

ECONOMICS 366

Economies in Transition

May 2002

[Prof. Marina Rosser](#)

E-mail: rossermv@jmu.edu

Course Objective

The purpose of this class is to introduce the theory and practice of transitional economics and to discuss empirical experiences of the Former Soviet Union (FSU) as a main case study.

Non-economic aspects of Soviet society as well as Soviet relations with the rest of the world will be emphasized. Special attention will be given to the current stage of the economic transition and its prospects in Russia and the republics of the FSU.

Text

Paul Gregory and Robert Stuart, *Russian and Soviet Economic Performance and Structure*, 2001, seventh edition. Addison-Wesley Educational Publishers, Inc.

Grade

To be determined by three exams, each will count 30% of the final grade. Grade will be solely dependent on the student's performance and not on the student's need.

Recommended readings

1. The basics of Economic Transition
 - Marie Lavigne, *The Economics of Transition*, 1999, St. Martin's Press, Chapter 7.
 - Lawrence Klein, What Do Economists Know about Transition to a Market Economy? in *The New Russia*, edited by Lawrence Klein and Marshall Pomer, 2001, Stanford University Press, Chapter 5
2. History of Socialist Movements up to 1917
 - Karl Marx, *Critique of the Gotha Program* (on reserve)
3. The Socialist Controversy
 - Ludwig von Mises, *Economic Calculation in Socialism*
 - Oscar Lange, *The Economic Theory of Socialism*
4. Historical Background of the Soviet Economy
 - Gregory and Stuart, Chapters 2-5
 - Marie Lavigne, Chapter 2
5. Soviet Economic Organization and Management
 - Gregory and Stuart, Chapters 6-7

FIRST EXAM

6. Soviet Agriculture and Foreign Economic Relations
 - Gregory and Stuart, Chapter 8
7. Soviet Economic Growth and Performance

- Gregory and Stuart, Chapters 9-10
 - Marie Lavigne, Chapter 4
8. Soviet Economic Reform
- Gregory and Stuart, Chapters 11
 - The Sixth Wave, A Survey of Russia, *The Economist*, December 5, 1992

SECOND EXAM

9. Post-Soviet Transformation
- A Survey of Russia, *The Economist*, July 12, 1997.
 - Gregory and Stuart, Chapter 12-13
10. Economy in transition: price liberalization and privatization
- Gregory and Stuart, Chapters 14-15.
11. Changing structure: sectoral performance
Gregory and Stuart, Chapters 16-17
12. Alternative Reform Paths in the Former USSR Republics
- A Caspian Gamble, A Survey of Central Asia, *The Economist*, February 7, 1998.
 - Gregory and Stuart, Chapters 18-19
13. Conclusion and the Prospects of Transition to Market Economy
- Survey of Russia, *The Economist*, July 14, 2001
 - Alan Gelb, The End of Transition? in Annette Brown, editor, *When is the Transition Over?* W.E. Upjohn, 1999, Chapter 2

FINAL EXAM

It is strongly recommended to obtain the copies of the readings in advance given high enrollment and respective demand for the sources during the actual session.