

Political Science 541  
Institutions and Institutional Change in the Soviet Union, Russia, and the NIS  
Prof. Stephen E. Hanson  
Office Hours: Thu., 9-11 am, Gowen 146

This seminar is designed as a graduate-level survey of the main themes in political science investigations of the rise and fall of the Soviet bloc and of the creation of new institutions in the post-communist region. The course is open to any graduate student wishing to gain greater understanding of institutional change in Eastern Europe and Eurasia. However, those with no prior background in Leninist history are strongly encouraged to buy and read good histories of the USSR and of the Soviet bloc, such as Mary McAuley's Soviet Politics, 1917-1991 and Joseph Rothschild's Return to Diversity: A Political History of East-Central Europe since World War II. Seminars will be devoted primarily to class discussions of the assigned readings. For this reason, timely completion of the reading assignments is essential to the success of the course. The reading load is heavy, but manageable so long as one does not fall behind.

Grades will be based upon class participation (10%), one analytic essay of 10-12 pages in length (40%), and a longer research paper of approximately 20-25 pages in length (50%). The first essay will be due on Friday, April 26th; the second will be due on Tuesday, June 11. Both papers should be turned in to my box at the Political Science Department by 4 pm on the due date. Late assignments will be graded down one third of a grade per day.

The required texts can be purchased at the University Book Store. The other course readings will be distributed in class; all additional required material will be in the reader with the exception of the few articles marked with an asterisk (\*) below; these are available on line through the University of Washington Libraries.

Week One: Introduction and Logistics

PAPER TOPIC HANDED OUT IN CLASS

Week Two: Assessing "Sovietology" and "Transitology"

Readings: George Breslauer, "In Defense of Sovietology," Post-Soviet Affairs, July-Sep. 1992, pp. 197-238\*; Thomas Remington, "Sovietology and System Stability," Post-Soviet Affairs, July-Sep. 1992\*, pp. 239-260; Francis Fukuyama, "The Modernizing Imperative: The USSR as a Normal Country," National Interest, Spring 1993, pp. 10-18; Martin Malia, "A Fatal Logic," National Interest, Spring 1993, pp. 80-90; Peter Rutland, "Sovietology: Notes for a Post-Mortem," National Interest, Spring 1993, pp. 109-122; Stephen E. Hanson, "Social Theory and the Post-Soviet Crisis: Sovietology and the Problem of Regime Identity," Communist and Post-Communist Studies, March 1995, pp. 119-130\*; Phillippe Schmitter and Terry Karl, "The Conceptual Travels of Transitologists and Consolidologists: How Far to the East Should They Attempt to Go?," Slavic Review, Spring 1994, pp. 173-185; Valerie Bunce, "Should Transitologists Be Grounded?," Slavic Review, Spring 1995, pp. 111-127; Ken Jowitt, "The Leninist Extinction" and "The Leninist Legacy" in New World Disorder, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1992), pp. 249-305\*; Randall Collins, "The Future Decline of the Russian Empire", in Weberian Sociological Theory, Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1986), pp.186-208\*

### Week Three: The Debate on Economic Reform

Readings: Jeffrey Sachs, Poland's Jump to the Market, (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1993), pp. 1-78\*; Peter Murrell, "What is Shock Therapy? What Did it Do in Poland and Russia?," Post-Soviet Affairs, April-June 1993, pp. 111-140\*; Valerie Bunce and Maria Csanadi, "Uncertainty in the Transition: Post-Communism in Hungary," East European Politics and Society, Spring 1993, pp. 240-275\*; Anders Aslund, "Russia's Success Story," Foreign Affairs, Sept.-Oct. 1994, pp. 58-71; Joel Hellmann, "Winners Take All: The Politics of Partial Reform in Postcommunist Transitions," pp. 203-234; World Politics, January 1998; Steven Solnick, "The Breakdown of Hierarchies in the Soviet Union and China: A Neoinstitutional Perspective," World Politics, Jan. 1996, pp. 209-238; M. Steven Fish, "The Determinants of Economic Reform in the Post-Communist World," East European Politics and Societies, Winter 1998, pp. 31-78; Clifford G. Gaddy and Barry W. Ickes, "Russia's Virtual Economy," Foreign Affairs, Sept.-Oct. 1998, pp. 53-67; Jeffrey S. Kopstein and David A. Reilly, "Geographic Diffusion and the Transformation of the Post-Communist World," World Politics, Oct. 2000, pp. 1-35; Andrei Shleifer and Daniel Treisman, "A Normal Country: Russia after Communism," Journal of Economic Perspectives, Winter 2005, pp. 151-174

FIRST PAPER DUE MONDAY, APRIL 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM

### Week Four: Postcommunist Ethnic Politics and Nationalism I

Readings: Mark Beissinger, Nationalist Mobilization and the Collapse of the Soviet State; Rogers Brubaker, Nationalism Reframed: Nationhood and the National Question in the New Europe (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996), pp 23-76

### Week Five: Postcommunist Ethnic Politics and Nationalism II

Readings: Valerie Bunce, Subversive Institutions: The Design and Destruction of Socialism and the State, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999); David Laitin, Identity in Formation: The Russian-Speaking Populations in the Near Abroad, (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1998), pp. 3-82

### Week Six: Federalism and Center-Regional Relations

Readings: Daniel Treisman, After the Deluge: Regional Crises and Political Consolidation in Russia, (Ann Arbor, MI: Michigan University Press, 1999); Steven L. Solnick, "Is the Center Too Weak or Too Strong in the Russian Federation?," in Valerie Sperling, ed., Building the Russian State: Institutional Crises and the Quest for Democratic Governance, (Westview Press, 2000), pp. 137-156\*; Stephen E. Hanson, "Ideology, Interests, and Identity: Comparing the Soviet and Russian Secession Crises," in Mikhail Alexseev, ed., Center-Periphery Conflict in Post-Soviet Russia: A Federation Imperiled (St. Martin's, 1999), pp. 15-46\*; Henry Hale, "The Parade of Sovereignties: Testing Theories of Secession in the Soviet Setting," British Journal of Political Science, Jan. 2000, pp. 31-56

### Week Seven: Economic Reform and State Building

Readings: David Woodruff, Money Unmade: Barter and the Fate of Russian Capitalism, (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1999); Pauline Jones Luong and Anna Gryzmala-Busse, "Reconceptualizing the State: Lessons from Postcommunism," Politics and Society, December 2002, pp. 529-554.

### Week Eight: Democratization I

Readings: Juan Linz and Alfred Stepan, Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation: Southern Europe, Latin America, and Post-Communist Europe, (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996)

### Week Nine: Democratization II

Readings: Richard Anderson Jr., M. Steven Fish, Stephen E. Hanson, and Philip Roeder, Postcommunism and the Theory of Democracy (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2001); Grzegorz Ekiert and Jan Kubik, Rebellious Civil Society: Popular Protest and Democratic Consolidation in Poland, 1989-1993 (Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press, 1999); Marc Morje Howard, "Free Not to Participate: The Weakness of Civil Society in Postcommunist Europe," Studies in Public Policy #325, Centre for the Study of Public Policy, University of Strathclyde\*; Stephen E. Hanson and Jeffrey S. Kopstein, "The Weimar/Russia Comparison," in Post-Soviet Affairs, July-Sept. 1997, pp. 252-284\*

### Week Ten: Leninist Legacies and Institutional Change

Readings: Grzegorz Ekiert and Stephen E. Hanson, eds., Capitalism and Democracy in Eastern and Central Europe: Assessing the Legacy of Communist Rule, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003), selections; M. Steven Fish, Democracy Derailed in Russia: The Failure of Open Politics, (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2005).

FINAL PAPER DUE, TUESDAY, JUNE 5 AT 4 PM