

Communist Political Systems

UNLV

Course Number: PSC-407G

Semester: Spring 2007

Class time and location: WRI-C237

Tues and Thurs 7:00pm-8:15pm

Instructor: Dr. Penny Pardoe

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Office Hours: Mondays 10:15am- 12:15pm,
and Wednesdays 10:15am- 11:15am

COURSE PURPOSE:

The purpose of this course is to study the ideology of Marxism-Leninism from different historical, cultural, and geographical settings. It does so by comparing and contrasting the rise to power, consolidation, and functioning of different communist political systems both past and present. It also analyzes the collapse of communism, and subsequent transformation from it, in some former communist regimes.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:

The required texts for this course are the following:

Pipes, Richard, *Communism: A History*, Random House; New York, 2001. (ISBN: 0812968646)

White, Stephen, *Communism and its Collapse*, Routledge; New York, 2001. (ISBN: 0415171806)

Saich, Tony, *Governance and Politics of China*, Palgrave MacMillan; New York, 2004. 2nd Edition. (ISBN: 140392185-7)

Blaisdell, Robert (Editor), *The Communist Manifesto and Other Revolutionary Writings*, Dover Publications; Dover, 2003. Third Edition. (ISBN: 0486424650).

INSTRUCTIONAL PROCEDURES:

This class will be conducted via a series of lectures and class discussions. A schedule of lecture and discussion topics, as well as reading assignments, is provided below. However, be aware that additional reading may be added to the schedule, and that the schedule itself may change due to time constraints. Any changes will be announced at least a week in advance.

ASSIGNMENTS AND OTHER COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

You will be required to complete the following:

- 3 tests
- one Article Report (7 pages typed)
- and one final exam

The due dates for the above mentioned are indicated in the schedule provided below. All tests will include a combination of multiple choice, identifications, true and false, and essay questions.

More details on the procedures and requirements of the article reports and article research report will be provided early in the semester.

STUDENT EVALUATION:

Your final grade will be calculated in the following manner:

Attendance: 5%

Participation: 5%

First Test: 15%

2nd Test: 15%

Third Test: 15%

Article Report: 20%

Final Exam: 25%

GRADING

All final numerical grades will be transcribed into letter grades in the following manner:

100-93= A

75-73= C

92-89= A-

72-69= C-

88-86= B+

68-66= D+

85-83= B

65-63= D

82-79= B-

62-59= D-

78-76= C+

58-0= F

CLASS POLICIES:

1. Attendance: Attendance is taken and counts toward part of your final grade.

2. Lateness: Anyone coming to class more than 15 minutes late or leaving more than 15 minutes early will be counted as absent.

3. Class participation: Class participation also counts toward your final grade. Discussion periods are specifically designed to evaluate your performance. Keeping up with your reading and preparing in advance for discussion will help you achieve a high grade in this area.

4. Exam and Missed Test Policy: Students are expected to take the final exam and all tests at the time scheduled by the instructor. If a student has an extraordinary, legitimate, and proven reason for missing a test (such as a religious holiday or UNLV sporting event) and the instructor is notified at least 2 weeks prior to the scheduled testing date, arrangements for a make-up exam can be made during the semester. Otherwise, all students can make up any missed tests on the last day of class. Note that the format of the make-up test will **not necessarily** be the same as that of the regularly scheduled test.

The final exam must be taken on the scheduled day during finals week. No make ups or early final exams will be given.

5. Late Papers. For the purposes of fairness, students who do not turn in their written assignments on time will be penalized at the rate of 5 points per day (including weekends and holidays).

7. Academic Dishonesty (Plagiarism, Cheating). Such instances may (and will most likely) result in a **FAILURE** for the *entire course*. (See the “*Student Academic Misconduct Policy*”)

LECTURE, DISCUSSION, AND READING SCHEDULE:

Week 1

January 16th-18th

Lecture: Course Overview, early thinking about freedom and utopia

Discussion Question: Do you believe that there once was a Golden Age of utopia? What is the nature of property?

Assigned Reading: Pipes- Chapter One (1-11) and Blaisdell- Rousseau (1-35), and Owen (98-101)

Week 2

January 23rd -25th

Lecture: The Theories of Marx

Discussion Question: What are the major revelations and flaws in Marx’s theory?

Assigned Reading: Blaisdell- Marx (123-160) and Baukin (187-199)

Week 3

January 30th – February 1st

Lecture: Leninism

Discussion Question: In what ways did Lenin deviate from classical Marxist theory and what was his theory of peaceful coexistence?

Assigned Reading: Pipes- Chapter 2, Blaisdell- Lenin (200-212 and 227-231), and Brinkley, George, “Leninism: What it was and was not,” *Review of Politics*, Winter98, Vol. 60 Issue 1, p151.

Week 4

February 6th – 8th

Lecture: Stalin and anti-Stalinism

Discussion Question: In what way did Stalin’s actions contradict Marxist-Leninist theory, particularly in respect to nationalism?

Assigned Reading: Pipes- Chapter 3 and TBA

Week 5

February 13th - 15th

Lecture: Communism in the West

Discussion Question: How did the West react to the Bolshevik revolution and why was this stance adopted? What was the strategy of the third international toward spreading communism to the west?

Assigned Reading: Pipes- Chapter 4 and Santore, John, “The Comintern’s United Front Initiative of May 1934,” *Canadian Journal of History*, Dec81, Vol. 16 Issue 3, p405.

*******Test on Thursday**

Week 6

February 20th -22nd

Lecture: The establishment of Communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe

Film: *Modern Times*

Discussion Question: How did Eastern Europe react to the Bolshevik revolution? How was the Soviet Union able to establish soviet style communism in Eastern Europe?

Assigned Reading: White- Chapters One, Two, and Three, and Borhi, Laszlo, "Empire by Coercion: The Soviet Union and Hungary during the 1950s," *Cold War History*, Jan2001, Vol. 1 Issue 2, p47.

Week 7

February 27th – March 1st

Lecture: The Structure of the Communist System in the Soviet Union

Discussion Question: TBA

Assigned Reading: (Handout)

Week 8

March 6th and 8th

Lecture: Reforming Communism and its Collapse- the SU and Eastern Europe

Discussion Question: What is White referring to when he distinguishes reform from above and reform from below? Why did communism collapse in the SU and Eastern Europe?

Assigned Reading: White- Chapter 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8

March 12th- 16th is Spring Break—Have a good holiday!!!!

Week 9

March 20th – 22nd

Lecture: The establishment of communism in China

Discussion Question: TBA

Assigned Reading: Saich- Chapter 2 and Blaisdell- Mao (259- 264)

*****Test on Thursday**

Week 10

March 27th – 29th

Lecture: Reforming Communism in China

Discussion Question: TBA

Assigned Reading: Saich- Chapter 3

******Article for report due on Thursday**

Week 11

April 3rd -5th

Lecture: The Structure of the Communist System in China

Discussion Question: TBA

Assigned Reading: Saich- Chapter 4

Week 12

April 10th -12th

Lecture: Structure in China continued

Discussion Question: TBA

Assigned Reading: Saich- Chapter 5

*****Report Due on Thursday**

Week 13

April 17th -19th

Lecture: Communism in the Third World (Castro and Cuba)

Discussion Question: Why hasn't communism collapsed in Cuba?

Assigned Reading: Pipes-Chapter 5 and Leon, Eusebio Mujal; Busby, Joshua W., "Much Ado About Something," *Problems of Post-Communism*, Nov/Dec2001, Vol. 48 Issue 6, p6-19.

******Test on Monday**

Week 14

April 24th -26th

Lecture: Communism in the Third World (Cambodia)

Discussion Topic: TBA

Assigned Reading: Sihanouk, Norodom, "The Future of Cambodia," *Foreign Affairs*, Oct70, Vol. 49 Issue 1, p1-10,

and Honey, P.J., "DUOC LAM VUA," *Asian Affairs*, Oct78, Vol. 9 Issue 3, p260-271.

Week 15

May 1st – 3rd

Lecture: Catch up lecture and Exam talk

Week 16

Final Exam-Time and date TBA

OTHER IMPORTANT INFO AND UNIVERSITY POLICIES:

Copyright Law: The University requires all members of the University Community to familiarize themselves and to follow copyright and fair use requirements. YOU ARE INDIVIDUALLY AND SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR VIOLATIONS OF COPYRIGHT AND FAIR USE LAWS. THE UNIVERSITY WILL NEITHER PROTECT NOR DEFEND YOU NOR ASSUME ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR EMPLOYEE OR STUDENT VIOLATIONS OF FAIR USE LAWS. Violations of copyright laws could subject you to federal and state civil penalties and criminal liability, as well as disciplinary action under University policies. To familiarize yourself with copyright and fair use policies, you are encouraged to visit the following website: <<http://www.unlv.edu/committees/copyright/>>

Disability Resource Center (DRC): The Executive Vice President and Provost and Faculty Senate have endorsed the following statement to be included in all course syllabi

NOTE: Over two-thirds of the students in the DRC reported that the syllabus statement, often read aloud by the faculty during class, directed them to the DRC office. The Disability Resource Center (DRC) coordinates all academic accommodations for students with documented disabilities. The DRC is the official office to review and house disability documentation for students, and to provide them with an official Academic Accommodation Plan to present to the faculty if an accommodation is warranted. The DRC strongly encourages faculty to provide accommodations only if and when they are in receipt of said plan. Faculty should not provide students accommodations without being in receipt of this plan. UNLV complies with the provisions set forth in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, offering reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137, and the contact numbers are: VOICE (702) 895-0866, TTY (702) 895-0652, FAX (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit: <<http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>>.

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