Outline of the Seminar

I. Background: Breakdown of the Soviet Union
II. Nation Building
III. State Building
   A. Regime Change and Democratization
   B. Political Culture and Voting
   C. Institutional Choice and Change
   D. Regional and Center-Periphery Politics
IV. Economic Reform

Instructor: Philip G. Roeder proeder@ucsd.edu
Social Sciences Building 382 (858) 534-6000
Office hours: Wednesdays 3:00-4:00 pm

Requirements:

1. Each week please read the book (and some weeks the research articles as well) indicated by an asterisk and come prepared to discuss this material.
2. For one week you will be asked to open the discussion of the book with a brief (5 minute) review of the major points of the common reading. Another week you will be asked to survey the major points made in published reviews of the book; you should print and distribute to all members of the seminar a list of citations to these reviews. The “presenter” and “critic” will lead discussion of the book that week.
3. Please prepare a ten-page research prospectus that sketches a research article you would write, if you had the time to complete the research. I will strongly encourage you to use the post-Soviet cases as opportunities to test general theories that you have learned in other courses in this department. Please come prepared to present a brief oral overview of this project on the seventh week. Students taking the comprehensive exams are excused from writing and presenting a prospectus.
Week 2 (April 8)
BREAKDOWN OF THE SOVIET SYSTEM


Recent research articles:


Week 3 (April 15)
NATION-BUILDING


Recent research articles:


---

**Week 4 (April 22)**

**REGIME CHANGE AND DEMOCRATIZATION**


**Recent research articles:**


Alexander J. Motyl. “Structural Constraints and Starting Points: The Logic of Systemic Change in Ukraine and Russia.” *Comparative Politics* 29 (July 1997), 433-447.
Week 5 (April 29)
POLITICAL CULTURE, PARTISANSHIP, AND VOTING


Recent research articles:


**Week 6 (May 6)**

**INSTITUTIONAL CHOICE AND CHANGE, I**


**Recent research articles:**


**Week 7 (May 13)**

**Presentation of Research Prospectuses**

**Week 8 (May 20)**

**INSTITUTIONAL CHOICE AND CHANGE, II**


**Recent research articles:**

*Gerald M. Easter. “Preference for Presidentialism: Postcommunist Regime Change in Russia and the NIS.” *World Politics* 49 (January 1997), 184-211.


**Week 9 (May 27)**

**REGIONAL AND CENTER-PERIPHERY POLITICS**


**Week 10 (June 3)**

**ECONOMIC REFORM**


**Recent research articles:**


