

**POLS 2530 01, POLS 2530 01H**  
**Soviet and Post-Soviet Politics**  
**Saint Louis University**  
**Spring 2023, TR 2:15-3:30**

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<sup>3</sup>:H KRSHG IRU WKH EHVW EXWXVØLQJV WXUQH G RXW DV  
Viktor Chernomydrin, Prime Minister of Russia, 19928

<http://pennpoliticalreview.org/archives/3074>

**Office hours:** Thursday 122pmand by appointment  
Zoom meeting link <https://slu.zoom.us/j/7172394449>

**About this course**

WELCOME! : L Q V W R Q & K X U F K L O O F D O O H G W K H 6 R Y L H W 8 Q L R Q † D U L G G  
Our goal in this cla

**Catalog course description**

This course uses the experience of the Soviet Union and Russia to understand change in political and economic systems, from collapse of existing governments to the revolutionary reconstruction of society to growing autocracy. Past developments are used to illuminate political and economic changes occurring since the collapse of communism.

This class has no prerequisites. Students from all majors are welcome and should be able to do well if they put in sufficient effort.

**Learning outcomes)**

This course is part of the Saint Louis University Core, an integrated intellectual experience completed by all baccalaureate students, regardless of major, program, college, school or campus. The Core offers all SLU students the same unified approach to the Core Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) and our nine undergraduate Core Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs).



5.







January 26

Jim Heintz



February 14 Koestler, *The Unbearable Automaticity of Man*.  
How can revolutionaries justify their actions? What are the ultimate consequences will be?

February 16 Koestler, *The Unbearable Automaticity of Man*.

February 21 Hannah Arendt, *Origins of Totalitarianism*, 2nd ed. (New York: Meridian Books, Inc., 1958), pp. 389-92 (e-reserve).  
David Painter, *The Cold War: An International History* (London: Routledge, 1999), pp. 112-118 (e-reserve).  
Heonik Kwon, *The Other Cold War* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2010), pp. 153-157 (e-reserve).

February 23 ESSAY ONE DUE

**Part 3: THE END OF THE SOVIET SYSTEM AND THE RISE OF CAPITALISM**

Why did the Soviet system collapse?

February 28 Igor Kliamkin and Andranik Migranian, "The Iron Hand! Do We Need It?" *Literaturnaya Gazeta* (International Edition), February 1990 (on-reserve).  
Masha Gessen, *The Man Without a Face: The Unlikely Rise of Vladimir Putin*, pp. 209-10 (e-reserve).  
Does the behavior of ordinary people as the Soviet system was collapsing support democracy?

March 2 Mark Edele, *The Soviet Union: A Short History* (Maboken, NJ: WileyBlackwell, 2019), pp. 19-215 (e-reserve).  
Can you imagine a strategy to reform the Soviet Union that would not have ended with collapse?

March 7 Mark Beissinger, *Nationalist Mobilization and the Collapse of the Soviet State* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2002), pp. 7-101 (e-reserve).  
How did the multicultural nature of the Soviet Union contribute to its collapse?

March 9 \* *The August 1991 Coup* by *David & UXVDGH*.  
Why did the August 1991 coup attempt fail?

March 13 17 SPRING BREAK

March 21

. D W K H U L Q H 9 H U G H U \ † : K D W Z D V f r o m W h a t W a s S o c i a l i s m , a n d W h a t C o m e s N e x t ( P r i n c e t o n , N J : P r i n c e t o n U n i v e r s i t y P r e s s , 1 9 9 6 ) , p p 1 9 - 3 5 ( e - r e s e r v e ) .

Why did observers think the Soviet system was stable than it really was? What did they miss? Why did they miss it?

March 23

2 O V R Q † 7 K H 6 R X U F H V R I / D Z ( Q I R U F H P H Q W D Q G & R & R P P X Q L V P D Q G , W V / H J D F \ . † 7 K H . L Q G V R I O D 3 U R V S H U L W 5 4 , p p 1 5 3 - 1 9 9

Does central planning encourage desirable behavior on the part of economic actors? Does shock therapy?

Part 4: RETURN TO AUTOCRACY IN RUSSIA

Why did Russia and some other former Soviet republics return to autocracy?

March 28

Gessen, chs. 1 † 7 K H \$ F F L G H Q W D Q † 3 7 U K H V ( G H O W 1 1 R D Q G D U K . 4 2

Would you explain the concentration of power that occurred under Putin by looking at the man or the institutions he inherited

QUIZ

March 30

O 6 W H Y H Q ) L V K † 6 / W U 6 R V U R O J H U J L o n D e m o c r a c y 1 7 , n o . 1 , J a n u a r y 2 0 0 6 , p p 2 0 ( o n e r e s e r v e ) . G e s s e n , F K † ' L V P D Q W O L 0 7 7 - 1 9 7 . P R F U D F \ . S S

Why is a strong legislature good for democracy?

April 4

Milan W. Svoboda, The Politics of Authoritarian Rule, K † , Q W U R G X F W L R Q 7 K \$ Q D W R P \ R I ( N e w Y o r k : C a m b r i d g e U n i v e r s i t y P r e s s , 2 0 1 2 ) , p p . 1 - 5 ( o n e r e s e r v e ) .

Vladimir \* H O 1 A u t h o r i t a r i a n R u s s i a : A n a l y z i n g P o s t S o v i e t R e g i m e C h a n g e s ( P i t t s b u r g h : P i t t s b u r g h U n i v e r s i t y P r e s s , 2 0 1 5 ) , p p 7 , 3 7 4 2 ( o n e r e s e r v e )

Why would an autocrat bother to have a legislature and political parties?

April 6

EASTER BREAK -no class

April 11

\* H V V H Q F K ‡ % D F N W R W K H 8 6 6 5305. ( S L O R J X H D

Why is it so difficult to create a strong opposition in Russia?  
How would you handle the many personal and professional compromises implicit  
in living in an autocratic regime?

April 13

Samuel A. Greene and Graeme B.



**Available services**

**University Counseling Center**

The University Counseling Center (UCC) offers free, short, solution-focused counseling to Saint Louis University undergraduate and graduate students. UCC counselors are highly trained clinicians who can assist with a variety of issues, such as adjusting to college life, troubling changes in mood, and chronic psychological conditions. To make an appointment, call 314-977-3255 (TALK), or visit the clinic on the second floor of Wuller Hall.

**Student Success Center**

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. The Student Success Center assists students with academically related services and is located in the Busch Student Center (Suite, 331). Students can visit <http://www.slu.edu/life/slu/student-successcenter> to learn more about tutoring services, university writing services, disability services, and academic coaching.

**University Writing Services**

Students are encouraged to take advantage of University Writing Services in the Student Success Center; getting feedback benefits writers at all skill levels. Trained writing consultants can help with writing projects, multimedia projects, and oral presentations. University Writing Services offers one-on-one consultations that address everything from brainstorming and developing ideas to crafting strong sentences and documenting sources. For more information visit <http://www.slu.edu/life/slu/student-successcenter> or call the Student Success Center at 314-977-3484.

**Basic Needs Security**

Students in personal or academic distress and/or who may be specifically experiencing challenges such as securing food or difficulty navigating campus resources and who believe this may affect their performance in the course, are encouraged to contact the Dean of Students Office ([deanofstudents@slu.edu](mailto:deanofstudents@slu.edu) or 314-977-9378) for support. Furthermore, please notify the instructor if you are comfortable in doing so, as this will enable them to assist you with finding the resources you may need.

**University Policies**

**Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors. The mission of Saint Louis University is to educate and form students in the liberal arts and sciences, and to provide a high quality education. Accordingly, all acts of falsehood, deception, and compromise the corporate endeavors of teaching, research, health care, and community service. The corporate f\* q On health caa lgart ET Q q n BT /F5 9.96 Tf 1 O C

Please contact the Center for Accessibility and Disability Resources (CADR) to schedule an appointment to discuss accommodation requests and eligibility requirements. Most students on the St. Louis campus will contact CADR, located in the Student Success Center and available by email at [accessibility\\_disability@slu.edu](mailto:accessibility_disability@slu.edu) or by phone at 314.977.3484. Eligibility for academic accommodations will be shared with course instructors by CADR and within the instructor's class. If you are an instructor, you are encouraged to contact CADR if you have a student who may need accommodations.

