

International Studies 2600

Perspectives on Russia and Eastern Europe

Fall 2018

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About this Course

The purpose of the course is to introduce students to the peoples of Russia and East/Central Europe and their traditional and modern civilizations.

Welcome to IS 2600 – Introduction to Russia and East/Central Europe

Welcome to IS 2600 – Introduction to Russia and East/Central Europe. The purpose of this course is to acquaint students with Russian and Central/Eastern European civilizations and to present the history of communism, one of the deadliest totalitarian ideologies in the history of the world. The course will have an interdisciplinary character and will consider, among other disciplines, geography, history, culture and religion, social and political structures and finally, the elements of business protocol when dealing with the Russians and people from Central/Eastern Europe. Mr. Andrew Young, the former UN Ambassador, stated: "We're running a \$170 billion trade deficit essentially because the captains of American industry don't know how to deal with people who are different."

Though not exclusively, the presentation and material will focus on the modern period. The reason for this approach lies in the extraordinary chance which today's world offers to us -- we were witnesses to the fall of communism and its empire, the USSR, and to the rise of freedom, and now, fifteen years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, we are observing how new democracies are struggling to survive. They are facing social discontent with capitalist economic policies adopted by the post-communist governments, they must deal with communist legacy that is haunting social consciousness, and in some cases, they exercise only a limited freedom because it is either overshadowed by tribal nationalism or by the autocratic, non-democratic manners of their political leaders.

In 1849, just one year after the Spring of the Nations, Russian writer, Herzen, wrote:

The demise of present forms of social life should be a source of joy rather than an anxious contemplation. It is alarming, however, that the departing world leaves behind not only an heir but a pregnant widow. Between the death of one and the birth of the other, much water will pass under the bridge, a long night of chaos and emptiness.

To paraphrase G. Herling-Grudzinski, we can say that we know that just as well in the year of 2018 as A. Herzen did in 1849.

General Education Learning Outcomes:

1. Student will demonstrate knowledge of environments, political systems, economies, societies and religions of one of more regions outside the United States and awareness of the transnational flow of goods, peoples, ideas and values.
2. Student will demonstrate knowledge of the role that different cultural heritages, past and present, playing forming values in another part of the world, enabling the student to function within a more global context.

Cross-cutting Capacity: Social awareness, Critical thinking.

Course Objectives:

1. Students should gain an introductory familiarity with the civilization of Russia and East/Central Europe, via an overview of geography, history and traditional culture, including religion, arts and social institutions. They should become aware of Russian and East/Central European major contributions to world civilization.
2. Students should acquire a basic knowledge of political, economic and social problems the Russian and East/Central European people face as they encounter our contemporary world.
3. In conjunction with the first two objectives, students should develop an awareness of how Russian and East/Central European distinctive social and cultural traditions and particular historical experience have shaped the current patterns of thought and activity of the people of the region.
4. Students should indicate the sources of communist ideology, principals of Marxism, its initial appeal, circumstances of its implementation and its outcomes including the devastating influence that communism had on Europe in the 20th century. Recognize the factors that led to the demise of communism, and the ways it took place in particular European countries.

5. Students should analyze the gains and pains being experienced by the former communist states on their road to democracy and a free market economy

Your Instructor:

My name is Janusz Wrobel. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact me at wrobel@oakland.edu You can also contact me through the e-mail utility built into this course. If you contact me via e-mail, please give me **24 hours** to respond.

Required Texts:

You will need to purchase the following textbooks and the Class Packet to participate in this class:

1. ***Russia. A Short History***, Abraham Ascher. Oxford: Oneworld, 2009, ISBN: 978-1-85168-613-1,
2. ***Culture Smart! Russia***, Anna King, London: Kuperard, 2008, ISBN: 978-1-85733-352-7,
3. ***Revolution 1989. The Fall of the Soviet Empire***, Victor Sebestyen. New York: Pantheon Books, 2009, ISBN: 978-0-375-42532-5,
4. ***The Rebirth of East Europe. Fourth Edition***, Michael G. Roskin. New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 2002, ISBN: 0-13-034120-7,
5. ***A Guided Tour Through the Museum of Communism***, Slavenka Drakulic. London: Penguin Books, 2011, ISBN: 978-0-14-311863-3,
6. ***Class Packet***. Available from <http://www.dollarbillcopying.com/>.

To buy your textbooks visit:

[Oakland University Bookstore](#) - lower level of the [Oakland Center](#), Tel. (248) 370-2404

You can order your textbooks on-line as well. The following is the website for the OU bookstore:

<http://oakland.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/BNCBHomePage?storeId=13551&catalogId=10001>

You can find the text information on this website for all your courses at OU. Books are processed by the OU bookstore in 48 hours and then there is a choice of shipping types which could take up to another 8 days.

[OU Student Congress Book Swap](#) Room 62 [Oakland Center](#) Tel. (248) 370-4294

To buy your Class Packet visit:



<http://www.dollarbillcopying.com/>

Tel.: (734) 665-9200 or Toll-free: (877) 738-9200

You can order it on-line or by phone. The coursepack will be shipped by UPS, directly to your address.

Map Quiz:

You are expected to become familiar with all geographical terms included on page 8 (Russia) and 19 (East/Central Europe) of your Class Packet. There will be three types of questions:

1. Multiple choice:

Capitol of Poland

Choose one answer.

- a. Tallinn
- b. Bucharest
- c. Warsaw
- d. Miskolc
- e. Bratislava

2. Exclusion test:

Exclude the term, which does **NOT** belong in the series: i.e. Bulgaria, **Brazil**, Albania, Slovakia, Hungary.

3. True/False test:

The capitol of Poland is Warsaw.

Answer:

True False

Assignments and Timeline:

Course material must be completed within the week it is assigned. You have an entire week to complete the required readings in the textbook, read the online course material, participate in any online assignments, and take the quiz. You can do this at your own pace, but all graded portions (primarily the quizzes and the online discussions) **MUST** be completed in the indicated time. No extensions will be granted.

Dates	Requirements
<p>Week 1 Thursday, 9/6 - Monday, 9/10</p>	<p>Reading #1: <i>Ascher</i>, Chapter 1-2, <i>King</i>, Chapter 1, and <i>Class Packet</i>, pp. 3-11. Read Online Course Material and participate in discussion items.</p>
<p>Week 2 Tuesday, 9/11 - Monday, 9/17</p>	<p>Reading #2: <i>Ascher</i>, Chapter 3-4, <i>King</i>, Chapter 2-3, Read Online Course Material and participate in discussion items.</p>
<p>Week 3 Tuesday, 9/18 - Monday, 9/24</p>	<p>Reading #3: <i>Ascher</i>, Chapter 5-6, <i>King</i>, Chapter 4-5, <i>Sebestyen</i>, 1, 6, 8, 9, and <i>Class Packet</i>, p. 12. Read Online Course Material, watch “Moscow on the Hudson” movie (http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0087747/) and participate in discussion items.</p>

<p>Week 4 Tuesday, 9/25 - Monday, 10/1</p>	<p>Reading #4: <i>Ascher</i>, Chapter 7, <i>King</i>, Chapter 6.</p> <p>Read Online Course Material and participate in discussion items.</p> <p>Complete: Quiz #1 on Readings #1, 2, and 3.</p>
<p>Week 5 Tuesday, 10/2 - Monday, 10/8</p>	<p>Reading #5: <i>Ascher</i>, Chapter 8, <i>King</i>, Chapter 7.</p> <p>Read Online Course Material and participate in discussion items.</p>
<p>Week 6 Tuesday, 10/9 - Monday, 10/15</p>	<p>Reading #6: <i>Ascher</i>, Chapter 9, <i>King</i>, Chapter 8, <i>Sebestyen</i>, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 30, 31, 32, 43, 45 and <i>Class Packet</i>, p. 13-15.</p> <p>Read Online Course Material and participate in discussion items.</p> <p>Complete: Quiz #2 - Map Quiz on Russia, (based on <i>Class Packet</i> pp. 3-11) and East/Central Europe (based on <i>Class Packet</i> pp. 18-24).</p>
<p>Week 7 Tuesday, 10/16 - Monday, 10/22</p>	<p>Reading #7: <i>King</i>, Chapter 9, <i>Class Packet</i>, p. 32-40.</p> <p>Read Online Course Material and participate in discussion items.</p> <p>Complete: Quiz #3 on Russia, based on <i>Class Packet</i> (p. 13-15 and 32-40).</p>
<p>Week 8 Tuesday, 10/23 - Monday, 10/29</p>	<p>Read Online Course Material, <i>Drakulic</i>, Part III & V, and participate in discussion items.</p> <p>Complete: Quiz #4 on Reading #4, 5, and 6.</p>
<p>Week 9 Tuesday, 10/30 - Monday, 11/5</p>	<p>Reading #8: <i>Sebestyen</i>, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 23, 28, 33, 37, 39, 41, <i>Roskin</i>, Introduction, 1, 3, 4, 5, <i>Drakulic</i>, Part IV, and <i>Class Packet</i>, pp. 16-17 and 25.</p> <p>Read Online Course Material and participate in discussion items.</p>
<p>Week 10 Tuesday, 11/6 - Monday, 11/12</p>	<p>Reading #9: <i>Sebestyen</i>, 14, 26, 38, 40, <i>Roskin</i>, 6, <i>Drakulic</i>, Part VI, and <i>Class Packet</i>, pp. 28-31.</p> <p>Read Online Course Material and participate in discussion</p>

	items. Complete: Quiz #5 on Reading #7, and 8.
Week 11 Tuesday, 11/13 - Monday, 11/19	Reading #10: <i>Sebestyen</i> , 7, 22, 27, 47, <i>Finale</i> , <i>Roskin</i> , 7, <i>Drakulic</i> , Part I, and <i>Class Packet</i> , pp. 16-17 and 25. Read Online Course Material and participate in discussion items. Complete: Quiz #6 on East/Central Europe , based on <i>Class Packet</i> (pp. 28-31 and 36-40).
Week 12 Tuesday, 11/20 - Monday, 11/26	Reading #11: <i>Roskin</i> , 9, <i>Drakulic</i> , Part II & VIII, and <i>Class Packet</i> , p. 18. Read Online Course Material and participate in discussion items. Complete: Quiz #7 on Reading #9 and 10.
Week 13 Tuesday, 11/27 - Monday, 12/3	Reading #12: <i>Sebestyen</i> , Prologue, 16, 34, 48, <i>Roskin</i> , 8, <i>Drakulic</i> , Part VII. Read Online Course Material and participate in discussion items.
Week 14 Tuesday, 12/4 - Tuesday, 12/11	Reading #13: <i>Sebestyen</i> , Introduction, 1, 18, 36, 46, <i>Roskin</i> , 10, and <i>Class Packet</i> , pp. 26-27. Read Online Course Material and participate in discussion items. Complete: Quiz #8 on Readings #11, 12 and 13.
Grading:	

The following grading scale will be the basis to convert final averages (%) to OU's 4.0 grade system (100%--4.0, 90%--3.5, 80%--3.0, 70%--2.0, 60%--1.0, under 60%, 0.0.)

Students will be required to participate and interact with one another during the semester on the course forum board.

You will be required to create one original reply to each discussion topic (at least 600 word long and divided into paragraphs) and two responses: to one essay of your classmates, and to one response by other student, either

on your or other student's essay, commenting on it (do you agree with his/her opinions and why) for each discussion (at least 120 word long each). Important: copy your essay (or response) and paste posting directly to the forum - do not post as attachment!

Early posting in the Discussion will ensure you receive replies from fellow students.

Important: All postings must be submitted no later than on:

Monday, no later than 11:55 PM

To receive a good grade, you will have to post thoughtful and unique ideas that illustrate your understanding of the material to the discussion board. You should consider each of thirteen discussion board postings as an essay against which you will be graded.

Here is the breakdown of how you will be graded in this course:

Item	Percentage of Grade	Points
Participation in Discussion Board	52% (13 x 4%)	208 (13 x 16)
8 Quizzes	48% (8 x 6%)	192 (8 x 24)
Total	100%	400

Quizzes are "open book", although they are timed.

Grading criteria:

To receive full credit for your essay, it must meet the following criteria:

1. is an original work of the author;
2. is relevant and addresses the topic;
3. adequately states and defends its author's argument;
4. uses correct grammar and spelling;
5. is divided into paragraphs;
6. is submitted before the deadline;
7. consists of at least 600 words.

If an essay fulfills the first 6 criteria, it will be graded in the following way:

Amount of words	Grade
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100	2
200	4
300	6
400	8
500	10
600 or more	12

Two responses will be graded in the following way:

Amount of words	Grade
120	2
240 or more	4

Technical Problems / Questions

If you are having what you perceive to be a **technical problem** with your computer hardware or software, or the WebCT system, you should contact the Online Learning support team:

Request Help - Moodle Support Request Form

If you are a student having a problem with Moodle, you can request support here.

<http://www2.oakland.edu/elis/help.cfm?LMS=2>

Simply fill out the form and click on submit. Fields in **red** are required. When you submit, the request will be stamped into our tracking database and e-mailed to the support staff.

Note: To get immediate help, call (248) 805-1625 weekdays 8 am to 8 pm and 8 am to 1 pm on Saturdays.

Make sure you provide as much detail as possible when contacting the support team; they won't be able to help you unless you give them a clear idea of what the problem is. Questions regarding course content or policy should be directed to the instructor.

Plan on Cheating?

Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner conducive to an environment of academic integrity and respect for the educational process and the safety and well being of all members of the community. Adherence to the Student Code of Conduct will be expected; violations of this code will be reported to the Dean of Students. The Code of Academic and Student Conduct can be found at <http://www2.oakland.edu/deanofstudents/handbook/conduct.cfm>.

Below are examples of academic dishonesty in our class. Students, faculty or staff who know of possible academic violations are expected to report the alleged violation to the Dean of Students Office. The report will include a brief written statement and relevant evidence (original material when available). A copy of this report with supporting evidence is given to the accused student as the statement of the charge. When appropriate, the faculty member will issue a grade of Incomplete until the academic conduct matter has been resolved.

1. Cheating on assignments and examinations. This includes, but is not limited to, the following when not authorized by the instructor: the use of any assistance or materials such as books and/or notes, acquiring exams or any other academic materials, the use of any other sources in writing drafts, papers, preparing reports, solving problems, works completed for a past or concurrent course, completing homework or carrying out other assignments. No student shall copy from someone else's work or help someone else copy work or substitute another's work as one's own. No student shall engage in any behavior specifically prohibited by an instructor in the course syllabus or class discussion.
2. Plagiarizing the work of others. Plagiarism is using someone else's work or ideas without giving that person credit. By doing this, a student is, in effect, claiming credit for someone else's thinking. This can occur in drafts, papers and oral presentations. Whether the student has read or heard the information used, the student must document the source of information. When dealing with written sources, a clear distinction should be made between quotations, which reproduce information from the source word-for-word within quotation marks, and paraphrases, which digest the source of information and produce it in the student's own words. Both direct quotations and paraphrases must be documented. Even if a student rephrases, condenses or selects from another person's work, the ideas are still the other person's and failure to give credit constitutes misrepresentation of the student's actual work and plagiarism of another's ideas. Buying a paper or using information from the Internet without attribution and handing it in as one's own work is plagiarism.
3. Unauthorized collaboration on assignments. This is unauthorized interaction with anyone in the fulfillment of academic requirements and

applies to in-class or take-home coursework. Individual (unaided) work on exams, homework, computer assignments and documentation of sources is expected unless the instructor specifically states in the syllabus or verbally that it is not necessary. Collaboration can also include calculating homework problems with another person, having another help to rewrite a paper, sharing information/sources with others and checking coursework with others.

4. Completion of original work. When an instructor assigns coursework, the instructor intends that work to be completed for his/her course only. Work students may have completed for a course taken in the past, or may be completing for a concurrent course, must not be submitted in both courses unless they receive permission to do so from both faculty members.

It's a fact that it is very difficult for instructors to detect cheating in an online course. It is quite possible for students to "pool" their answers to a quiz or to have their smarter older brother or sister takes the class for them for a few dollars, and there is no way I'd ever find out.

I've structured the course as much as possible to encourage your participation. If you read the material and try to learn and participate with your fellow students, you'll get a good grade; it's that simple. Hopefully, you will see the value in working through the material yourself and achieving a personal understanding of the topics covered.

So please don't cheat. The material isn't so hard that you should need to, and you'll just be shortchanging yourself.