

GEOGRAPHY 308

GEOGRAPHY OF RUSSIA AND EASTERN EUROPE

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SPRING 2005

[Chart of countries and links](#)

Hours and Room	Discussions
Course Goals	Exams
Books and Reading	Projects
Grading	COURSE SCHEDULE
Attendance	Baccalaureate degree

HOURS AND ROOMS

CLASS: Phillips 106, 9:00-9:50 MWF

Office hours: 10:00-10:50 MWF
258 Phillips Hall, 836-4471

COURSE GOALS

In the past 15 years, no part of the world map has changed more than the region of Eurasia formerly covered by the Soviet Union and its allies. The course will offer an overview of geographical, or "place-based," studies of the former "Socialist" Bloc (once dominated by the USSR), including natural and human resources, historical geography, ethnic and religious divisions, environmental questions, and economic and political organization. The course will not simply cover present-day Russia and Eastern Europe (or more properly, East-Central Europe). The course will cover the 15 former republics of the Soviet Union, the former members of the Warsaw Pact and the former Yugoslav Federation (see list [below](#)). Each student will closely examine one of these countries (or internal regions) as a "[Country Case Study](#)" for in-depth geographical analysis, culminating in a PowerPoint class presentation.

[Geography](#) is the "study of place," asking where things are, why they are there, how places are linked to other places, and how places can be grouped.

The course will involve lectures offering thematic angles that transcend the countries and regions, using historical, population, cultural, economic, and

environmental modes of geographical analysis. We will also have guest lectures from UWEC students, faculty and visitors from these countries, to offer a regional geographic focus. There will also be class discussions and presentations to compare and contrast our different case studies. You are encouraged to use [critical thinking skills](#) in interpreting the readings, videos, and lectures.

BOOKS AND OUTSIDE READING

Shaw: Shaw, Denis. *Russia in the Modern World: A New Geography* (Blackwell, 1999; reprinted 2001).

Goldman: Goldman, Minton. *Russia, the Eurasian Republics, and Central/Eastern Europe*. 9th edition (McGraw Hill/Dushkin Global Studies Series, 2003).

Turnock: Turnock, David, ed. *East Central Europe and the Former Soviet Union: Environment and Society*. (Oxford University Press, 2001).

The New York Times. Check out the [New York Times](#) website everyday to keep up with world news. The [registration](#) is free! In order to better follow the news, check the boxes "Today's Headlines" get daily news briefs e-mailed to you, and the box for "Breaking News Alerts." We will have questions on the exams about the major Russia/Eastern Europe stories in the semester.

You are responsible for completing all the readings.

The best way to read is to [take notes](#) in your own handwriting.

If any readings are changed, the class will be notified via the class e-mail list.

Print out this syllabus for your use, but also please bookmark this syllabus page to consult it for any changes.

GRADING	
Class discussion /participation	25 points
Country analysis (in three parts)	225 points
Midterm I Exam	150 points
Midterm II Exam	200 points
Country PowerPoint	200 points
Final Exam	200 points

Total	1000 points
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ATTENDANCE

You will be more successful in this class only if you cover the full range of expectations: lectures, videos, readings, and exercises. Doing only the readings and exercises

outside class are not a substitute for attending the lectures or videos, which will very often present

different information. Similarly, only attending the lectures will not substitute for readings and

exercises outside the class. If it is impossible for you to attend a lecture,

you must get notes from another student--not from me-- and also talk with the

fellow student about the lecture. Some, but not all, of the lecture information may be in the W drive

class folder (Geog/Grossman/308) and the on-line syllabus (click on the theme and the PowerPoint

will download). You should **NEVER** rely on the PowerPoint alone; geography is a very visual subject,

and many lectures will show maps and graphics with no explanation other than from the verbal,

in-class lecture !!! If you have special needs, please inform me when starting the course.

CLASS DISCUSSION

Class discussion is part of your grade. If you are normally reticent about speaking in class,

take notes ahead of time about what you might say. Don't be intimidated by others; I encourage

shy people to speak up and express their opinions--please raise your hand to get a word in.

We will normally divide into these regional groupings for discussions, and "represent" our own region. In class discussions, we will be conducting

comparative

analysis of our different countries and regions.

Background on a [Chart](#) on the countries' capitals, former political status, and majority language and religion. The [Chart](#) includes links to country maps.

NORTHEASTERN EUROPE

(Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia)

SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE (OR "BALKANS")

(Romania, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia & Montenegro,

Macedonia, Albania)

RUSSIAN/EX-SOVIET HEARTLAND

(Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, European Russia, Southern Russia/Chechnya,

Siberia, Mongolia)

CAUCASUS AND CENTRAL ASIA

(Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan)

EXAMS

You will have two midterm exams (150 and 200 points) and a final exam (200 points). The exams will use multiple choice, matching, map identification, true/false, essays, etc. , covering the readings, lectures, exercises, and videos. Exam study guides will be on the syllabus and in the W Drive class folder (Geog/Grossman/308).

The final emphasizes the third regional part of the course, but draws on the insights from the other parts of the course. You can make up an exam *only* under extenuating and verifiable circumstances that

I recognize, and only if you notify me *before* the scheduled exam at grossmzc@uwec.edu or 836-4471

(or the departmental secretary at 836-3244.). Unauthorized absences will result in a zero on the exam-- no exceptions.

CLASS PROJECTS

The four main assignments are interrelated, and stem from your individual [Country Case Study](#).

The first three assignments will be together form your Country Analysis (225 points, at 75 points apiece):

COUNTRY CASE STUDY ANALYSIS

Part 1: NATURE / ENVIRONMENT

(Physical Geography / Natural Resources / Environmental Issues)

Part 2: PEOPLE / CULTURE

(Current Ethnic groups, Religious groups, Demographics, Pre-1914 History)

Part 3: POLITICS / ECONOMICS

(Recent political changes, Economics and Industries, History since 1914)

Each exercise will be posted on the syllabus and in the W Drive class folder.

COUNTRY POWERPOINT CLASS PRESENTATION

The Country Analysis may help you get ideas for producing your Country PowerPoint that you will submit and show to the class, and then revise for a final grade (200 points).

The PowerPoint

should explore interesting geographic angles, and be presentable at a geography conference.

It is **NOT** an overview of your country like in your Country Analysis, but a narrower place-based

topic. (The topic should preferably be contemporary, but it can be historical, or have elements of both.) It will not just include dry statistics and descriptions, but a dynamic view of geographic controversies and trends in politics, culture, or environment, *etc.* Make the country "come alive" not only to impress the instructor, but to interest your fellow students in the place. You will submit the PowerPoint in your W Drive project on the due date, then print out a copy to give to me the day of your class presentation. I will make corrections so you can revise the powerpoint for a final grade.

Do *not* wait until the last minute to do these projects, because you may not be able to overcome unforeseen difficulties. *No excuses* will be accepted for problems that could have been solved by starting the exercise earlier (such as a computer crash). For this reason, exercises handed in late will automatically be knocked down 20 points in the maximum grade for every class day they are overdue. *No exceptions.* Help with writing can be easily gained by visiting the [Writing Center](#). Review some common [grammatical errors](#). Never rely only on your [spell checker](#) ! If you have any technical computer questions, contact the CNS Help Desk at 836-5711 or helpdesk@uwec.edu

If you need PowerPoint training, or want to brush up or want a critique of your past powerpoints, [contact BITS \(Bringing Instructional Technology to Students\)](#) to set up an appointment (email bits.training@uwec.edu).

You are **REQUIRED** be trained in PowerPoint by Week 8 (Mar. 18). Dreamweaver [training workshops](#) are scheduled in CITI. If you absolutely cannot make a training workshop, you are responsible to set up an individual training through [BITS](#). Call for a one-on-one or small group training at 836-5157 (bits.training@uwec.edu) (Hours 10-3 Mon., 10-4 Tu./Wed./Th, and 12-3 Fri.). I'd encourage you to go in small groups so you can help each other along later. BITS staff are extremely helpful no matter what level you are at. You can also e-mail BITS a past powerpoint for a critique and suggestions for improving your style.

PLAGIARISM WARNING: For all projects you *must not* simply lift your textual material

from the Web (or plagiarize any other source), and you must have a variety of printed and digital sources.

Graphics should also be cited with a tiny source citation hyperlink to the page of the graphic's origin.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

If changes are made to the syllabus, the class will be informed via the class e-mail list.

Week	Class dates	General theme	Shaw chapter	Goldman pages	Turnock pages	Project or Guest lecture/video
Week 1	Jan. 26, 28	<u>INTRODUCTION AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY</u>	Start reading ahead			
Week 2	Jan. 31, Feb. 2, 4	<u>PRE-SOVIET HISTORY</u>	CH. 1		13-40	Choose your country case study by Mon., Jan. 31; Start on <u>Country Analysis Part 1</u>
Week 3	Feb. 7, 9, 11	<u>SOVIET ERA</u>	CH. 2-3	11-25, 93-97		
Week 4	Feb. 14, 16, 18	<u>POST-SOVIET ERA</u>	CH. 4-5	25-56, 97-108		Country analysis Part 1 due Fri., Feb. 18; ; Start on <u>Country Analysis Part 2</u>
Week 5	Feb. 21, 23, 25	<u>GEOPOLITICS</u>	CH.11	202-212	41-55	Class debate on NATO expansion, Feb. 28

						Ukraine Election
Week 6	Feb. 28, Mar. 2, 4	ENVIRONMENT	CH. 6		165-206	Environmental videos on Chernobyl, Soviet subs, Lake Baikal
Week 7	Mar. 7, 9, 11	ETHNICITY/LANGUAGE	CH. 9	57-77	88-103	Country Analysis Part 2 due Wed., Mar. 9; ; Start on Country Analysis Part 3 Review Fri., Mar. 11
Week 8	Mar. 14, 16, 18	RELIGION (no powerpoint)			224-236	MIDTERM I Monday, March 14 STUDY GUIDE Students from Macedonia & Serbia, March 16
Week 9	Mar. 30, Apr. 1	NATIONALISM IN EASTERN EUROPE			264-268	Country Analysis Part 3 and Powerpoint topic due Fri. Apr. 1
Week 10	Apr. 4, 6, 8	NATIONALISM IN FORMER USSR	CH. 10	236-240		Work on powerpoints after professor approves topic Teresa Sanislo lecture on Latvia, Apr. 6

						Yugoslavia video, Apr. 8
Week 11	Apr. 11, 13, 15	<u>ECONOMY/INDUSTRY/DEMOGRAPHICS</u>	CH. 7-8		56-68, 104-117	Work on powerpoints
Week 12	Apr. 18, 20, 22	NORTHEASTERN EUROPE SURVEY		245-248	130-139	Review Mon., April 18 MIDTERM II, Wed. April 20 <u>STUDY GUIDE</u> Powerpoints due on Fri. April 22 in W drive folder
Week 13	Apr. 25, 27, 29	SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE SURVEY		248-253		Order of powerpoint presentations of <u>Country Case Studies</u> . <i>Print off your draft full size for me to make revisions during your presentation.</i>
Week 14	May 2, 4, 6	RUSSIA/ EX-SOVIET HEARTLAND SURVEY		216-223		Want to learn the <u>Russian Cyrillic</u> alphabet? Extra credit for 2-page paper on <u>Goodbye Lenin</u> film

						(May 5-8, Davies Theater, 6 & 8:30)
Week 15	May 9, 11, 13	CAUCASUS/ CENTRAL ASIA SURVEY		240-244		<p>Final review May 13.</p> <p><u>FINAL STUDY GUIDE</u></p> <p>All revised PowerPoints due Friday, May 13, 4:00 pm, in your W Drive project folder. <i>Also hand in both old & new printouts!</i></p>
Week 16		FINAL EXAM				FINAL EXAM: Tuesday, May 17, 8:00-9:50 am, in the classroom

General Links

World Factbook & Background Notes	Perry-Castañeda Map Library
Country Studies (Area Handbook Program)	REENIC links & CREECA links
Portals to the World	Britannica (campus only) & Wikipedia
State of the Environment & Agriculture data	World Atlas & Open Directory & Google Images

Country & maps link	Formerly in	Capital	Majority religion	Majority language branch (*-Family not Indo-European)
Hungary	--	Budapest	Catholic	Finno-Ugric*
Poland	--	Warsaw	Catholic	Slavic
Bulgaria	--	Sofia	Orthodox	Slavic
Romania	--	Bucharest	Orthodox	Romantic
Albania	--	Tiranë	Sunni Muslim	Albanian
Mongolia	--	Ulaanbataar	Buddhist	Mongol (Altaic)*
Slovenia	Yugoslavia	Ljubljana	Catholic	Slavic
Croatia	Yugoslavia	Zagreb	Catholic	Slavic
Bosnia & Hercegovina	Yugoslavia	Sarajevo	Sunni Muslim/ Orthodox/Catholic	Slavic
Serbia	Yugoslavia	Belgrade	Orthodox	Slavic
Montenegro	Yugoslavia	Podgorica	Orthodox	Slavic
Macedonia	Yugoslavia	Skopje	Orthodox	Slavic
Kosovo (status in dispute)	Yugoslavia	Pristina	Sunni Muslim	Albanian
Czech Republic	Czechoslovakia	Prague	Catholic	Slavic

Slovakia	Czechoslovakia	Bratislava	Catholic	Slavic
Latvia	USSR (as Latvian SSR)	Riga	Protestant	Baltic
Lithuania	USSR (as Lithuanian SSR)	Vilnius	Catholic	Baltic
Estonia	USSR (as Estonian SSR)	Tallinn	Protestant	Finno-Ugric*
Belarus	USSR (as Byelorussian SSR)	Minsk	Orthodox	Slavic
Ukraine	USSR (as Ukrainian SSR)	Kyyiv (Kiev)	Orthodox	Slavic
Moldova	USSR (as Moldavian SSR)	Chisinau	Orthodox	Romantic
Russia	USSR (as RSFSR)	Moscow	Orthodox	Slavic
Georgia	USSR (as Georgian SSR)	Tbilisi	Orthodox	South Caucasian*
Armenia	USSR (as Armenian SSR)	Yerevan	Orthodox	Armenian
Azerbaijan	USSR (as Azerbaidzhan SSR)	Baku	Shi'a Muslim	Turkic (Altaic)*
Kazakhstan	USSR (as Kazakh SSR)	Astana	Sunni Muslim	Turkic (Altaic)*
Uzbekistan	USSR (as Uzbek SSR)	Tashkent	Sunni Muslim	Turkic (Altaic)*
Kyrgyzstan	USSR (as Kirghiz SSR)	Bishkek	Sunni Muslim	Turkic (Altaic)*
Turkmenistan	USSR (as Turkmen SSR)	Ashgabat	Sunni Muslim	Turkic (Altaic)*
Tajikistan	USSR (as Tadzhik SSR)	Dushanbe	Sunni Muslim	Iranian



NORTHEASTERN EUROPE MAPS

Poland

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[Physical](#)

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[Land Use](#)

[Ethnicity](#)

[Industries/ Resources](#)

[Population Density](#)

[Partitions](#)

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[Boundaries 1920-39](#)

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[Other maps](#)

Hungary

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Czech Republic

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[Population Density](#)

[Czechoslovak boundaries](#)

[Other maps](#)

Slovakia

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[Czechoslovak boundaries](#)
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Latvia

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Lithuania

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Estonia

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SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE (OR "BALKANS") MAPS

Regional Boundaries

[900-1881](#)

[1877](#)

[1910](#)

[1912](#)

[1913](#)

Romania

[Political & Regions](#)

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Serbia & Montenegro

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RUSSIAN / EX-SOVIET "HEARTLAND" MAPS

Belarus

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European Russia

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[Chemicals 1982](#)
[Metals 182](#)
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[Mineral resources 1982](#)
[Oil 1982](#)
[Land Use 1982](#)
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Southern Russia / Chechnya

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[Industries of Caucasus](#)
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[Chechnya elevation](#)

Eastern Russia (Siberia)

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CAUCASUS / CENTRAL ASIA MAPS

Georgia

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