

## Course Syllabus

1. **Program of Study** Bachelor of Arts (Social Science)  
**Faculty/Institute/College** Mahidol University International College
2. **Course Code** ICSO 349  
**Course Title** Society, Politics and Economics in Contemporary Russia and Former Soviet Republics
3. **Number of Credits** 4 (**Lecture / Lab**) (4-0)
4. **Prerequisite (s)** ISCO 248
5. **Type of Course** Major elective of International Studies Concentration
6. **Trimester / Academic Year** Not yet specified

7. **Course Description**

Contemporary Russia and the former Soviet Republics. The legacy of Communism. The new openness. Economic hardship and dependency on the West. Patterns of economic development. The rise of organized crime. The new status of religion. Russia and the information revolution. Future prospects.

8. **Course Objective (s)**

- (i) To provide students with an overview of the contemporary situation in the countries of the former USSR.
- (ii) To introduce the patterns of post Communist society.

9. **Course Outline**

Week	Topic		Instructor
	Lecture	Hour	
1	Introduction : Post Communist states	4	TBA
2	A brief introduction to Communism and the USSR	4	
3	Gorbachev, Glasnost and Perestroika	4	
4	The situation in Eastern Europe	4	
5	The Russian Constitution and government	4	
6	Building a new state; the economics and politics of Russia	4	
7	The Yeltsin years; Quest of democratic governance	4	
8	Putin and the reformation	4	
9	The Legislature and the Law	4	
10	Central Asian Republics, the Ukraine and Georgia	4	
11	Problems : Weapons, Muslim insurgency, poverty and crime	4	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	

**10. Teaching Method (s)**

Lecture and discussion.

**11. Teaching Media**

Texts, transparencies, videos.

**12. Measurement and evaluation of student achievement**

The standard scale of 90 - 100 = A, 85 - 89 = B+, 80 - 84 = B, etc. 60 is required to pass.

**13. Course evaluation**

Grading will be based on two in - class exams (45% each) and contribution to discussion 10%.

**14. Reference (s)**

- 1) Brown, Archie, *Contemporary Russian Politics : A Reader*. Oxford University Press, 2001.
- 2) White, Stephen. *Communism and Its Collapse*, Routledge, 2001.

**15. Instructor (s)**

TBA

**16. Course Coordinator**

Eugene Jones