
TOPICS: HISTORY OF EASTERN EUROPE AND RUSSIA in Spring 2021 (HI3091C)

Course Code	HI3091C	Professor(s)	Oleg Kobtzeff
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G-L16
Class Schedule	F: 15:20-16:40 in G-113 T: 10:35-11:55 in G-113	Office Hours	By appointment only (until further notice) on TEAMS
Credits	4	Email	okobtzeff@aup.edu
Semester	Spring 2021	Office Tel. Ext.	688 (only during oh)

Course Description

OBJECTIVE of the COURSE:

"I cannot forecast to you the action of Russia. It is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma; but perhaps there is a key" pronounced Churchill in 1939. The search for keys to the history, geography, and cultures of Russia, of the other former Republics of the USSR and of some of their neighbors will **help students understand the importance of Central and Eastern Europe in European and global affairs** and understand how (or if) the tensions or the new opportunities affecting the geopolitics of the region involve all other parts of the world.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Students will be able to accurately comment on the fundamental situations, trends and events of geographic, cultural and political history of the region as defined in the course (see "leading questions" section under each paragraph)

Course Learning Outcomes

General Education

[PLEASE REMOVE THIS SECTION IF THE COURSE DOES NOT FULFILL ANY GLACC REQUIREMENT]

GLACC

The Global Liberal Arts Core Curriculum (GLACC) degree requirements include the following categories of courses:

- Integrative Inquiry (coded CCI)
- Experiential learning (coded CCX)
- Research, Interpretation, and Writing (coded CCE)
- Digital Literacy and Communication (coded CCD)
- Disciplinary Research Methods and Writing (coded CCR)
- Quantitative Reasoning (coded CCM)
- Experimental Reasoning Course with Lab (coded CCS)
- Expression Française (coded FR)
- AUP Capstone (coded CCC)

This course can be used to fulfill the [INDICATE THE REQUIREMENT(S) FULFILLED BY THE COURSE] requirement and as such has the following learning outcomes:

[INDICATE THE GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES]

Course Outline

CALENDAR:

- **January 19** : Classes Start Remotely??for this class
- : Break????????????????????
- **February 11** : Classes Start On-Site?
- **February 24-28** : Break
- **March 2** : ?midterm exam????????????????????
- **April 3-6** : Break????????????????????
- **April 28** : Classes End
- **May 4 (Tuesday) 3:00 PM: two hour special class session (presentations) in lieu of final exam session**

COURSE OUTLINE:

Count one to two—eventually three—class sessions per chapter

PART I. THE LAND AND THE PEOPLE

1. Identifying the region: Europe or not? Eastern Europe or Central Europe?

Leading questions:

- Is there more diversity among the people of Central and Eastern Europe or more resemblance?
- What are the definitions of “Eastern” and “Central Europe”?
- Are Russians and the populations of the Caucasus European?
- What are the major linguistic groups of the region?
- Latin vs. Byzantine Christianity

=> Facts to know: any person, date, plus key event or situation listed in the PPt e.g.:

- Notions to understand: “geographic representations”, “essentialism”
- On a map of the region, be able to draw the zones of influence of the different religions
- On a map of the region, be able to draw the zones of influence of the different linguistic groups
- Be able to explain the difference between the branches of Eastern Christianity (pre-Chalcedonian Orthodox, “Greek Orthodox”, “Catholic of Oriental rite” or “Uniate”)

Read:

- Jacques Rupnik. “In Search of East-Central Europe: 10 Years After”, (from Gardner, Hall, (ed.), *Central and South-central Europe in Transition*, Westport, Connecticut: Praeger, 2000. (posted on Blackboard). Alternatively: Timothy Garton Ash. "[Does Central Europe Exist?](#)". The New York Review of Books, Volume 33, Number 15, October 9, 1986.
- Oskar Krejčí. *Geopolitics of the Central European Region*. Veda: Bratislava 2005, pp. 7-15.

2. Geography as a factor of history

The natural environment and its influence on the people and their history; unity and diversity of

Slavic, Baltic, Caucasian and Orthodox populations' habitat; the resources; the waterways.

Leading questions:

- Does the physical geography of Eastern Europe influence its history and cultures?
- Is there more diversity among the people of Central and Eastern Europe or more resemblance?

=> Facts to know: any person, date, plus key event or situation listed in the PPt e.g.:

- Be able to place on the map: Rivers: Danube, Daugava, Vistula, Volga, Volkhov, Neva, Ural, Dnieper, Don, Pechora, Kama, Oka, Neman, Pregolya; Lakes: Ladoga, Il'men'; mountains: Balkans, Carpathians, Ural, Caucasus, Mount Ararat, Mount Elbruz
- Be able to place on the map: the present countries that were part of the Soviet Block + Yugoslavia and Albania; their capitals of all these countries; other major cities: Saint Petersburg, Novgorod, Nizhny-Novgorod, Odessa, Sebastopol, Klaipeda, Gdansk, Kaliningrad (Königsberg), Crakow, Lviv (or Lvov), Vladivostok

Read:

- Oleg Kobtzeff (or Oleh Kobec?). "Understanding Ukraine and its difficult relation to Russia." (posted on Blackboard) Read the subchapter titled "The differences" - The natural environment: North vs. South, East vs. West (to be posted on Blackboard soon)
- Oleg Kobtzeff. "Russia and the Geopolitics of the Mediterranean", *The Geo-Maritime Strategic Review*, N° 4, Spring/Summer 2015, pp. 40-45 (posted on Blackboard)
- Oleg Kobtzeff. "Unity and Division in the Geopolitical Environment of the Baltic Region: Russia and its Western Neighbors". Manuscript. pp. 1–5. (posted on Blackboard)
- Anonymous, "[Trade route from the Varangians to the Greeks](#)"
- Oskar Krejčí. *Geopolitics of the Central European Region*. Veda: Bratislava 2005, pp. 16-35.
- Historical Atlas: 2 Central Europe ca 400; Central Europe 7th8th centuries

PART II. Eastern European geographic, cultural and political history in a nutshell (FROM THE 3rd CENTURY TO THE RENAISSANCE).

3. The early Christian kingdoms of the Caucasus

The tribes of the Caucasus; Armenia and Georgia

Leading questions:

- What is the history of the Christian kingdoms of Georgia ?
- What is the originality of the civilizations of the Caucasus?
- What is the relevance of studying the history of these countries in our contemporary world?

=> **Facts to know: any person, date, plus key event or situation listed in the PPt e.g.:**

- Figures to know: Tigranes (or Tigran) the Great; “Mepe Mepeta” Tamar, the Bagrationi family,
- Institutions: the Matenadaran
- be able to locate on a map: the approximate contours of the Byzantine Empire and the Georgian and Armenian kingdoms, the city of Echmiadzin
- When does Islam penetrate the Caucasus? Present two or three examples of Muslim tribes in the Caucasus (outside of Azerbaidjan)
- When did the Caucasus fall under Russian influence?

Read:

- Articles (online at AUP Library): [Georgia](#), [Armenia](#), [Azerbaijan](#).

4. Byzantium and the Slavic kingdoms

The conversion to Christianity: German-Latin missionaries vs. Byzantine missionaries

Serbia and Bulgaria

Kievan Rus' and the rise of Baltic rulers

The formation of the Ukrainian-Russian-Lithuanian states

The decline of Kiev: bipolarization: the Asian and Polish poles of attraction, the formation of Ukraine, Belarus and Muscovy

Leading questions:

- Ukrainians, Russians and Belarusians: what is the difference... or is there a difference?
- What is the importance of Christianity among Ukrainians, Russians and Belarusians ?
- What is the relevance of studying this history in our contemporary world?

=> Facts to know: any person, date, plus key event or situation listed in the PPT e.g.:

- Figures to know: Cyril and Methodius, Riurik, Saint Olga, Saint Vladimir (Volodimir), Prince Iaroslav, Nestor the Chronicler,
- The Prime Chronicle; the origins of the languages of Ukraine, Russia and Belarus
- Locate: Bohemia and Moravia, the principality of Lithuania, the habitat of the Khazars
- Dates: conversion of Slavs to Christianity – 966 (Poland), 988 (Rus')

Read:

- Concise History: 1 Russia before Russia
- History of Ukraine: Part Two: The Kievan Period

5. The rise of Poland and of the Baltic States

Poland as one of the most powerful kingdoms of Europe

The Baltic tribes: from tribalism to statehood

The German Knights

The city-Republics of Pskov and Novgorod

Leading questions:

- What are the origins of the present states of Poland, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia?
- How do we evaluate the geopolitical power of these Baltic countries in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance?
- What is the relevance of studying this history in our contemporary world?

=> Facts to know: any person, date, plus key event or situation listed in the PPt e.g.:

- Prince Gedimin, The Piast period, the Jagiellonian dynasty, the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth
-

Read:

- History of Ukraine: Part Three: The Lithuanian-Polish Period
- Concise History: 2 Moscow, Novgorod, Lithuania, and the Mongols, pages to 33
- Historical Atlas : 5 Early medieval kingdoms ca 1050; 6 The period of feudal subdivisions ca 1250; 7 Poland Lithuania and Bohemia-Moravia 13th15th centuries

6. The Caucasus and the Balkans under Muslim rule

The formation of Azerbaijan

The formation of Caucasian, Albanian and Bosnian Muslim cultures

Christian societies under Ottoman rule

Leading questions:

- How did the map of Christian and Muslim populations organize itself after the beginning of the spread of Islam in the region?
- What was (and still is) the geopolitical importance of the Caucasus for its indigenous populations, for Persia, for the Ottoman Empire / Turkey and for Russia?
- What is the relevance of studying this history in our contemporary world?

=> Facts to know: any person, date, plus key event or situation listed in the PPt e.g.:

- : (to be announced)
-

Read:

- Historic Atlas: 8 Hungary, Croatia and Venetia 14th-15th centuries; 9 Bulgaria, Serbia, Bosnia and the Ottoman Empire 14th-15th centuries.
- History of the Caucasus 14th – 18th centuries (posted on Blackboard)

7. The rise of Moscow

The 15th – 17th centuries: climate change, the fall of Byzantium, civil war, and other cataclysms: an apocalyptic atmosphere.

Russia in the Reformation era: the two religious crises – possessors vs. non-possessors

Leading questions:

- What explains the rise of Moscow as a major regional power?
- What explains the extreme violence that marks the 15th, 16th, and early 17th centuries?
- What is the relevance of studying this history in our contemporary world?

=> Facts to know: any person, date, plus key event or situation listed in the PPt e.g.:

- Figures to know: Alexander Nevskiy, Dimitriy of the Don, Ivan III, Ivan IV the “Terrible”, the false Dimitri, tsar Michael Romanov, tsar Alexis I, Joseph of Volokolamsk, Nil of the Sora (Nil Sorsky)
- Institutions: the 'assembly of the land' ("Zemsky Sobor"), the Church of the Old Believers
- Concepts and representations: the meaning of the imperial symbols of the tsars; the ideology of the “3rd Rome”
- :
- Alexander Pushkin’s play “Boris Godunov” – turn on the English subtitles (or listen to the opera version): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=41B6WMx8zKQ&t=1202s>

Read:

- Concise History: 2 Moscow, Novgorod, Lithuania, and the Mongols: pages 34 to 72 - end of first paragraph (→ “... rhymed psalter.”)
- Concise History: 3 The Emergence of Russia, pages 37 to 58 and 4 Consolidation and

Revolt.

- Oleg Kobtzeff. « Time of Troubles: War in an Age of Planetary Upheaval, From the End of the Middle Ages to 1648 » in Hall Gardner & Oleg Kobtzeff, eds., *The Ashgate Research Companion to War*, Farnham: Ashgate, 2012, pp.229-250 (posted on Blackboard)

8. Constructing the modern Russian state: Peter I, Catherine II and their successors

- **Peter the Great and his breaching the wall “to open a window towards Europe”:
changing a civilization**

Leading questions:

- What explains the change of civilization (or cultural revolution) imposed by Peter the Great on his subjects ?
- What were its effects on Russian society, on the geopolitics of the world?
- What is the relevance of studying this history in our contemporary world?

=> Facts to know: any person, date, plus key event or situation listed in the PPt e.g.:

- Figures to know: Peter the Great,
- Provide examples of the changes in the societies of the Russian Empire
- How does the equestrian monument to Peter the Great by Catherine II and Pushkin's poem “The Bronze Horseman” represent the myth of Peter the Great and the construction of modern Russia?

Read:

- Classic reading: Alexander Pushkin's poem “[The Bronze Horseman](#)”.
- Concise History: 5 Peter the Great.

B. Ukraine from the first modern Ukrainian state to its full annexation

Leading questions:

- How did modern Ukraine arise? How did it maintain a special identity? How did Ukrainian life and culture merge with Russia's?
- What is the relevance of studying this history in our contemporary world?

=> Facts to know: any person, date, plus key event or situation listed in the PPt e.g.:

Read:

- History of Ukraine: Part Four: The Cossack State, 1648–1711.

C. The changing geopolitics of Russia:

Siberia and the Great North

conquering the Baltic

The annexation of Ukraine and its aftermath

a "Drang nach Süden": the Black Sea and the Caspian,

The conquest of the Caucasus

external geopolitics: the continuing attraction of the Mediterranean (from the War of Crimea to World War I)

Leading questions:

- What geopolitical motivations explain the attraction of Russians towards Siberia? How committed was the Russian government to this project (was there any realistic project at all)
- What geopolitical motivations explain the attraction of the Russian imperial government towards the Baltic, Ukraine, Crimea, the Caucasus and the Black Sea?

=> Facts to know: any person, date, plus key event or situation listed in the PPt

Read:

- Concise History: 6 Two Empresses; 7 Catherine the Great; 8 Russia in the Age of Revolution; 9 The Pinnacle of Autocracy; 10 Culture and Autocracy; 14 Russia as an Empire
- Oleg Kobtzeff. "Russia and the Geopolitics of the Mediterranean", *The Geo-Maritime Strategic Review*, N° 4, Spring/Summer 2015, pp. 44-47 (posted on Blackboard)
- History of Ukraine: Part Six: Ukraine in the Russian Empire
- Oleg Kobtzeff. "How Russian Colonization works..." (posted on Blackboard)

10. The identity issue as a dimension of the geostrategic developments

Geopolitical representations: Russian culture and identity

Is Russia European? Asian? Eurasian? Or unique?

Russia and the Orthodox Church

The origins of nationalism in Central and Eastern Europe

The development of a Russian national identity

the domestic context: Hegelianism and new ideologies, Slavophiles vs. Westerners,

Pan-slavism

Leading questions:

- Why is identity important to individuals or groups? Why is it so important in the Slavic countries?
- How did the construction of identities evolve over the last three centuries in the Russian Empire and in its neighboring countries?
- What are the geopolitical implications ?

=> Facts to know: any person, date, plus key event or situation listed in the PPT e.g.:

- Definitions: Slavophiles vs. Westernizers, Alexander Pushkin, Taras Shevchenko, Count Uvarov, Speransky, the expression "Autocracy-Orthodoxy-Nationhood", Dostoevsky, Ivan (aka Innokentiy) Veniaminov.

Read:

- Concise History: 10 Culture and Autocracy; 11 The Era of the Great Reforms; 13 The Golden Age of Russian Culture
- Documents on Russian missions (posted on Blackboard)

11. Towards the end of Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian Rule: the struggle for independence

The Greek and Serbian wars of independence

Romania, Bulgaria and the Balkans in the second half of the 19th century

Leading questions:

- How peaceful or conflictual was the coexistence of Muslims and Christians in South-East Europe?
- What were Russia's changing strategies towards the independence of Balkanic populations and what were their consequences?

=> Facts to know: any person, date, plus key event or situation listed in the PPt e.g.:

- Dates: Serbian, Greek, Romanian, Bulgarian independence; list of wars between Russia and/or its allies and the Ottoman Empire from the Crimean war to World War I.
- Definition: the *millet* system

Read:

- Historical Atlas: 26 The Balkan Peninsula 1817-1912; 27 The Balkan Peninsula on the eve of World War I
- Bernard Lory. "Rusty Ottoman Keys to the Balkans of Today" (from Gardner, Hall, (ed.), Central and South-central Europe in Transition, Westport, Connecticut: Praeger, 2000. (posted on Blackboard).

12. Russia slowly and painfully enters the industrial age 1861-1917

The evolution of government politics:

interior geopolitics: the agrarian issues and the problem of serfdom.

Industrialization and economic development

cultural development: the “silver age”

Consequences on the development of Russia

external geopolitics: will Russia become a power in the Pacific? Imperial overstretch and failures in Asia and Europe from 1867 to 1917.

The Revolution

Leading questions:

- Was Russia a poor, backward country in 1917?
- What were the causes of the Russian Revolution?
- Was Russia a factor of instability in global politics ?

=> Facts to know: any person, date, plus key event or situation listed in the PPt e.g.:

- Figures to know: emperors Alexander II, Alexander III, Nicholas II
- Statistics: indicators of economic growth in the Russian empire 1881-1914; migration from rural tourban areas
- : (in this exact order)
- Concise History: 11 The Era of the Great Reforms ; 12 From Serfdom to Nascent Capitalism; 18 Revolutions in Russian Culture; 16 War and Revolution; 17 Compromise and Preparation;

View:

-
- The film "[The End of Saint Petersburg](#)".

13. Leninism and Stalinism

The collapse of the empire and the civil war

Building a new, revolutionary society: the nature of the Soviet régime

The foreign policy of the USSR

Internationalism or "Socialism in one country"? Soviet fortress or "evil empire"? Soviet expansion strategies torn between ideology and political realism.

Leading questions:

- Did Stalin betray the October Revolution?
- Was the Marxist-Leninist régime in the USSR a totalitarian régime?
- What was the greatest danger to democratic régimes throughout the world: the Soviet Union or Nazi Germany?

=> Facts to know: any person, date, plus key event or situation listed in the PPt e.g.:

- Figures to know: Kerensky, Lenin, Trotsky, Stalin, Dzerzhinsky, Kolchak, Wrangell,
- Institutions: the State Duma, the Provisional Government of February 1917, the Soviet of Petrograd of 1917, the Komintern
- Concepts: "White and Red", "socialism in one country",

Read:

- Concise History: 19 Building Utopia.

14. The USSR as a global power

The USSR in World War II; Conquering the satellite states

The case of Yugoslavia

Soviet foreign policy a sum-up : thesis: trotskyism

anti-thesis: "socialism in one country", synthesis: Molotov, Gromyko

Leading questions:

- What was Stalin's strategy in, foreign policy on the eve of World War II?
- What changed in the USSR during World War II?
- How did the USSR become one of the two world powers in 1945?

=> Facts to know: any person, date, plus key event or situation listed in the PPt e.g.:

- Figures to know: Tito, Hodja, Zhdanov, Molotov, Gromyko, Beneš, Mazaryk,
- Events: the methods by which every country of Central and Eastern Europe became communist in the second half of the 1940s; the dates of all uprisings against the USSR
- The list of countries that came under a Marxist-Leninist régime
- Notions and representations: "the Great Patriotic War"
- The Zhdanov doctrine

Read:

- Concise History: 20 War; 21 Growth, Consolidation, and Stagnation.

15. Life under communism in Central and Eastern Europe: 1945-1991

Political life: the evolution of the régimes; the great political events of 1945-1991

Daily life under communism

The collapse of the Marxist-Leninist régimes

Leading questions:

- What were the benefits and the benefits of living under the Marxist-Leninist régimes of Central and Eastern Europe?
- What were the causes of the collapse of the Marxist-Leninist régimes?

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- How can Soviet foreign policy during the Cold War be characterized? Was it expansionist or not?

=> Facts to know: any person, date, plus key event or situation listed in the PPt e.g.:

- Figures to know: Khrushchiov, Imre Nagy, Brezhnev, Dubcek, Lech Walesa, Vaclav Havel
- Solidarnosc (Solidarity movement), Ecoglasnost',
- Chronological periods to know: later Stalinism (1945-1953) to the period of "thaw" (Khrushchiov era), "the freeze" (1964-1985), the period of Perestroika and Glasnost' (1986-1991)
- Explain the paradox: why would the worse crisis of the Cold War occur during the most liberal period of the Soviet regime and how could détente occur during the "freeze"?

Read:

- Concise History: 22 Soviet Culture; 23 The Cold War; Epilogue: the End of the USSR.

16. The Second Russian Republic: 1991-present

The collapse of the Soviet Union and its consequences.

The Eltsin era; the rise of Putin

Russian foreign policy from 1991 to the present

A problem of identity: the ideological tendencies: the search for a new state ideologies; geopolitics of the Orthodox Church

Leading questions:

- Is 21st Century Russia a democracy ? How to define the regime?
- Is Russia a threat to the world?

=> Facts to know: any person, date, plus key event or situation listed in the PPt e.g.:

Read:

- Oleg Kobtzeff. "Dwindling Democracy (...) ?", *Scripta Politica et Economica*, vol. XII, N° 3, March 1996, pp. 7-9. (posted on Blackboard)

17. Recent and present geopolitical issues and conflicts

The breakup of Yugoslavia

The conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan

Russia and the Mediterranean

Conflict in the Caucasus: Chechnya, the war with Georgia

The Syrian conflict

The Ukrainian conflict

Ideological issues: the "clash of civilizations" theory; the geopolitics of the Orthodox Church; the new extreme right;

Leading questions:

- How accurate is Samuel Huntington's theory of "clash of civilizations" when applied to Central and Eastern Europe?
- How can Russian foreign policy since 1991 be characterized? Is it expansionist or not?
- What are the causes of the tensions and conflicts studied in this chapter??

=> Facts to know: any person, date, plus key event or situation listed in the PPt e.g.:

- Figures to know: Samuel Huntington,

Read:

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- Oleg Kobtzeff. "Russia and the Geopolitics of the Mediterranean", *The Geo-Maritime Strategic Review*, N° 4, Spring/Summer 2015, pages 44 to 72. (posted on Blackboard)
 - Oleg Kobtzeff. "Belgrade, Moscow and Washington in the War of Kosovo: Dispelling the 'Clash of Civilizations' Myth", in Hall Gardner & Oleg Kobtzeff, eds., *The Ashgate Research Companion to War*, Farnham: Ashgate, 2012, pp. 433-442. (posted on Blackboard)
 - Oleg Kobtzeff. "Russian-Western Relations after the Georgian conflict: Cold War II... or Worse?", *Scripta Politica et Economica*, vol. XXVII, N° 1, Fall 2008, pp. 1-6. (posted on Blackboard)
 - Terrence Murphy. "The Five Day War". *Scripta Politica et Economica*, vol. XXVII, N° 1, Fall 2008, pp. 7-11. (posted on Blackboard)

18. The Baltic and the Balkans in the 21st Century

Leading questions:

- Are there more factors of conflict or of cooperation in the Baltic region today?

=> Facts to know: any person, date, plus key event or situation listed in the PPT

Read:

- Oleg Kobtzeff. "Unity and Division in the Geopolitical Environment of the Baltic Region: Russia and its Western Neighbors." (posted on Blackboard). Read from pages 6 to the end

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY (recommended reading)

Anonymous, "[The Geopolitics of Russia: Permanent Struggle](#)", April 15 2012, *Stratfor* website.

[Hedrick Smith, The Russians](#), New York: Ballantine Books, 1984 (exists in many other editions, including pocket book format)

Hedrick Smith, [The New Russians](#), Random House; 1st edition, 1990 (exists in many other editions, including paperback format)

Robert G. Kaiser, *Russia, The People and the Power*, (Atheneum: New York, 1976 (exists in pocket book edition)

Hélène Carrère d'Encausse, *L'empire éclaté*, Flammarion : Paris, 1978 (many later editions, also in pocket book format)

Jean Radvanyi, « [Moscou entre jeux d'influence et démonstration de force](#) », *Le Monde diplomatique*, mai 2014

Jean Radvanyi, *La Nouvelle Russie*, Armand Colin : Paris, 2010

Michel Eltchaninoff, *Dans la tête de Poutine*, Arles : Actes Sud, 2016.

Oleg Kobtzeff, "[Ukraine : Que veulent les Russes ?](#)" - Partie 1, *Opinion Internationale*, Vendredi 28 mars 2014, ([Partie 2](#) -), ([Partie 3](#) - 2 Avril, 2014)

Oleg Kobtzeff, "[L'Ukraine: la guerre des représentations](#)", *Huffington Post*-version francophone, 18 Mars 2014

Oleg Kobtzeff, "[Les enjeux énergétiques de la crise ukrainienne](#)", *Confrontations Europe*, No. 106, Juillet-Septembre 2014, pp. 20-21

FATE OF A MAN (drama, dir. Sergei Bondarchuk, 1959)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ov7bKyahGL4>

to avoid constant updating to the syllabus which can lead to confusion and error, exact dates cannot be finalized : changes in scheduling need to adapt to unforeseen emergencies (especially at a time of pandemic) or last-minute arising opportunities such as the intervention in class of a special guest, a special event in the news relevant to the class, a unanimous demand by students to spend more time discussing a particular topic or a special event occurring at the university which all AUP students need to attend.

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

EVALUATION of STUDENTS

At the end of the semester, students will write a final essay demonstrating their ability to analyze the great themes studied in class. Students will choose from a short list of three subjects

proposed at random (at the moment of the exam) from a longer list recapitulating all the questions featured in the *"leading questions"* segment listed under each chapter in the course outline.

Two quizzes will measure how students assimilate the basic facts of Eastern European history supporting any interpretation of each chapter's leading questions. The questions will be based on the segment *"Facts and definitions needed to analyze the leading questions"* listed under each chapter in the course outline.

EXAMS and GRADING

Quiz #1: 25 % = 10 points; 20 questions will be asked in a multiple choice questionnaire (or orally, online in case of confinement); each correct answer = 0.5 points

Quiz #2: 25 % = 10 points; 20 questions will be asked in a multiple choice questionnaire (or orally, online) in case of confinement); each correct answer = 0.5 points

Final essay: 40% = 16 points (in case of confinement and/or remote teaching this will be a take home exam)

Participation: 10% = 4 points.

Students frequently asking questions, making relevant comments and answering instructor's questions receive 4 points; students asking questions, making relevant comments and answering instructor's questions less frequently receive 3 points; students remaining silent most of the time but who are assiduous to classes receive 2 points; students remaining silent unresponsive to emails and occasionally absent obtain 1 point. Any student systematically late and/or absent in class sessions receive 0. (Special accommodations will be made for students unable to attend classes due to exceptional conditions created by the pandemic)

Other

okobtzeff@aup.edu; cel phone (always better than emails): + 33 620930586 or **Microsoft Teams (or WhatsApp, or Viber or Facebook-Messenger** - don't worry I never post any political rants and I never, ever send memes through Messenger).

Do not hesitate to call any day (except Tuesdays and Fridays during class hours) until 9:30PM

Paris time: **calling (vs. emailing or texting) is easier and faster do get things done, get advice, an answer etc.**

So Again: DO NOT HESITATE to call! I am at your service and answering your calls is a pleasure!

Due to social distancing and the cramped quarters in my office, I will limit meetings to online sessions. Set up an appointment through Microsoft Teams. Please call +33-620930586 or request an appointment by email **by proposing three different possible schedules** (in order of preference). I will answer you through Outlook -calendar and Microsoft Teams.