp; 7/27</i>	USSR Geography Quiz 1/19
	3	Jan 22-26	Gorbachev→Putin "Liquidation"	<i>Hes 3</i> <i>Gol # 1,2,3</i>	
Russian Politics Today	4	Jan 29- Feb 2	The New Russian State and Political Culture	<i>Hes 4-5</i> <i>Gol # 6, 7</i>	USSR History Quiz 2/2
	5	Feb 5-9	Governing Institutions	<i>Hes 6</i>	
	6	Feb 12-16	Parties & Participation	<i>Hes 7-8</i> <i>Gol #4</i>	Russian Politics Quiz 2/16
	7	Feb 19-23	Civic Society	<i>Hes 9</i> <i>Grant 5/23</i>	Mid-term February 23 <sup>rd</sup>
	8	Feb 26- Mar 2	Research...	<i>Grant 3/8</i>	
<b>SPRING BREAK/STUDY ABROAD</b>					
<b>Moldova, Romania, &amp; Hungary...2/27-3/12</b>					
The Rest of Eastern Europe	9	Mar 12-16	Moldova, Georgia, Belarus, Ukraine—the worst cases fmr USSR	<i>Hes 12-13</i> <i>Hen-all</i> <i>Grant 2/20, 28, 3/15 &amp; 6/17</i> <i>Gol pp.88-183, #10, 11</i>	Simulation Groups, assigned
	10	Mar 19-23	Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Kazakistan—the best cases fmr USSR	<i>Hes-11</i> <i>Gol # 9, 12</i>	Eastern Europe Geography Quiz 3/23 3/23 Last day to Withdraw
	11	Mar 26-30	EU: Czech, Poland, Hungary, and Romania	<i>Gol #14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21</i> <i>Grant 4/29; 6/27</i>	Position Paper Due
	12	Apr 2-4	The Tragedy of Yugoslavia	F-all <i>Gol #13, 16, 22</i>	April 6 is Good Friday
	13	Apr 9-13	Putting it all together	<i>Hes-10, epilogue</i> <i>Gol # 5, 8, 11, 20</i>	Current Events Quiz 4/13
	14	Apr 16-20	Simulations		
	15	Apr 23-27			
<b>FINAL EXAM Sat, May 5, 2007 2 pm</b> 🌸🌸🌸					