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University of Montana—Political Science Department
Political Science 337: Ending the Cold War in Asia
Spring Semester 1996

Professor Martin E. Weinstein

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Ending the Cold War in Asia is a seminar designed to provide students with an opportunity to carefully and thoroughly read, discuss and write about three books on recent developments in and relations among the four major powers in Asian-Pacific international relations—the United States, Japan, China and Russia. Since the Pacific Basin is home to the most productive and fastest growing nations in the world, the future of the United States and of the entire world will be heavily influenced by the course of events in this region.

The three books assigned to students in this seminar are:

Jeffrey E. Garten, *A Cold Peace: America, Japan and Germany and the Struggle for Supremacy*

Steven Kull, *Burying Lenin: The Revolution in Soviet Ideology and Foreign Policy*

Harry Harding, *A Fragile Relationship: The United States and China Since 1972*

Students will be expected to complete the reading assigned for each seminar meeting, and to be prepared to discuss, question and assess the assignment in class. Students are required to prepare a six page precis of each assigned book. The precis will include: 1) a description of the thesis of the book; 2) a description of the arguments and evidence the author uses in support of the thesis; and 3) an evaluation of a) the logical validity of the book, and b) the value of its contribution to an understanding of international politics in Asia.

Grades for the course will be based on the grades of the three precis, with each precis counting for one third of the course grade. In order to receive full credit, precis must be turned in on time, be within the six page limit, and be grammatically and typographically correct. Precis that are turned in late, exceed the page limit, or have excessive errors will be penalized.