

PSCI 3440
Russian and Central Asian Politics
Exam I Study Guide
Spring 2019

- This list of questions is provided to guide your review. I do not promise that any of the longer essay exam questions will be among those you find below (although some might). But if you can provide *detailed* and *sophisticated* answers to these questions, you should do very well.
- If a question calls for a 10 minute response, don't write for 20. You may provide an excellent answer, but will sacrifice elsewhere. Similarly, if a question calls for 20 minutes, don't stop at 10.
- If you finish very early, you probably haven't said enough. *The biggest reason for poor performance on exams is brevity. Your goal is to demonstrate to us that you have not only memorized information, but that you understand it.*
- Be thorough, but at the same time don't fill your answers with fluff (content that really doesn't say anything).
- It is essential that you bring an **exam book** to the exam. (You might as well pick up two more for the coming exams.) There will be a 5% deduction from your score if you do not.

Study questions for short-answer essay questions (10 minute responses). Three of these questions will be on the exam (as is); you'll be required to answer two. Note: a one or two-sentence "drive by" response will be inadequate. Use the full ten minutes to flesh out a detailed response.

1. According to Marx, what is the relationship between alienation, exploitation, and private property?
2. What was the socialist basic goods package and why was it an integral part of the Soviet system?
3. In the Shiraev text, he states that "by the early 1980s, the whole of Soviet society has seemingly reached a point of economic and moral stagnation." Based on both text and lecture, what were the problems?
4. What is the difference between extensive and intensive development? How does that distinction help us understand better why the Soviet Union collapsed? (from class)
5. What were the perestroika reforms Gorbachev undertook (i.e., what specifically did he introduce)? (from class and Shiraev)

Study questions for longer essay questions (20 minute responses).

1. What was the logic of communism? Why did it fail to live up to its promise?
2. What is involved in marketizing a centrally-planned economy? What have been the most difficult steps and how did the Russian leadership choose to undertake them? What is the state of the economy now that the transition is complete?
3. Both Shiraev and I provided a list of factors that led to the demise of Soviet communism. What are they? (Note: he discusses some that I didn't and vice versa.)
4. What were the changes Putin made in the executive branch and why do many Russians view the state as democratic, even if in a uniquely Russian way?