

Economic 468
Russian Economy from Lenin to Putin
M-F 9AM-12:15PM

Maymester 2016
Rosefield
Dey 303A

REQUIREMENTS

GOAL: To acquaint students with the unique nature of Russia's contemporary economic system and its special place in the new global economic order between the Asia and the West. The narrative will be crafted to elucidate the current conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

PREREQUISITES: ECON 310

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Students are expected to have a working knowledge of microeconomic theory. The subject matter is micro-theoretical, institutional and cross cultural. Graphical methods will be employed. Calculus isn't essential.

REQUIREMENTS:

1. Midterm exam is optional. It counts for 33% of the course grade.

2. The final exam (essay) is obligatory. It counts 67% of the course grade if the midterm is taken and 100% otherwise.

3. Attendance: Is compulsory and a record is kept. Students who miss more than 20 percent of the class days sampled without written permission will be penalized a half letter grade for the course. Those missing more than 30 percent will be penalized a full letter grade. Those missing more than 40 percent will **FAIL**.

4. Tardiness: Students who arrive after attendance is taken are responsible for notifying me at the end of the class. If they neglect to do so, tardiness is treated as an absence.

RULES: Exams

All exams are in essay format. You must comprehend and interpret the question properly (as I deem correct), and cannot twist questions as you may prefer.

Use blue books. Do not sign your exams with your name. Pledge the honor code with your student ID#.

Use a pen and write legibly. Undecipherable passages will incur the "cost" of the "doubt." Illegible exams must be typed.

Students who cannot write legibly for any reason may take exams at the learning center, but are responsible for making the necessary arrangements well in advance.

GRADING: Grades depend primarily on your grasp (comprehension) of the question, analytic prowess, insightfulness and thoroughness of answers, not rote (including verbatim memorization of the textbook, and other plagiarized sources). “Cut and paste” isn’t good enough. Bullet point answers likewise are inadequate because connectives are ambiguous. An accurate fact profile is expected including strategic citations from appropriate sources. If facts are misstated or misconstrued, these errors will be penalized. Graphs must be complete, with all elements accurately labeled. The economic meaning of graphic elements and underlying equilibrating mechanisms must be adequately stated. Right opinion is irrelevant (see Plato). Grades aren’t curved. I read all examinations at the same time so that I can gauge your performance relative to the class norm while all relevant factors are clearly in mind.

Exams are read anonymously applying the standards set forth above. From time to time students may disagree with my judgment about the quality of their responses. Except in cases of factual error, I alone am responsible for certification.

Course grades depend solely on exams. No credit is given for class participation (but excessive unexcused absences are penalized). Tardiness will be treated as an absence, unless students inform me that they were late at the end of each class. No credit is given for claimed “hard work.” No credit is given because you think that you performed better than I judge. No credit is given because you received a better grade in a previous course that I have taught. Courses and grades are independent. There are no options for extra credit. No consideration is given to self-proclaimed “needs.” Grade requirements imposed by external parties like graduate school admission boards, or scholarship committees are not a valid basis for determining course grades.

Students are not permitted to retake exams unless they have valid written medical excuses or other equivalent authoritative justification.

GRADING SCALE: A grade of C is assigned to exams that demonstrate a basic knowledge and understanding of the course material, allowance made for various minor errors of fact, and comprehension. A grade of B is assigned to exams that demonstrate a good knowledge and understanding of the course material allowance made for various minor errors of fact, and comprehension. A grade of A is assigned to exams that demonstrate a superior and complete knowledge and understanding of the course material, allowance made for various minor errors of fact, and comprehension. A grade of D is assigned to exams that fail to display a basic knowledge and understanding of the course material, allowance made for various minor errors of fact, and comprehension. A grade of F is assigned to exams that fail to display the minimal knowledge and understanding of the course material required for a grade of D, allowance made for various minor errors of fact, and comprehension.

PAST GRADE DISTRIBUTIONS: More than 60 percent of prior students in this course have received As and Bs. This isn’t a contract. It is only an indicator.

GRADE INFLATION: Grade inflation refers to a phenomenon that sometimes arises where various faculty or departments at UNC choose to over-grade students. The Department of Economics opposes awarding unjustifiably high grades.

REPORTING

Course grades are electronically distributed to students soon after they are submitted. Don't email me for your course grade. If you wish to know your final exam score after receiving your course grade, you can email me. If wish to see your exam, please email for an appointment.

I place the best class exam in the manila box across from my office door. You are welcome to read it at your convenience. It is advisable to do so before making an appointment to see your exam. This facilitates review and evaluation. The rules stipulated above concerning your grasp of questions, analytic prowess, insightfulness and the thoroughness will govern appraisals.

SCHEDULE:

1. First Day of Class: Wednesday, May 11
2. Midterm Exam: Wednesday, May 18th
3. Classes End: Thursday, May 26th
4. Final Exam: Friday, May 27th, 9am

OFFICE: Gardner 300-D

OFFICE HOURS: M-F 8-8:45AM. By appointment.