Political Science 130AA is an introduction to the politics and policies of the successor states that emerged from the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991. The focus throughout the course will be on explaining problems in the successor states that have become major policy concerns for the United States. This course assumes no previous study of either politics or this region.

I. THE SOVIET SUCCESSOR STATES: WHY DO WE CARE?
   A. The Competition for Geopolitical Position in Central Eurasia.
   C. Weak States and Weak Democracies.
   D. Fostering Markets and Integration within the Global Economy.
   E. Failed States, Secessionist Threats, and State Voids.
   F. Controlling Arms: The Threat of Proliferation and the Arms Trade.
   G. The War on Terrorism and Transnational Crime.

II. UNITED STATES POLICIES: WHAT HAVE WE DONE SO FAR?

III. EURASIAN CONSTRAINTS ON US POLICY: WHY IS SUCCESS SO DIFFICULT?
   A. Answer #1: The Soviet Legacy.
   B. Answer #2: Political Culture and Too Much Democracy Too Soon.
   C. Answer #3: Bureaucratic Politics and Too Little Democratization.
   D. Answer #4: Institutional Choices Made During the Transition.
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Readings and Lectures. All assigned readings are available in a course reader sold by Soft
Reserves (located in the old Student Center). Geisel Library maintains copies of most of the
readings on electronic reserve, but copyright fees may make it too expensive for the library to
include all readings.

The readings are heavier at the beginning of the course and lighter towards the end. The readings
provide pieces of a larger puzzle. Lectures attempt to provide the larger picture within which these
pieces fit. You should attend all lectures or arrange for someone whom you trust to take good notes
for you. Although copies of the lecture outlines with all major points will be available on the web,
these do not explain what the major points actually mean.

Grades. Your course grade will be based on one paper (a take-home essay) that is due Thursday,
March 22, at 11:30 am. The paper assignment, which will be distributed during the second week of
the course, will ask you to reflect on, analyze, and integrate the assigned readings and the lectures.
Your finished paper should be twelve to seventeen double-spaced pages in length. I strongly
encourage you not to put off the reading until the last minute. I also encourage you to attend
lectures.

Plagiarism. You may discuss your paper with others, but your written work must be your own.
Please do not jeopardize your academic career and your professional reputation by academic
dishonesty. The payoff to dishonesty is very small, the costs—both immediate and long term—can
be very high.

Note: By enrolling in this course you agree to submit your final paper for textual similarity review
to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source
documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of
such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms-of-use agreement posted on the
Turnitin.com website.

Course Web-site. I have posted or will post a copy of the course syllabus, paper assignment, and
lecture outlines on the course web-site. I will add to and up-date the outlines—hopefully at the end
of each week. You can reach this web-site through my homepage:
weber.ucsd.edu/~proeder
SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS

I. THE SOVIET SUCCESSOR STATES: WHY DO WE CARE?

Th  Jan 11.  The Competition for Geopolitical Position in Central Eurasia.

Read for this week:


Th  Jan 18.  Weak States and Weak Democracies, I.

Read for this week:


Tu  Jan 23.  Weak States and Weak Democracies, II.
Th  Jan 25.  Fostering Markets and Integration within the Global Economy, I.

Read for this week:


Tu Jan 30. Fostering Markets and Integration within the Global Economy, II.
Th Feb 1. Failed States, Secessionist Threats, and State Voids, I.

Read for this week:

Tu Feb 6. Failed States, Secessionist Threats, and State Voids, II.
Th Feb 8. Controlling Arms: The Threat of Proliferation and the Arms Trade.

Read for this week:

Tu Feb 13. The War on Terrorism and Transnational Crime.

Read for this week:
II. WHAT HAS THE UNITED STATES DONE SO FAR?
Th Feb 15. US Programs in the Soviet Successor States.

Read for this part of the course:


III. CONSTRAINTS ON US POLICY: WHY IS SUCCESS SO DIFFICULT?
Tu Feb 20. Answer #1: The Soviet Legacy, I.
Th Feb 22. Answer #1: The Soviet Legacy, II.
Tu Feb 27. Answer #1: The Soviet Legacy, III.
Th Mar  1. Answer #1: The Soviet Legacy, IV.
Tu Mar  6. Answer #2: Political Culture and Too Much Democracy Too Soon, I.
Th Mar  8. Answer #2: Political Culture and Too Much Democracy Too Soon, II.
Th Mar 15. Answer #4: Early Institutional Choices.

Read for this part of the course:


