

REQUIREMENTS AND GOALS

GOALS: To acquaint students with socialism, Soviet planning, Russia's contemporary economic system and its special place in the new global economic order. The narrative will elucidate how Russia's economic potential, characteristics and residual revolutionary socialist culture shape the Kremlin's relations with Ukraine, the EU, China and the United States.

PREREQUISITES: ECON 310, C or better in ECON 400 and ECON 410.

LEVEL OF INSTRUCTION: Students should have a working knowledge of microeconomic theory. The subject matter is micro-theoretical, institutional and cross-cultural. It is illuminated with graphical techniques. Calculus is not essential.

REQUIREMENTS:

- 1. Midterm exam (essay)** is optional. It counts for 50% of the course grade.
- 2. The final exam (essay)** is obligatory. It counts 50% of the course grade if the midterm is taken; and 100% otherwise.
- 3. Attendance:** Is compulsory. **I take attendance promptly at 8am.** Students who miss more than 4 classes will be penalized a half letter grade for the course. Those who miss more than 6 classes will be penalized a full letter grade. Those missing more than 8 classes will **FAIL**. The count begins on the third day of class. Absence from any scheduled classes other than the voluntary midterm counts against you. No excuses including medical, family and jobs interviews are accepted and there are no make-up options other than for University-approved absences. (see <http://catalog.unc.edu/policies-procedures/attendance-grading-examination/>); students with this type of absence may request a make-up examination at a time convenient to both student and instructor.”

An exception will be made for University-approved absences (see <http://catalog.unc.edu/policies-procedures/attendance-grading-examination/>); students with this type of absence may request a make-up examination at a time convenient to both student and instructor.”

- 4. Tardiness:** Students who arrive after roll call will be marked absent, unless they notify me at the end of the class.

RULES: Exams

All exams are in essay format. Performance is evaluated on neoclassical theoretical rigor and completeness according to my instructions. You must comprehend and interpret questions properly

(as I deem correct). Citing other sources does not negate your responsibility for grasping neoclassical theory as instructed in class. You cannot twist questions as you prefer. I do not judge your creativity or ethics. I evaluate exams solely on the quality of your neoclassical analysis. Grades depend solely on exam scores. All exams are in essay format. You must comprehend and interpret questions properly (as I deem correct), and cannot twist questions as you may prefer.

I will post exams on Sakai under “assignments”. Type and save your replies, and then respond as an attachment to Sakai. If there is a transmission problem, email replies to stevenr@email.unc.edu

Do not put your name on your completed exams. **Pledge** the honor code with your **student ID#**.

GRADING: Grades depend primarily on your grasp of the question, mastery, analytic prowess, insightfulness and the thoroughness of your answers, not rote (including verbatim memorization of the textbook, and other plagiarized sources). Your mastery of neoclassical economic theory as I teach the pertinent topic in class is paramount. I do not ask true/false or multiple-choice questions. “Cut and paste” is not good enough. Factual accuracy is expected including strategic citations from appropriate sources. If facts are misstated or misconstrued, 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 are not curved. I read all examinations at the same time so that I can accurately gauge your performance relative to the class norm.

Exams are graded 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 judging your performance.

Course grades depend solely on exams. No credit is given for class participation (but chronic 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 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 irrelevant.

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

GRADING SCALE (ALPHABETIC): 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.

GRADING SCALE (NUMERIC): Exams are graded numerically with scores converted to alphabetic grades. The C range is 70-79.99; B range is 80-89.99 and A range is 90-100. C, B, A correspond to scores respectively from 72.5-77.4; 82.5-87.4; and 92.5-97.4. Minuses and pluses fall in the remainder of each grade range. The sub-ranges give the benefit of the doubt to those in the minus range.

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 unmerited high grades.

REPORTING

UNC's Registrar posts grades. Do not 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 me. You may request to see an electronic copy of the best final exam. The rules stipulated above concerning your grasp of questions, mastery, analytic prowess, insightfulness and the thoroughness will govern appraisals.

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE BAN (Inapplicable for online instruction).

Unless explicitly authorized, you are not permitted to use a laptop computer, tablet computer, smart phone, or cell phone during class. Watching movies and videos, playing games, checking the scores on espn.com, and chatting with your friends are disruptive behavior that will not be tolerated.

SCHEDULE: Fall 2023

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1. First Day of Class: Tuesday August 22
2. Well-being Day Tuesday September 5
3. Midterm Exam: Tuesday October 17
4. Fall Break Thursday October 19
5. Thanksgiving Recess Thursday November 22
6. Classes End: Tuesday, December 5

7. Final Exam: **Thursday, December 14, 12 noon**

OFFICE: Gardner 300-D

OFFICE HOURS: 6:45-7:45am by appointment

