This course on Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) was designed to provide the student with not only a comprehensive analysis of the new Russian political system but also with a realistic appraisal of the current socio-economic problems occurring within the rest of the former Soviet Union. To accomplish this objective, a thorough study of Russian history, including political culture, ideology, and political and economic institutions will be conducted. Furthermore, one of the other eleven member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States will be studied in a similar fashion. While this course will deal extensively with the political situation in present day Russia, the rise and the decline of the Soviet Union will not be neglected. Finally a comprehensive overview of the new Russian foreign policy will be provided, to be able to answer the question of whether Russia is still a threat to the West.

Learning Outcomes:
After successfully completing this course, students should be able to demonstrate:
- familiarity with terminology used to study Political Science and Comparative Politics
- basic knowledge of recent Russian history and culture
- an understanding of Russian governmental and economic structures
- comprehension of ideologies such as Marxism, Leninism, and Putinism

Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday: 12:30 pm. until 1:30 pm.

Class Meetings:
Classes will meet daily from 10:50 am. until 12:30 pm. in BUS 257.

Required Text:
The Strongman-Vladimir Putin. Roxburgh, Angus.

Course Requirements:
1. Attendance of Class Meetings
2. Successful completion of three exams to be held on July 22, August 2, and August 12, 2016.
**Attendance and Grading Policy:**
Each exam, including the final, will be worth 100 points. The exams will consist of essay questions and short identifications. The grading scale will be the following:

A=300-270 points  
B=269-240 points  
C=239-210 points  
D=209-180 points  
F=179 or fewer points

**POLICIES THAT MUST APPEAR IN EACH COURSE SYLLABUS**

The following University policies must appear on each course syllabus or be provided as an informational sheet (web-links to these policies may be used in the print or electronic syllabus) http://www.utttyler.edu/academicaffairs/syllabuspolicies.pdf

**Students Rights and Responsibilities**
To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: http://www.utttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php

**Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies**
Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at http://www.utttyler.edu/registrar. Each semester’s Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.
Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware of. These include:
- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid
**State-Mandated Course Drop Policy**
Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).
Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

**Disability/Accessibility Services**
In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible a disability diagnosis such as a chronic disease, learning disorder, head injury or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources office and schedule an interview with an Accessibility Case Manager. If you are unsure if the above criteria applies to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR webpage (http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices/) or the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079. You may also send an email to saroffice@uttyler.edu.

**Student Absence due to Religious Observance**
Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

**Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities**
If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

**Social Security and FERPA Statement:**
It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

**Emergency Exits and Evacuation:**
Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor’s directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.
Course Outline

I. Introduction

II. The Rise and Decline of the Soviet Union
   A. Tsarist Russia
   B. The Russian Revolution
   C. Lenin and the NEP
   D. Stalin and World War II
   E. The decline of the Soviet Union-Khrushchev, Brezhnev and Andropov
   F. Gorbachev and the collapse of the Soviet Union


IV. Russia-The Putin Era (2000-Present)

V. Kazakhstan

VI. Conclusion