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**Curriculum Proposal Cover Sheet - University-Wide Undergraduate Curriculum Committee**

Contact Person Donald W. Buckwalter	Email Address donalddb@iup.edu
Proposing Department/Unit Geography and Regional Planning	Phone 7-3763

Check all appropriate lines and complete information as requested. Use a separate cover sheet for each course proposal and for each program proposal.

<b>1. Course Proposals (check all that apply)</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> New Course	<input type="checkbox"/> Course Prefix Change	<input type="checkbox"/> Course Deletion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Course Revision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Course Number and/or Title Change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Catalog Description Change
GEOG 254 - Geography of Russia and the Soviet Sphere <i>Current Course prefix, number and full title</i>		GEOG 254 - Geography of Russia, Central Eurasia, and Eastern Europe. <i>Proposed course prefix, number and full title, if changing</i>
<b>2. Additional Course Designations: check if appropriate</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This course is also proposed as a Liberal Studies Course.		<input type="checkbox"/> Other: (e.g., Women's Studies, Pan-African)
<input type="checkbox"/> This course is also proposed as an Honors College Course.		
<b>3. Program Proposals</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> New Degree Program	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Title Change	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Revision
<input type="checkbox"/> New Minor Program	<input type="checkbox"/> New Track	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<i>Current program name</i>		<i>Proposed program name, if changing</i>
<b>4. Approvals</b>		<b>Date</b>
Department Curriculum Committee Chair(s)	Gail Schuist	9/15/08
Department Chair(s)	Tom Benhart	9/15/08
College Curriculum Committee Chair	[Signature]	10/1/08
College Dean	[Signature]	10/27/08
Director of Liberal Studies *	Meryl Saller	10/10/08
Director of Honors College *		
Provost *		
Additional signatures as appropriate: (include title)		
UWUCC Co-Chairs	Gail Schuist	10/29/08

\* where applicable

Received                      Received  
 OCT 21 2008                      OCT 03 2008  
 Liberal Studies      Liberal Studies

**GEOG 254 GEOGRAPHY OF RUSSIA, CENTRAL EURASIA, AND EASTERN EUROPE**  
**INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

(3c-01-3cr)  
3 class hours  
0 lab hours  
3 credits

Prerequisites: none

Examines the Russian Federation, former Soviet satellites, and the European and Asiatic successor states. The region is the realm of Eurasian languages, historical schisms between eastern and western Europe, and the geographical legacies of the Tsarist and Soviet empires. Topics include terrain and environment, population, economic regions, resources, and geopolitics. These are studied in the context of environmental location and position between Eastern and Western power centers of the 21st century.

**II. COURSE OUTCOMES. By the end of the course, students will be able to:**

1. Evaluate relations of Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Eurasia with the Western realm led by the United States.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the long term geographical context of current events.
3. Classify landscapes and recognize the human contributions that are the artifacts of cultural, economic, military, and political activities.
4. Apply the concept of Eurasia within the field of global studies.

**III. DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE:**

**TOPIC**

**READING  
ASSIGNMENT**

A. Introduction and Plan of the Course (1 hour)

B. Overview (2 hours)

1. The changing societies
2. Five geopolitical sub-regions

Dando ch. 1

C. Physical Geography (3 hours)

1. Size and location
2. Terrain regions
3. Environmental zones
  - tundra
  - taiga
  - mixed forest
  - steppe
  - desert

Packet: Treivish  
Dando: Ch. 2

**DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE: continued**  
**GE 254: Geography of Russia, Central Eurasia, and Eastern Europe**

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>READING ASSIGNMENT</b>
J. Regions of Russia (4 hours) 1. Local and regional government -economic planning regions -oblasts and krays 2. Post-Soviet regional advantage 3. Autonomous territories	Packet: Bradshaw & Vartapetov
SECOND EXAM (1 hour)	
K. Former Soviet states (near abroad) (6 hours) 1. Concepts: ethnicity & nationalism 2. Eastern Europe -Baltic States -Belarus & Ukraine 3. Trans-Caucasus 4. Central Asia -Kazakhstan -Two lowland countries -Two mountain countries	Packet: Anacker Dando: Ch. 7
L. ORAL AND WRITTEN REPORTS (1 hour)	
M. Central and Eastern Europe (6 hours) 1. Physical geography 2. Geopolitical themes -borderlands (marchlands) -shatterbelt -multinationalism -nationalism 3. Political geography of the "cold war" 4. Ethnolinguistic complexity 5. Individual countries	Packet: Jordan Packet: Pavlínek
N. THIRD EXAMINATION (1 hour, administered during the scheduled final exam period)	

#### **IV. EVALUATION:**

#### **GE 254: Geography of Russia, Central Eurasia, and Eastern Europe**

Students will be evaluated on three examinations and a book review presented in two parts. The distribution of points for the course is as follows:

First Examination	100 points
Second Examination	100 points
Third Examination	100 points
Written Report	100 points
Location Quizzes	bonus points

Examination questions are taken from lectures, reading assignments, and handouts. Each examination will cover approximately one-third of the course and consist of a variety of question formats. Some of the exams will include essay questions. The written report is based on either a specified optional reading or a reading topic of the students choosing (see attached instructions).

#### **V. EXAMPLE GRADING SCALE:**

The final grade of the course is based on the following scale:

A	360 or more points
B	320 to 359 points
C	280 to 319 points
D	240 to 279 points
F	0 to 239 points

#### **VI. UNDERGRADUATE COURSE ATTENDANCE POLICY**

*Good attendance* is necessary for high quality work and means no more than three hours of absence during the semester for **any** combination of reasons. Make-up exams are allowed only for compelling reasons that can be documented. Location quizzes provide bonus point opportunities for students who are in attendance at the time of the quiz.

#### **VII. REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

Dando, William A. 2007. *Russia*, 2nd ed. New York: Chelsea House.  
Course packet, Pro-Packet Copiers, selected readings from *Eurasian Geography and Economics*.

#### **VIII. SPECIAL RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS**

Students prepare for the location quizzes by developing proficiency with an atlas. They are supplied with a printed study guide but must learn to use the atlases in the university library system, or find another source of comparable quality. There is no lab fee for the course.

## **IX. BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

**The following articles are contained in the course packet:**

- # 1: Treivish, Andrei. 2005. "A New Russian Heartland: The Demographic and Economic Dimension." *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, 46/2: 123-155.
- # 2: Shaw, Denis J.B. 1989. "The Settlement of European Russia During the Romanov Period." *Soviet Geography* 30: 207-228.
- # 3: Aslund, Anders. 2004. "Russia's Economic Transformation under Putin." *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, 45/6: 397-420.
- # 4: Bater, James H. 2006. "Central St. Petersburg: Continuity and Change in Privilege and Place." *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, 47/1: 4-27.
- # 5: Micklin, Philip. 2002. "Water in the Aral Sea Basin of Central Asia: Cause of Conflict or Cooperation?" *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, 43/7: 505-528.
- # 6: Wegren, Stephen K. 2005. "Russian Agriculture During Putin's First Term and Beyond." *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, 46/3: 224-244.
- # 7: Bradshaw, Michael J.; and Vartapetov, Karen. 2003. "A New Perspective on Regional Inequalities in Russia." *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, 44/6: 403-429.
- # 8: Anacker, Shonin. 2004. "Geographies of Power in Nazarbayev's Astana." *Eurasian Geography and Economics* 45/7: 515-533.
- # 9: Jordan, Peter. 2001. "Regional Identities and Regionalization in East-Central Europe." *Post-Soviet Geography and Economics*, 42/4: 235-265.
- # 10: Pavlínek, Petr. 2002. "Restructuring the Central and Eastern European Automobile Industry: Legacies, Trends, and Effects of Foreign Direct Investment." *Post-Soviet Geography and Economics*, 43/1: 41-77.

### **Selected books of interest:**

- Baev, Pavel. 1997. *Russia's Policies in the Caucasus*. Former Soviet South Project. London: Royal Institute of International Affairs.
- Bater, James H. 1989. *The Soviet Scene: A Geographical Perspective*. London: Edward Arnold.
- Bek, Anna Nikolaevna. 2004. *The Life of a Russian Woman Doctor: A Siberian Memoir, 1869-1954*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- Brade, Isolde; and Bondarchuk, Evgenij. 2006. *The Transformation of Urban Space in Post-Soviet Russia*. London: Taylor and Francis.

- Brumfield, William C. 1993. *A History of Russian Architecture*. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press.
- Chandler, William. 2000. *Energy and Environment in the Transition Economies*. Boulder, Colorado: Westview.
- Ellman, Michael, ed. 2006. *Russia's Oil and Natural Gas: Bonanza or Curse*. World Congress for Central and East European Studies (7th: 2005: Berlin, Germany). London: Anthem Press.
- Gilbert, Martin. 2007. *The Routledge Atlas of Russian History*. London: Routledge.
- Ioffe, Grigory. 2008. *Understanding Belarus and how Western Foreign Policy Misses the Mark*. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield.
- Goldovskaya, Marina E. 2006. *Woman With a Movie Camera: My Life as a Russian Filmmaker*. Translated by Antonina W. Bouis. Austin: University of Texas Press.
- Ioffe, Grigory; Nefedova, Tatyana; and Zaslavsky, Ilya. 2006. *The End of Peasantry? The Disintegration of Rural Russia*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press.
- Kolstoe, Paul. 1995. *Russians in the former Soviet Republics*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- Lydolph, Paul E. 1990. *Geography of the U.S.S.R.*, 5th ed. Elkhart Lake, Wisconsin: Misty Valley Publishing, 1990.
- Ruble, B.A.; Koehn, J.; and Popson, N.; eds. 2001. *Fragmented Space in the Russian Federation*. Washington, D.C.: Woodrow Wilson Center Press.
- Rugg, Dean S. *Eastern Europe*. The World's Landscapes Series. London: Longman, 1985.
- Shahgendanova, Maria, ed. 2002. *The Physical Geography of Northern Eurasia*. Oxford, U.K.: Oxford University Press.
- Thornton, Judith; and Ziegler, Charles E. 2002. *Russia's Far East: A Region at Risk*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2002.
- Tsygankov, Andrei P. 2006. *Russia's Foreign Policy: Change and Continuity in National Identity*. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield.
- Turnock, David, ed. 2001. *East Central Europe and the Former Soviet Union: Environment and Society*. London: Arnold.
- Velychevko, Stephen, ed. 2007. *Ukraine, the EU, and Russia: History, Culture, and International Relations*. Basingstoke, U.K.: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Weiner, Douglas R. 2002. *A Little Corner of Freedom: Russian Nature Protection from Stalin to Gorbachev*. Berkeley: University of California Press

### **SUMMARY OF COURSE REVISIONS:**

The course title is changed from GEOG 254 "Geography of Russia and the Soviet Sphere" to GEOG 254 "Geography of Russia, Central Eurasia, and Eastern Europe."

The catalog description is changed as indicated on the attached syllabus.

The syllabus of record is modified to keep abreast of changes in the field and reflect updated readings. Copies of the old and new syllabi are attached.

### **JUSTIFICATION FOR THE CHANGES:**

Changes for the course title and catalog description of GEOG 254 have not been approved since 1994, but the region has changed! The new title and description are consistent with regional terminology established by the Association of American Geographers. Reference to the "Soviet sphere" in the old title is obsolete to future students who were not yet born when the Soviet Union collapsed. The territory of northern Eurasia shares a physical presence and the experience of economic and political transition from Communism and, before that, a cultural, economic, and political history decidedly different from that of Western Europe. The basic structure of the course remains the same because the established framework emphasizes the distinct character of the region and develops appropriate themes. New information has been added continuously to update the themes. The proposed course title and catalog description reflect the necessary changes in content.

The new information of the course comes from current events, the scholarly literature cited in the bibliography, and fieldwork. The latter occurred in 2006 as the primary instructor participated in the University of Pittsburgh Center for Russian and Eastern European Studies Summer Institute. This activity included 5 weeks in Russia with both language training and cultural activities. It was supported in part by a SSHE-FPDC faculty development grant.

GE 254: GEOGRAPHY OF RUSSIA AND THE SOVIET SPHERE  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA  
3 credits, 3 lecture hours

I. Catalog Description:

Prerequisites: none

Examines the Russian Republic and the former Soviet empire including the new nations emerging from the U.S.S.R. and former satellite nations. Settlement patterns, economics, cultures, and physical environments are studied. Contemporary topical emphasis is placed on efforts at transformation from communist to market economics and the geo-political status of the new nations.

II. Course Objectives:

1. Students will be able to realistically evaluate relations of Russia and the Soviet sphere of influence with the Western realm led by the United States.
2. Students will know the long term geographical context of current events.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of landscapes, especially the human contributions that are the artifacts of cultural, economic, military, and political activities.

III. Detailed Course Outline:

LECTURE TOPIC

READING  
ASSIGNMENT

A. Introduction (1 hour)

B. Concepts of Regional Geography (1 hour)

C. Physical Geography (3 hours)

1. Terrain regions
2. Climate
3. Relationship to culture

Bater Ch. 1

D. Pre-Soviet history (6 hours)

1. Medieval migrations
2. Emergence of the Russian empire
3. Feudalism
4. Multi-nationalism and nationalism
5. Emergence of spatially fragmented culture groups

Bater Ch. 2



DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE: continued

LECTURE TOPIC	READING ASSIGNMENT
E. The Soviet System (5 hours) 1. Administration 2. Economic and social policies	Bater Chs. 3 & 4
FIRST EXAM (1 hour)	
F. Natural resource management and agriculture (6 hours) 1. Small holdings 2. Collectivization 3. Possibilism	Bater Chs. 7, & 8
G. Urbanization: multi-national and socialist influences on form and function (6 hours)	Bater Ch. 5
SECOND EXAMINATION (1 hour)	
H. Industrialization and regional development (6 hours) 1. Basic industry 2. Spatial allocation policies 3. Foreign investments and joint ventures	Bater Ch. 9
I. Contemporary eastern Europe: the example of the Ukraine (6 hours) 1. De-industrialization 2. Nationalism 3. Political and economic transitions	Motyl
J. Conclusion: optimistic and pessimistic assessments	
Final Exam Period	THIRD EXAMINATION

EVALUATION: You will be evaluated on three examinations, a book review, and a mapping assignment. The distribution of points for the course is as follows:

First Examination	100 points
Second Examination	100 points
Third Examination	100 points
Book Review--written	50 points
Book Reviews--discussion	<u>50 points</u>

TOTAL: 400 points

Examination questions are taken from lectures, reading assignments, and handouts. Each examination will cover approximately one-third of the course and consist of a variety of question formats. Some of the exams will include essay questions. The book review is your analysis of the assigned reading, Dilemmas of Independence by Motyl. Students write a review of the book and lead a classroom discussion of one chapter.

The final grade of the course is based on the following scale:

A	360 to 400 points
B	320 to 359 points
C	280 to 319 points
D	240 to 279 points
F	0 to 239 points

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Bater, James H. The Soviet Scene: A Geographical Perspective. London: Edward Arnold, 1989.

Motyl, Alexander J. Dilemmas of Independence: Ukraine After Totalitarianism. New York: Council on Foreign Relations Press, 1993.

## CHECK LIST -- NON-WESTERN CULTURES

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### Knowledge Area Criteria which the course must meet:

- Treat concepts, themes and events in sufficient depth to enable students to appreciate the complexity, history and current implications of what is being studied; and not be merely cursory coverage of lists of topics.
- Suggest the major intellectual questions/problems which interest practitioners of a discipline and explore critically the important theories and principles presented by the discipline.
- Allow students to understand and apply the methods of inquiry and vocabulary commonly used in the discipline.
- Encourage students to use and enhance, wherever possible, the composition and mathematics skills built in the Skill Areas of Liberal Studies.

### Non-Western Culture Criteria which the course must meet:

- Develop an understanding of contemporary cultures that differ substantially from the prevailing cultures of the United States, Canada, Western Europe, New Zealand and Australia.
- Present cultures on their own terms with an appreciation of their dimensions, going beyond mere description of a culture. Those dimensions may include religion, economics, politics, art, language, literature, ethics, as well as other dimensions of the cultural milieu.
- Address, where appropriate, the experience of women and/or the roles of men and women.

### Additional Non-Western Culture Criteria which the course should meet:

- Encourage the use of indigenous material whenever possible rather than rely on secondary instructional material, reviews of the literature, or textbooks exclusively.
- Encourage the student to acquire cultural appreciation and understanding, and provide students with an opportunity to demonstrate the ability to analyze and synthesize information about culture.

### These additional Non-Western Cultures guidelines indicate the various forms which appropriate courses may take; check all that apply.

- Although a course may deal with a single culture,...
- ... comparative courses addressing relationships among cultures are encouraged.
- A course may present one or more cultures by emphasizing a single dimension, e.g. art, music, dance, politics, religion. Such a course is appropriate if the dimension is represented in its cultural context, emphasizing cultural ideals, norms and issues.
- A variety of perspectives or methodologies--anthropological, geographical, historical, sociological, and so forth--may be employed so long as the course emphasizes the cultural phenomena, issues and values in contemporary society.
- Literature courses, either in translation or in the language of the culture(s), can be appropriate if the dimension is represented in its cultural context, emphasizing cultural ideals, norms and issues.
- An approved exchange/study abroad program, which meets the general criteria of the non-Western requirements, may meet the requirements of the Liberal Studies program.
- An internship can meet the requirements for a non-Western course. A research paper or a report should be required that demonstrates learning appropriate to the Non-Western Culture criteria.
- Interdisciplinary courses that treat cultural issues apart from the dominant United States, Canada, Western Europe, New Zealand and Australian cultures are encouraged.

## CHECK LIST -- LIBERAL STUDIES ELECTIVES

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### Knowledge Area Criteria which the course must meet:

- X Treat concepts, themes and events in sufficient depth to enable students to appreciate the complexity, history and current implications of what is being studied; and not be merely cursory coverage of lists of topics.
- X Suggest the major intellectual questions/problems which interest practitioners of a discipline and explore critically the important theories and principles presented by the discipline.
- X Allow students to understand and apply the methods of inquiry and vocabulary commonly used in the discipline.
- X Encourage students to use and enhance, wherever possible, the composition and mathematics skills built in the Skill Areas of Liberal Studies.

### Liberal Studies Elective Criteria which the course must meet:

- X Meet the "General Criteria Which Apply to All Liberal Studies Courses."
- X Not be a technical, professional or pre-professional course.

**Explanation:** Appropriate courses are to be characterized by learning in its broad, liberal sense rather than in the sense of technique or preprofessional proficiency.. For instance, assuming it met all the other criteria for Liberal Studies, a course in "Theater History" might be appropriate, while one in "The Craft of Set Construction" probably would not; or, a course in "Modern American Poetry" might be appropriate, while one in "New Techniques for Teaching Writing in Secondary Schools" probably would not; or, a course on "Mass Media and American Society" might be appropriate, while one in "Television Production Skills" probably would not; or, a course in "Human Anatomy" might be appropriate, while one in "Strategies for Biological Field Work" probably would not; or, a course in "Intermediate French" might be appropriate, while one in "Practical Methods for Professional Translators" probably would not.