Course Objectives: Since the end of the Cold War, and the collapse of state socialism, a dramatic international experiment has been underway: the attempted transition of some two dozen countries from centrally planned, one-party systems to free-market democracy. The West’s stake in their success is great—whether they will become stable, prosperous neighbors and trade partners, or languish in poverty and corruption while exporting mainly refugees, criminals, drugs, and perhaps chemical or nuclear weapons. The questions we will be addressing include: Have the prescriptions of the IMF and other international lending agencies helped or hurt? Has Russia finally found the path to steady growth? Why have some Central European and Baltic countries done so much better? Can regional integration, or new oil wealth, save the failing states of Central Asia and the Caucasus? And in what political, cultural, and historical circumstances is democratization a help—or a hindrance—to building a market economy?

Course Format: This is primarily a lecture course, though there will also be a significant discussion component. The general pattern will be lecture for the first 45-50 minutes of each meeting, followed by a discussion and Q & A period. Beyond this, I will also ask each student to make a brief (3-5 minutes) presentation on a particular article or chapter at least once during the semester. There will also be two exams and a research paper (see below for details).

Course Requirements: One is to be an active participant, not only in class discussions but first and foremost by timely completion of the reading assignments; without this, successful engagement with the ideas and information vital to understanding post-communist political economy is impossible. The assignments are drawn from diverse sources—books, articles, think-tank studies and reports—all of which will be posted on the course’s Blackboard website (under “Content”). Consequently, there are no required text or book purchases; again, all readings will be posted on our Blackboard site.

The course syllabus and other materials will be available on Blackboard too, and instructor-student announcements and other communications will be conducted via e-mail messages through Blackboard as well. Consequently it is not only vital that you check Blackboard regularly, but also that you maintain your USC mailbox in good order (“mailbox full” rejections are a chief cause of messages not getting through to students) and monitor your USC e-mail account frequently (since a second cause of missed messages is students who neglect their USC account for their personal Gmail or Yahoo accounts).

Finally, your attention will occasionally be directed to various websites and on-line sources of news and information. These will be particularly helpful in preparing your research papers, and a number of the most respected websites on post-Soviet and East European affairs are listed on the next page.
There will also be two exams—one in-class, one final—that together will make up a large portion of your final grade. Finally, the single most important assignment is a 15-20 page research paper. This presents an opportunity to explore in detail one or another issue of interest (see below) as well as giving you a product that can be helpful in future internship, job, or graduate school applications. Needless to say, in all these assignments strict adherence to the honor code is expected and violations will be dealt with harshly.

Class Participation: Ideally, our discussion periods will be spontaneous and free-flowing, an opportunity to raise questions and debate interpretations of issues that come up in readings and lectures. But owing to a common tendency toward procrastination in reading, as well as to variations in students’ volubility and prior experience, such discussions are often dominated by a small number of voices. To counter this tendency, each student will be required no later than 5:00 p.m. each Wednesday to e-mail the instructor a substantial paragraph that critiques one or more of the readings, or raises a question relating the readings to some issue mentioned in lecture. This practice is meant both to encourage timely reading and to serve as a basis for our discussions. Together these elements—weekly e-mail critiques and contributions to class discussions (including at least one brief presentation on a reading, as noted above)—will comprise the “participation” portion of your grade.

Research Papers: Here you are expected to produce a serious work of political-economic analysis, based on research that includes at least 15 sources—books, journal and other periodical articles, reputable websites, etc. Many will choose to do a “country study,” analyzing the political-economic performance of any one post-communist country. Others may decide to compare two states, or focus on a regional issue such as Caspian Sea oil or Baltic economic integration. Topics will be chosen in consultation with the instructor, and deadlines for proposals, outlines, etc. are noted in the course schedule. Extensions will be granted only in cases of genuine emergency; coincidence with other academic deadlines or extracurricular events does not constitute such an emergency.

Final grades will be determined according to these weights:

- first exam: 20%
- class participation, discussion: 20%
- research paper: 35%
- final exam: 25%

Finally, on keeping up with changes in Russia, the former USSR, and Eastern Europe. As noted, I will assign additional readings as events dictate. But you are also expected to stay abreast of major developments, ideally by perusing such periodicals as Foreign Affairs and The Economist. For the more ambitious, those with a special interest or simply seeking to get a jump on their research projects, I suggest such specialized journals as Post-Soviet Affairs, Europe-Asia Studies, Problems of Post-Communism, World Politics and Journal of Comparative Economics.

I also suggest the websites of: Radio Free Europe-Radio Liberty (www.rferl.org); Transitions On-Line (www.tol.cz); Eurasia Daily Monitor (http://www.jamestown.org/programs.edm/); and Eurasianet (www.eurasianet.org). Most contain links to additional sources, and some also include subscription instructions that enable you to receive daily or weekly bulletins of useful material. For the latest studies and statistics, especially as you begin work on your research papers, the websites of the World Bank (www.worldbank.org), the International Monetary Fund (www.imf.org) and the European Union (http://europa.eu/index_en.htm) are also valuable.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|            |                                                    | Rothschild, “The Interwar Background,” from *Return to Diversity* (Oxford, 1993)  
|            |                                                    | Excerpts from Ransel, *Mothers of Misery* and Troyant, *Daily Life in Russia*  
|            |                                                    | Gros & Steinherr, *Planting the Seeds*, chap. 1 |
|            |                                                    | Gros & Steinherr, *Planting the Seeds*, chap. 2  
|            |                                                    | Rothschild, “A Precarious Stalemate” |
| Sept 7, 9 | Crisis, Reform, and Collapse of Soviet-style Economies | Aslund, *Building Capitalism*, chap. 2  
|            |                                                    | Remnick, “Party Men” and “Poor Folk,” from *Lenin’s Tomb* (Vintage, 1994)  
|            |                                                    | Rothschild, “The Various Endgames” |
|            |                                                    | Gros & Steinherr, *Planting the Seeds*, chap. 3  
|            |                                                    | Hoffmann, “Unlocking the Treasure,” from *The Oligarchs* (Public Affairs, 2002)  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Reading Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gros &amp; Steinherr, <em>Planting the Seeds</em>, chap. 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gros &amp; Steinherr, <em>Planting the Seeds</em>, chap. 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 12, 14</td>
<td>Ukraine, Central Asia, the Caucasus; Crime, Corruption, and Capital Flight</td>
<td>Selections from <em>Transition</em> on Ukraine, Moldova, Central Asia and the Caucasus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gros &amp; Steinherr, <em>Planting the Seeds</em>, chap. 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Balmaceda, “Ukraine’s Persistent Energy Crisis,” <em>Problems of Post-Communism</em> July-August 2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 19</td>
<td>Factory and Farm; Labor and Welfare</td>
<td>Aslund, <em>Building Capitalism</em>, chap. 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Selections on agriculture from <em>Transitions</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Feshach, “Potential Social Disarray in Russia Due to Health Factors,” <em>Problems of Post-Communism</em>, July-August 2005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NB: Midterm Exam, Thurs. October 21*
Gustafson, “Toward the Rule of Law,” from *Capitalism, Russian-Style* (Cambridge, 1999)

* NB: paper proposals due Monday, Nov 1 *

Nov 2, 4  Center-Regional Ties and the Erosion of State Authority; Drug Barons and Warlords  Aslund, *Building Capitalism*, chap. 9
Selections from *Transitions* on regional barons
Kirkow, “Regional Warlordism in Russia,” *Europe-Asia Studies*, 1995
Johnson, *A Fistful of Rubles*, chap. 5

“Surviving the Apocalypse,” from *Transitions* “What Went Wrong in Russia?”, symposium in *Journal of Democracy*, 1999
Gros & Steinherr, *Planting the Seeds*, chap. 8

Selections on EU enlargement from *Transitions, Central European Review*, et al.
Gross & Steinherr, *Planting the Seeds*, chaps 5, 9-10
“Perceptions of the EU in New Member States,” symposium in *Europe-Asia Studies*, 61:6, 2009
“Transnational Crime and Conflict in the Balkans,” excerpts from special issue of *Problems of Post-Communism* (June 2005)
On postwar issues and the Balkan Stability Pact see also www.crisisweb.org and www.stabilitypact.org

* NB: outline, biblio. due Friday, Nov 19 *

Date  Topic  Reading Assignments
Nov 23  Economics and Politics of Oil;  Collection on Oil, Central Asia and the Caucasus
Gazprom’s Pipeline Diplomacy from *Transitions*
Nygren, “Putin’s Use of Natural Gas to Reintegrate the CIS Region,” *Problems of Post-Communism*
July-August 2008

* Nov 25: no class, Thanksgiving holiday *

Selected articles/analysis on the Russia-Ukraine Gas dispute

Nov 30, Dec 2 Transition States in the Global Political Economy; Prospects for Russia’s State Capitalism and “Managed Democracy”
Aslund, *Building Capitalism*, chaps. 10, 11
Brown, “Looking Outward and Inward,” in *The Grooves of Change*
Gros & Steinherr, *Planting the Seeds*, chap. 11
Appel, “Is it Putin or is it Oil?”, *Post-Soviet Affairs*, October-December 2008

* NB, papers due by noon Wednesday, December 8 *

* Final Examination: Thursday, December 9, 2-4 p.m. *