

POLITICAL SCIENCE 304
POLITICS OF EASTERN EUROPE
TAKE-HOME EXAM
FALL 2019

Directions: Write 4 to 5 pages on one of the following topics and submit your essay at the beginning of class on Tuesday, November 5th, 2019. Work will be evaluated for content, quality of argumentation, and writing ability.

- (1) It can be argued that the geography of East-Central Europe has in many ways determined the region's fate. Why is this so? In crafting an essay on the geopolitics of East-Central Europe, be sure to make reference to your reading in Johnson, *Central Europe* and to class presentations. You should also demonstrate that you know what "geopolitics" is, and why it is important.
- (2) As Lonnie Johnson says at the very beginning of his book, "historical memory, the presence of a past that is so remote that it bears little or no resemblance to the so-called realities of the contemporary world, is an important Central European attribute. History in this part of the world is epic and tragic. Small nations frequently have struggled against larger ones and have lost regularly." Write an essay that details at least two case studies of where long-ago history (prior to the 20th century) continues to provide a powerful legacy East-Central Europe in the early 21st century.
- (3) Of the major imperial powers that shaped the history of East-Central Europe – the Ottoman Empire, the Hapsburg Empire, the Russian Empire, and the German Empire – which had the greatest influence over the region's evolution, and why? Why did the empires you did not select have a lesser influence? Your historical account should end with the beginning of World War I (1914).

Pay close attention to your writing. Demonstrate that you have understood the required material for this course. Do *not* write a paper that is simply a product of "fishing" on the internet . . . down that path lies a bad grade.