

ELECTRONIC DEVICES:

Laptop computers may not be used in class, unless you have a documented disability that requires it. It has been my experience that much of the time a student is using a laptop in class, the student is doing things totally unrelated to the course (such as catching up on work for another course, e-mailing friends, or accessing Facebook). The use of laptops is distracting to other students and the instructor, and is both annoying and disrespectful when PowerPoint or a video is being shown. **If you cannot live with this rule, take another class.**

Cell phones should be turned off for the duration of each class. Text messaging during class is expressly prohibited, for the same reasons that laptop computers may not be used. If I see you texting in class, I will stop whatever the class is doing and we will all simply wait until you have finished. I will not teach a class during which students have their attention buried in their electronics. **If you absolutely must use your cell phone, please quietly leave the room and take care of your business in the hallway.**

DISABLED STUDENTS:

If you are in need of accommodation for a disability in order to participate in this class, please let me know as soon as possible. You should also contact Services to Students with Disabilities at UH-183, (909) 537-5238.

MAJOR COURSE ASSIGNMENT: PROPOSITION PAPER

The major exercise for this class is to prepare a proposition paper, in favor of or against one of the propositions listed below. The paper should be between seven and eight pages long, double-spaced, 11 or 12 point font, 1 inch margins. It should have a well-defined introduction, main body, and conclusion. It should use footnotes (Chicago style), have page numbers and a separate bibliography. **All papers should be delivered in both electronic and hard copy.** There are fourteen options:

Proposition 1: The former republics of the Soviet Union naturally lie in Russia's sphere of influence, and we should recognize this reality in order to prevent avoidable and purposeless confrontations. This particularly applies to Ukraine and Belarus.

Proposition 2: The enlargement of the European Union (EU) to include the new member states of East-Central Europe has been a success, despite the Euro crisis, the recent refugee crisis, and the geopolitical confrontation between the west and Russia.

Proposition 3: Russia, as an "energy superpower," is using gas and oil exports to put pressure on the countries of Western Europe and to reassert control of Central and Eastern Europe.

Proposition 4: The "Schengen Zone" will succumb to the recent refugee crisis, to the rise of right-wing political parties in Western Europe, and to problems with smuggling, trafficking, and organized crime. Despite a history going back to the 1980s, its time has passed.

Proposition 5: Enlargement of NATO in 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2013 to encompass nations of the former Warsaw Pact, former Soviet Union and former Yugoslavia has created instability on the European continent. This is particularly true of the incorporation of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. For this reason Ukraine and Georgia should not be allowed to join the alliance. Valid?

Proposition 6: The United States and its western allies have failed to understand the fundamental dynamics of Russian foreign policy, and – as a consequence – have failed to respond effectively to the Putin government's foreign policy initiatives.

Proposition 7: The United States should guard against efforts by Germany to subordinate Eastern Europe to its political and economic agenda, part of which is to forge a new relationship between Berlin and Moscow while pursuing a new *Sonderweg*.

Proposition 8: Turkey is not sufficiently Western and democratic in political and economic institutions, in its party politics, and in its fundamental freedoms to be admitted to full membership in the EU.

Proposition 9: Events in Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Georgia and Armenia have indicated that those five countries can never be fully integrated with the rest of Europe, and that they will always fall under the ambit of Russia.

Proposition 10: Poland is on the way to reasserting its historical role as a significant power in Central Europe, despite its geopolitical positioning between Germany and Russia.

Proposition 11: Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary each took somewhat different routes to democratic transition and the marketization of their economies. The evidence now indicates that the route chosen by Poland was the most successful.

COURSE SCHEDULE

September 24: *Introduction to the Course: Geography, Geopolitics, Peoples of Eastern Europe.*

Reading: Johnson, "Introduction: Where is Central Europe?", "Central Europe and the Roman Christian West," "Feudal Foundations, 1000-1350," and "The Great Late Medieval Kingdoms," Chapters 1, 2 and 3, *Central Europe*, pp. 3-60.

October 1: *Modern History: Eastern Europe under Three Empires; Self-Determination and Independence AND Two World Wars and the Interwar Period.*

Reading: Johnson, "The Bulwarks of Christendom: Religion and Warfare, 1400-1550," "The Counter-Reformation: The Roman Catholic Church and the Habsburg Dynasty Triumphant, 1550-1700," "Absolutism as Enlightenment, 1700-1790," "Nations Without States, States Without Nations, 1790-1848," and "The Demise of Imperial Austria and Rise of Imperial Germany, 1848-1890," Chapters 4-8, *Central Europe*, pp. 61-80, 81-97, 98-117, 118-140, 141-161. Johnson, "World War I and National Self-Determination,