

Department of Geography
Western University

Geography 2045A
Russia and The Former Soviet Union: The Legacy
Section 001
2012/13

Course Day, Hours and Location: Wednesday, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. in SSC 2024

Instructor:

Dr. S. Greaves

Rm. 1412, Social Science

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Office hours: Mon. 11:30-1:00, Wed. 10:30-11:30

TA: TBA

1. Introduction

This course does not assume a background in geography on the part of you, the student. The course is intended to broaden your knowledge and understanding of the former Soviet Union, Russia and its neighbours. There will be an emphasis on issues and problems relating to the environment and to resource utilization.

Calendar Description:

"An introduction to the geography of Russia and its neighbours with an emphasis on the Soviet legacy. Topics covered will include resource and environmental issues, culture and nationalism, the economy and demographics." (UWO Academic Calendar)

There are no prerequisites or antirequisites for Geography 2045A at this time other than second year standing or above.

2. Learning Objectives

The geographical objectives of this course include (1) an increased awareness of geographical diversity through knowledge of different places and an understanding of the factors that have shaped them and (2) exposure to and practice in thinking spatially.

The specific objectives of the course include but are not limited to:

1. expanded knowledge of the geography of Russia and the former Soviet Union (e.g. physical, cultural, economic, environmental)
2. increased familiarity with the map of Russia, Central Asia and Eastern Europe
3. increased understanding of the regions of today's Russia and its neighbours in light of the Soviet legacy

3. Course Content

The course will consist of an overview of a variety of topics including industry, agriculture, the environment, culture and nationalism, and demographics. Since we will be considering "legacy", the historical geography of the former Soviet Union with respect to these topics will figure prominently in the course.

4. Course Texts

Required:

Blinnikov, Mikhail, A Geography of Russia and Its Neighbors Guilford Press, 2010

You are also asked to purchase or have access to a good quality atlas. A wide variety of atlases are available in the Western Library system for your use. Online atlases and other online resources may not be sufficient by themselves.

Reference:

Bradshaw, M. and Stenning, A. East Central Europe and the Former Soviet Union Pearson Education Limited, 2004

5. Course Requirements and Grading

Grading in the course will be based on the following:

	Marks
Quizzes (3)	30
Mid Term Test	25
Final Examination	45
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Exam format (this does not include quizzes) will be mixed (i.e. objective, short answer and essay). Quizzes will be map based. Quizzes may also include objective questions (multiple choice, true/false, etc.). No electronic devices will be allowed during tests and examinations. No aids of any kind will be permitted without the express prior permission of the instructor.

6. Policy on Writing Skills

Writing skills, including grammar and spelling, will be taken into consideration in the grading of all work.

7. Plagiarism:

"Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholoff.pdf> ."

8. E-Mail Policy

My general policy regarding the use of e-mail with respect to courses is as follows:

- (a) Please identify yourself and the course you are writing about in all emails.
- (b) I will answer all questions as I am able. Please anticipate a minimum of 24 hours turnaround time.
- (c) I do not normally check email on weekends.
- (d) I do not guarantee responses to emails sent 24 hours (or less) prior to a test, exam or quiz.

9. Website:

We will be using Owl (Sakai) to deliver most "handouts" and lecture outlines, and to post grades (except final grades). It is your responsibility to obtain the necessary information and material, particularly for quizzes, from Owl (Sakai). We will also be using the announcement function as necessary. Please check it regularly.

Sakai is new to most of us this term. "Glitches" are inevitable. Please notify me promptly of any issues that you may be experiencing with our course site. The source of the problem may be the system or it may be me or it may be you. In any case, I can't address a problem of which I am not aware.

10. Please note:

Tests and quizzes, etc. returned during the course should be retained until the final grade in the course has been issued. In the case of a disagreement regarding the recorded marks, it will be necessary to produce the graded item in order for a change to be made. Please check your grades on Owl (Sakai).

There will be no extra assignments, etc. to make up marks. Grades are awarded on the basis of merit, not need.

Requests for accommodation regarding missed tests and exams should be directed to your Academic Counselling Office. Accommodation will be arranged at the request of Academic Counselling. If you miss a quiz, you will be expected to provide the reason for missing the quiz to the instructor. You will then be given the opportunity to write the quiz during office hours in the one week following the originally scheduled date. This opportunity ends when the marked quizzes are returned to the class.

For UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf
Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC): <https://studentservices.uwo.ca>
under the Medical Documentation heading.

Your attendance at each and every class is expected as is your attention during those classes. I commit to starting each class at the appointed time and in turn expect punctuality from you. I commit to conducting class in a manner that maintains an academic atmosphere, that is conducive to learning, and that fosters respect. I expect behaviour from you that contributes to the same goals.

11. Please note:

Mental Health Website

If you or someone you know is experiencing distress, there are several resources here at Western to assist you. Please visit <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for more information on these resources and on mental health.

Western's commitment to accessibility

Western University is committed to achieving barrier free accessibility for persons studying, visiting and working at Western.

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation.

Support Services

Registrarial Services: <http://www3.registrar.uwo.ca/index.cfm>
Student Development Services: <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

12. Evaluation Schedule:

Quiz 1 - Wednesday, September 26

Quiz 2 - Wednesday, October 10

Midterm – Wednesday, October 24

Quiz 3 - Wednesday, November 7

Final Exam: December Exam Period, date and time TBA