

San José State University
Department of Political Science
Pols 141: Politics of Post-Communist Countries

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Sabrina L. Pinnell
Office Location:	Clark 404D
Telephone:	Email preferred; (408) 924-5550 for emergencies only ¹
Email:	Sabrina.Pinnell@sjsu.edu
Office Hours:	M W 9-10 via Zoom ²
Class Days/Time:	M W 3:00-4:15 via Zoom ³
Classroom:	Online
Prerequisites:	Pols 2, Pols 4 recommended

Course Format

For Spring 2021, this class is completely online, using Zoom for class sessions and Canvas for class interactions and submissions. Students should have access to a computer capable of accessing this page at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You will need to use your student ID information to log on, and you can access the class webpage on your Dashboard. Lecture and in-class discussion will occur via Zoom sessions at the scheduled course time. Please see the Zoom prompt on your Canvas page for links to class sessions.

Course Description

Political development and change in countries that have transitioned from communist or socialist systems such as Russia, Eastern Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus; internal politics of these countries and relations with other countries.

Department of Political Science Learning Outcomes

The Political Science Department has the following objectives for its students:

- 1) **Breadth:** Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.

¹. As this class will be taught remotely this semester, I will not be using my office or my office phone. Email is best for communication; if you need to contact me via phone, please use the Political Science office number listed above, and they will contact me.

². Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:
<https://sjsu.zoom.us/j/84898700890?pwd=bVlnNVNJQW9BRXhvcnVIQ2ZTSdhWQT09>
Password: 270673

³. See Zoom on the Canvas page for the link to the class each class day.

- 2) Application and Disciplinary Methods: Students should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, evaluate research studies, and critically analyze and interpret influential political texts. Students should be able to apply these techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.
- 3) Communication Skills: Students should master basic competencies in oral and written communication skills and be able to apply these skills in the context of political science. This means communicating effectively about politics and/or public administration, public policy, and law.
- 4) Citizenship: Students should acquire an understanding of the role of the citizen in local, state, national, and global contexts and appreciate the importance of lifelong participation in political processes.

Course-Specific Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Describe the end of the USSR and how various countries in what was the Soviet Union transitioned into new governments. This will be measured by Exam 1.
- 2) Explain how democratization succeeded (or not) in various former Soviet countries, using factors such as political culture, institutional change or inertia and civil society. This will be measured by Exam 1 and the Final; it may also be measured by the paper, depending on topic.
- 3) Explain how economics changed and now functions in various former Soviet countries, which may include privatization, but could also include government-led economic policy. This will be measured by Exam 2 and could be measured by the paper, depending on topic.
- 4) Describe factors that may hurt democratization and economic reforms, such as corruption, oligarchic politics, and inherited political culture and institutions. This will be measured by Exam 1 and the Final; it could also be measured by the paper, depending on topic.
- 5) Explain how regional politics work among Eurasian countries, and their relations with the EU and other major countries such as the U.S.⁴ This will be measured by the Final and could be measured by the paper, depending on topic.

Required Texts/Readings (Required)

Textbook

A comprehensive textbook on politics of post-communist states does not exist, even for Eurasian ones. There is one required text to purchase: Brent Hierman's Russia and Eurasia: The World Today Series 2017-2018 (48th ed.; Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017, ISBN: 9781475835168). This text provides background for the countries you may not be familiar with, and information on history as well as some political details; I have it assigned for the course primarily as a reference, although there will be some sections assigned for all to read. Most of the reading for the course will be electronic chapters and articles that you will access either through Canvas (under "Files") or via electronic links in the Schedule. Please see the Schedule for the readings and when they are assigned; the modules for each week will also provide this information when they are released. *All readings for the course are required unless labeled as "recommended" in the Schedule.*

Library Liaison

Paul Kauppila is our library liaison in Political Science; he can be reached via e-mail at Paul.Kauppila@sjsu.edu. We will be meeting with him early in the semester to go over accessing materials in

⁴ This brings up the issue of the Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) – they will be considered primarily members of the EU for this course, but may also come up in various places as post-Soviet countries.

King Library for your research projects; you may want to schedule time with him individually if you have questions about finding material.

Course Requirements and Assignments

This course is worth four units as an upper division course, although you may elect to take it for three. In either case, please note SJSU's Credit Hour Requirement: "Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus." This means that this course will have a higher amount of reading and activities attached to it than you may find in other classes. Students will be expected to meet the instructor in office hours as part of their research projects. To not fulfill these extra time requirements may mean a lower grade, so please keep this in mind as you take the course.

Students will be evaluated in the following ways for this course:

Participation	40 points
Exams (2 x 100)	200 points
Final Exam	100 points
Research Project	
Outline	40 points
Meetings (2 x 10)	20 points
First Draft	60 points
Second Draft	<u>120 points</u>
	580 points

Participation: This class is meant to introduce political and economic issues connected to post-Soviet countries. It is not assumed that you have extensive knowledge of this region or these issues; therefore, a fair amount of background information will be presented through class lecture and discussion as well as the written material. Lectures will be on Zoom this semester; please see Canvas for the link information under Zoom. While students cannot be graded only on attendance, your absences can be noted for not participating in discussions when they occur. Therefore, if you miss six or more sessions over the course of the semester for unexcused reasons, you will lose 50% (20 points) of your participation grade.

Exams 1-2: To measure your understanding of the material, there will be three exams over the course of the semester (see Schedule for dates). These exams will begin at start of the class time on the dates in the Schedule, then go on for 24 hours – so, from 3:00 p.m. on the class day to 2:59 p.m. the following day. Each of the two exams will be a combination of four short-answer questions and an essay. The short-answer questions will need to be answered in 4-5 sentences each, no more than a paragraph. They will be worth 10 points if you attempt the question and successfully answer it; you will earn a minimum of five points for a genuine attempt even if incorrect. The essay will be 2-3 pages (500-750 words) and you will have a choice of one of two topics to answer. The essay will be worth 60 points. Each of these exams will address the section of the course that preceded it, and each is worth 100 points total of the course grade. If you miss an exam due to a verifiable emergency, you need to contact the instructor ASAP to schedule a time to make up the test. No exams will be given ahead of the scheduled time for any reason.

Please see the Exam Format page in Canvas for more details on the exams for this class.

Final Exam: This will be the equivalent of an Exam 3 as it covers the last three topics of the class, but will begin on the date and time of the final for this course (May 21st at 12:15 p.m.) and continue for 24 hours until 12:15

p.m. on May 22nd.⁵ The format will be the same as Exams 1 and 2. It will also be worth 100 points. Please note that you are expected to take this test as scheduled; makeups will only be for verifiable emergencies and granted at the instructor's discretion. This test will not be given ahead of the scheduled time for any reason.

Research Project: The bulk of your grade for this class will be fulfilled through an independent research project that you will complete in stages over the course of the semester. As these stages build upon one another, it is essential that you complete each stage in time for feedback where necessary to go on to the next stage, and to ensure you get the best possible grade. Please see the information appended to the end of the syllabus for the requirements.

Grading Information

This course is based upon a point system, with percentage of points earned on assignments and exams corresponding to the following grades: 97-100% is an A plus, 93-96% is an A, 90-92% is an A minus, 87-89% is a B plus, 83-86% is a B, 80-82% is a B minus, etc. Keep track of your points over the course of the semester as noted above, and you should have an idea how you stand in the class.

Note that “All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades.” See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details. That said, please note that grades will not be posted on Canvas in this course; if you need information on class standing, please see me in office hours so we can access your scores and I can give you an accurate assessment of your progress.

All grades on exams and the various parts of the research project are final. The outline and rough draft phases of the research paper are designed to help you form and refine your ideas for the paper – please use these opportunities to improve your work over time. That said, even though the final draft is worth double the rough draft this semester, leaving your improvements to the last draft of the paper could still negatively impact your grade.

Per University policy, any extra credit activities have to be extended to all members of the class; individual requests will not be considered. The instructor will assign extra credit activities if she feels they are appropriate to this particular class, and only if the activity can be done by all students.

Extra Credit Policy

Note that per Academic Senate policy (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S09-7.pdf>), any extra credit opportunities must be extended to all students in the class; this means that individual appeals for extra credit may not be considered apart from the entire class. Students may not request individual extra assignments for additional credit.

There is one extra credit assignment for the class, at the very start: you may take a quiz on the information contained in this Syllabus, which will be available on Canvas on February 5th. Please see under Quizzes between 12:00 a.m.-11:59 p.m. that day to complete the quiz.

⁵. The period from 2:30 p.m. on May 21st to 12:15 p.m. on the 22nd is considered “extended time.”

Policy on Submitting Written Work in this Course

In order to make sure all students complete their work under equal and fair conditions and to facilitate turnaround on grading, the following policy applies to submitting written work (for this class, the written parts of the research project) for this course:

- 1) For full credit, students must submit written assignments by the day designated in the syllabus, barring an emergency that is verifiable in writing. Other situations where a student may not be able to turn in an assignment on time require contacting the instructor before or on the date of submission to get an extension. Extensions will be granted at the instructor's discretion.
- 2) All written parts of the research project written assignments must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. to Canvas the day they are due, at the prompts under Assignments. Late submissions of papers will lose the equivalent of one letter grade per day (if 60 points, then 6 points a day) late, barring an excused emergency or an extension granted by the instructor.
- 3) The written parts of Exams 1-2 and the Final Exam must also be submitted to the prompts under Assignments by the date and time specified in the Schedule, barring verifiable emergency. Late submissions may lose 10 points a day, barring an excused emergency or an extension granted by the instructor. Time for extensions is at the discretion of the instructor.
- 4) The last day for submission of any late written work aside from the Final Exam (and this includes the second draft of the Research Paper) is the last actual lecture day of the session (May 17th). It is also the last day that points can be corrected on late work if an emergency is verified.
- 5) Barring adjustments to grade points on late work because of an emergency, all grades on written work are final.

Students at the college level are expected to submit written work that fits the grammatical, stylistic and citation expectations for college-level work in English. All written assignments in this course are therefore graded in two ways: both in terms of content (information in terms of logic, quality of evidence, etc.) and in terms of writing. If you are at all uncomfortable with writing at the college level, you need to take steps to rectify this. The instructor is willing to preview rough drafts of work in office hours before assignments are due to provide feedback. You may also want to see the instructor after assignments are handed back if comments indicate that there are specific errors in argument or writing.

You may not rewrite assignments for additional credit or regrades in this course. The second draft of the research paper is graded independently of the first. At this level of academic work, you should be prepared to submit work that is ready for scrutiny in your first effort.

Incompletes in Pols 141

Incompletes for this course may be assigned by the instructor after discussion with a student to cover outstanding work for the class and allow completion after the semester is over. However, the University policies apply to this situation – if a student has not completed a sufficient amount of work in the class before the end of the semester, an incomplete will not be granted. For example, if you want an incomplete because you cannot finish the research paper, you must still complete enough of the research paper to show you can finish the remainder on your own – this means the First Draft. I will not issue an incomplete without a sufficient amount of work completed before the formal end of the class.

Travel Policy

For this course, if you know that you will be absent or unable to complete assignments ahead of time due to athletic or other campus activities, it is your responsibility to clear any extensions or excusals with the instructor ahead of the due date.⁶ Travel for other reasons, barring emergencies, may not be accepted as reasons for extensions or excusals for late work or makeup exams; any exceptions require instructor approval. If you have an emergency that makes it impossible to take an exam or complete an assignment, contact the instructor ASAP to discuss options to complete your work. But as noted above, no exams will be given in advance for any reason, and this includes the Final.

Internet Failure Policy

Because class is online and away from campus this semester, your instructor is relying largely on home internet resources, as are most of you, to complete class tasks. SJSU does not have a formal policy on what to do if there is an internet failure on the instructor's end or on yours, so I am creating one here:

- 1) If internet access fails on the instructor's end, she must notify students that she is unavailable for immediate contact regarding class resources or materials, and that email replies will be delayed until the internet resumes. Notification will be through email, either from the instructor herself or the Political Science Office.
- 2) Power failures or shut-offs due to emergencies may also affect internet coverage. The instructor will do her best to notify students if there is such an emergency, and whether or not the class tasks will be adjusted accordingly.
- 3) Students may also lose internet coverage at times in the class, due to failure, power shut-off or other emergency. In such situations, if the lack of internet service will affect completing class tasks, the student needs to notify the instructor as soon as possible in case adjustments are needed. This is particularly important in cases of quizzes, exams or assignments. Note that any adjustments are at the instructor's discretion and will depend on the specific circumstances of the emergency.
- 4) While 3) addresses unforeseen emergency situations, students may not use *anticipated* internet interruptions as a reason for extensions on completing class tasks. Students should make arrangements at quiz, exam and other times to complete those tasks if they know ahead of time that their internet coverage will be interrupted. This could involve using internet coverage in another location, for example. If you as a student feel that you may not be able to fulfill class requirements ahead of time due to internet issues, you should contact the instructor to discuss options.

Collaboration and Source Use Policy

The University has a clear policy on Academic Integrity, but I feel that some issues need to be made more explicit within the body of this syllabus. Please review below, and see me if you need clarifications.

The following actions on papers could be considered plagiarism:

- 1) Copying words or passages of text from an in-class (lecture, discussion, slides, text or assigned reading) source without proper quotation and citation;

⁶ Ideally, athletes should present a schedule of away events that may affect the class and send the instructor an e-mail alerting her before each event to make sure that absences are excused.

- 2) Using ideas, definitions or arguments from in-class sources, even if paraphrased or summarized, without proper citation;
- 3) Copying words or passages of text from sources outside of class (including electronic sources) without proper quotation and citation;
- 4) Using ideas, definitions or arguments from sources outside of class, even if paraphrased or summarized, without proper citation.

Per the SJSU Academic Integrity Policy, you may not submit work done in another course, in whole or in part, for evaluation in this course without prior instructor approval. This includes your own writing for another course – that is actually a form of plagiarism as well as cheating. If you are considering using research done in another class to help you with your project in this class, it is strongly recommended that you clear this with the instructor before you use the material.

You are not permitted to collaborate with other students on written work in this class unless expressly permitted by the instructor. If collaboration is permitted, it will be made clear in the requirements for the assignment; otherwise, you should not assume you can do this.

If there are issues with source use or possible cheating, it is the policy of SJSU for the instructor to have a face-to-face meeting with a student to clarify the issue and particulars before any decisions are made about possible sanctions. Serious infractions must be reported to the University per the Academic Integrity Policy for recording purposes, and possible administrative action.

To sum up – the University is serious about cheating and plagiarism, and so is your instructor. If you are concerned about how to cite and use sources, come to office hours, consult the Library sources on how to deal with these issues (<http://library.sjsu.edu/research-support/research>), or one of the writing centers for assistance.

Classroom Protocol

Students are expected to come to class ready to participate. Asking questions regarding the reading material or class lecture is expected and encouraged. You are also expected to behave in a civil and respectful manner in discussion, particularly to your fellow students. There are topics that we will discuss which may be considered controversial, and many students may have strong opinions about them from the outset. With that in mind, students should avoid any colloquial language, characterizations, remarks or outright slurs that pertain to groups in the abstract or to their fellow students in particular. Any remarks made in ways that attack a student's personality or physical characteristics that have nothing to do with his or her actual points in a discussion will not be tolerated. Students may be asked to leave the session if this occurs. If you want to challenge a particular point in the course of discussion, challenge the point – don't challenge the student.

This class is on Zoom this semester due to the need for remote learning given COVID and social distancing. Lectures will be recorded, so please be aware that anything you say may end up on one of these recordings. I will not be sharing links to the recordings with the class unless a situation requires this; that said, Zoom links do not work for everyone. Zoom's cloud allows large recordings, and these cannot be converted and loaded to Canvas. You should plan on attending lectures to get the information unless there is an emergency.⁷

I will be uploading Powerpoint slides from lecture to Canvas, after a section is completed. They will be under Files on Canvas.

⁷ If you have an AEC accommodation for notetaking, I will share links – but again, keep in mind these may not work for all computers. Please see me if there are accommodations issues so we can discuss.

Final Exam Policy

Per University Policy S17-1, all classes must have a culminating activity that finishes the class. For Pols 141, this will be online via Canvas during the period from 12:15-2:30 on May 21st (extended to 2:29 on May 22nd). No final will be held before this scheduled time, and you should plan on taking the test at this time unless you have a verifiable emergency, or three or more scheduled finals in one day and you contact me no later than three weeks before the last day of class (April 26th). If you fall into one of these categories, a makeup exam is possible, on the scheduled makeup day (May 26th). Please see the relevant policy at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S17-1.pdf> for more information.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' Syllabus Information web page at <https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php> Please peruse these policies at the link, which cover academic integrity, religious holidays and recording information in class.

Disclaimer

All information in this syllabus, including due dates for evaluation instruments such as exams or papers may be subject to change with fair notice by the instructor, the Department of Political Science or San Jose State University.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
1-2	1/27-2/1	<p><u>Topic 1: USSR Collapse, and Setting the Stage for later political change</u> McFaul, Michael. 2015. "Gorbachev's Design for Reforming Soviet Political Institutions" and "The End of the Soviet Union," in <u>Russia's Unfinished Revolution</u>, 33-118. New York: Cornell University Press. Link: https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/sjsu/detail.action?docID=3425995</p>
2-4	2/3-2/15	<p><u>Topic 2: Evolution of Central Institutions</u> Hierman, pgs. 104-109. Noble, Ben. 2019. "Parliamentary Politics in Russia." In <u>Developments in Russian Politics</u> 9th edition, Richard Sakwa, Henry E. Hale and Stephen White, eds. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 54-66 (on Canvas). Stronski, Paul. 2020. "Kyrgyzstan's Descent into Mob Rule Bodes Ill for Its Future," <u>World Politics Review</u> 23 October 2020. Link: https://carnegieendowment.org/2020/10/23/kyrgyzstan-s-descent-into-mob-rule-bodes-ill-for-its-future-pub-83043 Willerton, John P. 2019. "Presidency and Executive." In <u>Developments in Russian Politics</u> 9th edition, Richard Sakwa, Henry E. Hale and Stephen White, eds. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 18-37 (on Canvas).</p> <p>Extra Credit quiz on the Syllabus 2/5, from 12:00 a.m.-11:59 p.m.</p> <p>Meeting on Zoom about accessing King Library materials – 2/8 during class time, Zoom link TBA</p>
4-5	2/17-2/22	<p><u>Topic 3: Elections and Partisan Politics</u> Ash, Konstantin. 2015. "The election trap: the cycle of post-electoral repression and opposition fragmentation in Lukashenko's Belarus." <u>Democratization</u> 22, No. 6, 1030-1053 (on Canvas). Mitchell, Lincoln A. 2012. "Electoral Breakthroughs," and "Democracy After the Color Revolutions," in <u>The Color Revolutions</u>. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press, 44-72, 115-140. Link: https://www-jstor-org.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/stable/j.ctt3fj606</p>
5	2/22-2/24	<p><u>Topic 4: Regional Government</u> Hierman, pgs. 87-90 DeBardeleben, Joan and Zherebtsov, Mikhail. 2010. "The Transition to Managerial Patronage in Russia's Regions," in <u>The Politics of Sub-National Authoritarianism in Russia</u>, Vladimir Gelman and Cameron Ross, eds. New York: Routledge, 85-105 (on Canvas).</p>
5	2/22	Topic Outlines due 2/22 online; meetings one-on-one via Zoom week of 3/1-3/5
6	3/1-3/2	Exam 1 online, from 3:00 p.m. on 3/1-2:59 p.m. on 3/2

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
6-7	3/3-3/8	<p><u>Topic 5: Political Culture and Nationalism</u></p> <p>Borshchevskaya, Anna. 2020. "The Role of the Military in Russian Politics and Foreign Policy over the Last 20 Years," <u>Orbis</u>, Summer 2020, 434-446 (on Canvas).</p> <p>Laruelle, Marlene. 2018. "Black Shirts, White Power," in <u>Russian Nationalism: Imaginaries, Doctrines and Political Battlefields</u>. London: Routledge, 155-173. Link: https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429426773</p>
7-8	3/10-3/15	<p><u>Topic 6: Civil Liberties and Civil Society</u></p> <p>For this section, you should see the current Freedom House profiles of Russia, Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan on its website (Link: https://freedomhouse.org/countries/freedom-world/scores), read all three and concentrate on sections D, E and G.</p>
8-9	3/17-3/24	<p><u>Topic 7: Issues: Economic Policy</u></p> <p>Liebert, Sultanat. 2009. "Leaving the Homeland," in <u>Irregular Migration from the Former Soviet Union to the United States</u>. New York: Routledge, 51-77. Link: https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/sjsu/reader.action?docID=446871&ppg=62</p> <p>Sutela, Pekka. 2012. "The Putin Regime" and "Welfare," in <u>The Political Economy of Putin's Russia</u>. New York: Routledge, 42-76, 187-216. Link: https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/sjsu/detail.action?docID=958680</p>
	3/29-4/2	SPRING BREAK – No class or office hours
10-11	4/5-4/12	<p><u>Topic 8: Ethnic and National Conflicts</u></p> <p>Hierman, 184-187; 238</p> <p>Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. 2018. "Ending the War in Ukraine: Briefing by Kurt Volker, U.S. Special Representative for Ukraine Negotiations," 8 May 2018. Link: https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CHRG-115jhr30028/pdf/CHRG-115jhr30028.pdf</p> <p>De Waal, Thomas. 2010. "Armenia and Azerbaijan: An Intimate Quarrel." In <u>The Caucasus: An Introduction</u>. New York: Oxford University Press, 2010, 98-130. Link: https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/sjsu/detail.action?docID=578795</p> <p>Duina, Francesco and Miani Carlo. 2015. "Fitting in the Baltics: National Identity, Minorities and Compliance with EU Accession Requirements in Lithuania and Latvia." <u>Comparative European Politics</u> 13, No. 5 (2015): 535-552 (on Canvas).</p> <p>Kolosov, Vladimir A. and Zotova, Marla V. 2020. "Multiple Borders of Nagorno-Karabakh." <u>Geography, Environment and Sustainability</u> 13, No. 1 (2020): 84-91 (on Canvas).</p>
10	4/5	Rough Draft due online – meetings one-on-one via Zoom during week of 4/12-4/16
11	4/14-4/15	Exam 2 online from 3:00 p.m. on 4/14-2:59 p.m. on 4/15

Week	Date	Topics, Readings, Assignments, Deadlines
12-13	4/19-4/26	<p><u>Topic 9: Issues: Foreign Relations and Military Policy</u></p> <p>Bodziany, Marek and Scibiorek, Zbigniew. 2019. "Military Implications of the Russian Federation's Politics of Expansion." <u>Historiya i Politika</u> 30, No. 37 (2019): 9-23 (on Canvas).</p> <p>Monaghan, Andrew. 2016. "Towards Strategic Dissonance – Russia as a 'Europe Apart.'" In <u>The New Politics of Russia: Interpreting Change</u>. UK: Manchester University Press, 77-108. Link: https://openresearchlibrary.org/viewer/1f8ce810-9fcc-4ace-b7de-60cb4ea70527/1</p> <p>Paul, Amanda. 2015. "The Eastern Partnership, the Russia-Ukraine War, and the Impact on the South Caucasus." <u>IAI Working Papers</u>, 6 February 2015 (on Canvas).</p>
13-14	4/28-5/3	<p><u>Topic 10: Issues: Patrimonialism and Effects on Politics (4/28-5/3)</u></p> <p>Junisbai, Barbara and Junisbai, Azamat. 2019. "Regime Type vs. Patronal Politics: A Comparison of 'Ardent Democrats' in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan." <u>Post-Soviet Affairs</u> 35, No. 3 (2019): 240-253 (on Canvas.)</p> <p>McMann, Kelly. 2014. "Alternatives to Corruption and the Effect of Market Reform: The Argument and the Theoretical Implications," and "Bribery, Favoritism and Clientelism: Evidence from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan." In <u>Corruption as a Last Resort: Adapting to the Market in Central Asia</u>. Ithaca; NY: Cornell University Press, 20-57. Link: https://library.oapen.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.12657/30800/642702.pdf;jsessionid=3446EFF2EB742FAEFAD5D3D8C4BF741C?sequence=1</p> <p>Zygar, Mikhail. 2016. "In Which Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov is Convinced He is Heir to the Throne." In <u>All The Kremlin's Men: Inside the Court of Vladimir Putin</u>. NY: Public Affairs, 129-148 (on Canvas).</p>
14-15	5/5-5/12	<p><u>Topic 11: Issues: Elites and Transfer of Power</u></p> <p>Zimmerman, William. 2016. "The Past and Future of Russian Authoritarianism." In <u>Ruling Russia: Authoritarianism from the Revolution to Putin</u>. NY: Princeton University Press, 299-310. Link: https://doi-org.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/10.2307/j.ctv7h0s0n.14.</p>
15	5/10	Final Draft due online
16	5/17	Course Wrap-Up
Final Exam	5/21	Final Exam from 12:15-2:30 p.m. online (with extension to 2:29 p.m. on 5/22)

Research Project

The major task for this class is a combination of a research paper of 8-10 pages (2000-2500 words in 12 point font with 1" margins and page numbers, not counting bibliography) plus a poster presentation to the class, on a topic of the student's choosing regarding Eurasian politics. Because of the four-unit nature of this class, students will be expected to dedicate time outside regular class sessions for formulation of their topic, do the necessary background research to inform their paper, compose the paper in an initial draft for review, and then turn in a revised draft. Students will also be expected to meet with the instructor outside of class at least two scheduled times to review progress on their papers.

This project will take place in various stages, outlined below.

Topic Formulation/Outline (40 points of the total project grade)

Students must choose a topic that deals with an issue in post-Soviet country politics, create a topic question and then draft an outline that shows how they will answer the question. To get you started, possible topics could be in any one of the general areas:

- a. A question that deals with the *internal politics* of one of the post-Soviet countries. You may focus on the Russian Federation, but students are encouraged to consider a policy issue in one of the other Eurasian regions – the Caucasus (Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan), Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan or Tajikistan), or Eastern Europe (Ukraine, Belarus, or Moldova). Possible policy issues for a country-specific paper could include electoral/party politics; political culture; civil society; state-media relations; elite transitions; military politics. Other possibilities may be considered, but you may want to discuss these with the instructor.⁸
- b. A question that is *comparative* in nature and deals with two or more countries we are studying in the class. For example, you may wish to contrast electoral politics between Russia and another post-Soviet state. This is a good area of topics to choose from if you wish to apply what we learned in class about the Russian Federation to another country, but with less detail than concentrating solely on the second country.
- c. A question that focuses on the *foreign policy/relations* between a post-Soviet state and other countries. This would include regional relations between Russia and its post-Soviet neighbors (the "near abroad"); a foreign policy issue that concerns regional relations with the EU or other countries such as the U.S.; military cooperation between post-Soviet countries; economic cooperation between post-Soviet countries. Wars may be considered here, but only if they have an interstate nature; internal/civil conflicts may better fit under internal politics, depending on the nature of the conflict.

Your question could be either *descriptive* ("What is the likely outcome of the next Russian presidential election, and why?) or *prescriptive* in nature ("Should NATO prepare for possible armed conflict with Russia in the near future?") You will be presenting your topic with an outline on February 22nd; the following week, you will be meeting with the instructor on Zoom to clear the topic and discuss researching it. This meeting is mandatory and worth ten points of your grade; a schedule of times will be set up the week before.

We will be having a session with the Library Liaison for our department (Paul Kauppila) on February 8th to help you start locating sources for your projects. Please make sure that whatever topic you choose, you will be able to find and use sources to complete your research. This should be one of the first considerations when you are choosing your topic.

⁸ . We will not be able to cover all post-Soviet countries in this class with the same amount of detail; students are allowed to consider a country that does not get as much coverage from the Caucasus, Central Asia and/or Eastern Europe.

The outline due February 22nd will be approximately 2-4 pages in outline form. You need to give your question and a thesis statement that tries to answer it, but also give some preliminary answers to the following questions over the course of the paper:

1. The background of the question: what essential information someone not acquainted with the issues of the question need to know in terms of concepts, actors, and events.
2. An assessment of the current state or nature of the topic;
3. The ultimate answer to the topic question. If a descriptive question, you need to give the essential explanation of the why or how. If prescriptive, you need to make your case for the action you are prescribing, as well as consider possible challenges to your position.

You will need to address points 1-3 in the paper in greater detail as you research your topic and do the initial draft. But for the outline, a brief preliminary answer to all of these points plus a preliminary list of sources will be sufficient for this stage of the project.⁹

As part of the topic outline, you will need to give a preliminary bibliography of at least five peer-reviewed sources you are considering using in your paper, along with any others you intend to use at that time. “Peer reviewed” in this case may include texts, periodicals, research journals, and on-line encyclopedias that cannot be edited by the public. (Wikipedia and blogs do not count. See the instructor if you need clarification on what sources qualify.)

One last thing: If you decide to alter your topic question or choose another one after the outline stage, you must get instructor approval to do so. Otherwise, you are committed to your topic throughout the next stages of the paper, and may face grade deductions if you decide to do another topic later.¹⁰

First Paper Draft (60 points of the total project grade, due on April 5th)

Students are expected to complete an initial draft of their project paper and to upload it to Canvas by 11:59 p.m. on April 5th. In order to expedite turnaround on these papers, drafts will lose a full letter grade (six points) for each day they are late, including the weekend, barring an extension granted before or on the due date.

Your paper should have a clear thesis answering the topic question you set at the start of the project, information to answer the three areas listed above (1-3), and sufficient information to support your conclusions in the paper. You should assume that a reader may not have more than basic information on the issue/country relations/actors you are covering in this paper, so some background explanation may be needed. Given this, there will most likely be more text coverage of parts 1 and 2 in your paper, especially for the descriptive topics. But try for balanced coverage of the three areas overall -- ideally, no more than four pages for any one section.

This draft of the paper is worth half of the points as the final for a good reason – given the difficulties in doing research this semester, you may need time to rework and flesh out areas of the paper after this stage. But you should make a good faith effort to complete all stages of the first draft; passages in outline form will not be accepted. You should have most if not all of your research done by this stage as well.

Students will meet with the instructor outside of class during the week of April 12th-April 16th to review their first effort and discuss possible changes for the second draft. As with the topic question meetings, these are mandatory and worth 10 points separate from the rest of the project grade.

Second Paper Draft (120 points of the total project grade, due on May 5th)

The second draft of the paper will be due as an upload to Canvas on May 5th by 11:59 p.m. This draft should take into account the preliminary comments you received and reflect changes after reviewing them and consulting with the instructor.¹¹ It will be graded independently of the first draft, and is worth 120 points total.

⁹. You may change your answers to these parts of the paper later; doing this as a preliminary outline shows progress, not the final product.

¹⁰. The instructor reserves the right to deduct up to two letter grades if the topic is substantially different from the question in your outline.

¹¹. Copies of the first drafts, with comments, will be kept on file.

Late submissions, barring a verifiable emergency or extension, will be 12 points a day; at this point in the course, a late submission holds up the grading process for the class. Also, please note that no part of the research paper, including the final draft, may be submitted after the last lecture day of the class (May 17th).

Paper Requirements: Content and Writing

Papers (first and second drafts) will be graded with 75% of the points for content, 25% of the points for writing and citations. Content will depend on how well you make an argument that answers the topic, covers the required sections and uses your selected research materials. Lack of/misuse of sources may count as a deduction for content. A factor to keep in mind as you write this paper is that while you are making an argument, you are also speaking to readers who may never have heard of the topic before; you need to weigh the amount of basic information to include as well as your argument. Try to keep basic information on the issue, countries or actors to four pages and conserve the rest for the other sections.

Essays should show a minimum of grammatical errors and good use of citations when class materials are used. Common grammar errors that could receive deductions include:

- Spelling (do not just rely on spell check, as an incorrect word can still be correctly spelled);
- Verb tense and agreement;
- Word choice;
- Run-on or fragment sentences;
- Run-on paragraphs (multiple topics in a paragraph).

Any material that is in words not your own must have proper quotation and citation. Direct quotes as well as paraphrased information must be cited in your work. Quotes that are more than two sentences should be indented as a block, single-spaced and cited. Failure to properly cite will result in deductions up to half of the writing points for the draft. If you are confused over whether to cite or not, the safest course is to do so. If you are concerned about when and where to cite, I suggest either seeing me in office hours or taking the Plagiarism tutorial through the King Library site (<http://libguides.sjsu.edu/plagiarism>).

Citations must also be given for any ideas or information that is not your own. Citations can either be as footnotes or as endnotes, although you may prefer in-text. APA, APSA or Chicago/Turabian are established citation styles for political science. Lecture must be cited along with any electronic or print sources, but with APA and APSA, these do not need to be cited in the bibliography.

There are writing manuals online that can help with citation formats; see the King Library website under “Research” for information on citations and source use. Whatever form of citations you use, you are expected to append a bibliography with full citations of the sources used in your essay. A lack of proper citations means a deduction from the writing portion of your grade and possibly the content portion as well, as facts cannot be checked.

One last point on citations: a common error students make, which would be reflected in the content portion of an essay, is to fill an essay with quoted information. This is a problem for two reasons. First, it shows that a student is good at locating information, but that she may not understand it. Second, a good writer should be able to rephrase or paraphrase information and present it in an essay. Unless the exact language of the quote is important, you should not just quote. Essays that show this problem will receive a lower grade.

Turnitin on Canvas will be used in this course primarily to evaluate your ability to utilize sources well and cite properly. However, if there are clear similarities between your essay and that of other sources/students that indicates collaboration and/or lack of original writing, the instructor will grade accordingly and may consider possible academic penalties.¹² There is a clear difference between blatant and inadvertent plagiarism, but ignorance of the rules of citation is ultimately no excuse. Please familiarize yourself with proper source use.

¹² . Re-use of papers or writing from other papers that you wrote may also be considered a form of plagiarism or cheating. Your work for this class must be original. If you intend to use *research* from other previous work, you must still clear this with the instructor before you do this.

Suggestions on Completing this Paper

- Don't hesitate to start working on this paper, and move on to the next stage of the paper quickly after you've completed the requirements for the last one.
- Use office hours and your scheduled meetings with the instructor to work on research and writing concerns you have over the course of the semester. The instructor will consider drafts in office hours, but you must arrange to get a copy to her at least 24 hours in advance to review.
- Plan on looking at a wide variety of information for this project. Electronic sources of information not peer-reviewed may not be reliable, as information in major newspapers and research journals is. Some events may be new enough that you may need to rely on newspapers and magazines for some information, but be careful which ones you use. If you're stuck on sources to consider for your paper, use your instructor as a resource for suggestions.
- Given the limitations on library access this semester, you may need to rely on electronic sources primarily for your paper. King Library can use lockers to give you books if they are in the stacks, and there is Interlibrary Loan; but the sooner you choose your resources, the better if you go with these options.
- Make sure to schedule and keep your meetings with the instructor outside of class, as these are worth a separate amount of points in your course grade (2 x 10 points), and as they are intended to help with completing the project. Meetings can only be made up in emergencies, and when the instructor and the student can both reschedule.
- Plan on having the paper completed in full for the first draft. This will help avoid emergencies late in the semester.