

POLITICS IN RUSSIA (CPO 3633)
SUMMER 2013
MONDAY-FRIDAY, PERIOD 4 (12:30-1:45)

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Office Hours:

Immediately after class &
by appointment

COURSE OBJECTIVES

What happens to a global superpower once it collapses? How does a European backwater become a global superpower in the first place? Can democracy take root in a country, like Russia, with such a long history of authoritarian and totalitarian rule?

This course focuses on politics in the Russian Federation. It briefly introduces the student to the politics of the Soviet Union and addresses the fundamental changes that have occurred in Russia, the largest and most important country to emerge from the breakup of the USSR. As the core of the former Soviet Union, current problems in Russia highlight the various economic, political and social difficulties that have accompanied the region's transition away from Soviet rule. While Russia had made more progress toward a democratic political system and a capitalist economy than several former Soviet republics during the 1990s (like Belarus, Ukraine and the Central Asian states), economic and political freedoms have since declined substantially. How can we understand these developments? The course provides students a foundation for answering this difficult question.

The course begins by covering early Soviet-era politics, the major political and social events that occurred during Soviet rule, and the economic and political reforms under Gorbachev. Following a discussion of the collapse of the Soviet Union, the course focuses on the initial struggle for power in post-Soviet Russia and the origins and evolution of its political institutions. After establishing the institutional framework structuring Russian politics, the course turns to the various political challenges that faced post-Soviet Russia under Yeltsin as well as those that confront Russia today. This survey will include comparisons of how Russia's political institutions, policies, and place in the world have changed over time. As a Comparative Politics (CPO) course, there will be a regular attempt to place these developments in comparative perspective.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Students are responsible for all materials in the lectures and readings as well as any handouts (electronic or otherwise). A significant portion of the material that will be covered in class cannot be found in the assigned readings. Likewise, many aspects of the assigned readings will not be covered in class. Thus, while the lectures and readings will complement one another,

students are required to regularly attend class and do the assigned readings ahead of time. The following components will determine final course grades:

1. Class attendance and in-class participation, worth **20%** of the final course grade;
2. Two examinations, each is worth **40%** of the final course grade (80% total).

The required reading for the course comes from:

1. Mary McAuley. 1992. *Soviet Politics, 1917-1991*. Oxford University Press
2. Online journal articles and other electronic resources.

Using scholarly journal articles keeps the course content current while the electronic option keeps the costs of the material for the course to a minimum.

You can locate the readings yourself by using the internet and the University of Florida's library, including its website (<http://www.uflib.ufl.edu/>). However, to ease the burden, I have created a project site for the course on e-Learning (<https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>) and have uploaded the required reading there.

Persons with Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Anyone with a disability should feel free to see me during office hours to make the necessary arrangements.

POLICIES

Policies on Attendance, Participation, Cell Phones, and Laptops

Since class discussions and lectures often add new concepts, ideas, and interpretations to the material covered in the reading that students will be responsible for knowing, it is in your best interest to attend every class and to arrive on time. All cell phones and computers should be silenced before class begins. Their use should be approved class purposes only (e.g., taking notes, reviewing the reading, etc.). Violations of these policies may constitute disruptive behavior.

Higher attendance rates and more frequent (and higher quality) participation will yield better attendance and participation grades:

- 19-20%: Reflects perfect attendance as well as frequent participation revealing knowledge of the assigned readings;
- 12-18%, Indicates that a student attended 60-90% of class sessions with occasional (rather than frequent) participation about the topic being discussed and not necessarily based on the assigned readings (e.g., personal experience or reflection)
- 6-11%: Signifies that a student attended 60% or less of class sessions. (The frequency of participation is not considered in this score because attendance is too limited.)
- 0-5%: Reflects a failure to attend class, habitual tardiness, or disruptive behavior.

Students are encouraged to review the University's attendance policies at <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationattendance.html>.

Students should consider following political developments in the Russian Federation. One option is to use a free email News Alert from [Google](#) (using the search term, Russia).

Policies on Make-up Exams and Late Papers

Make-up exams will be arranged *only for university accepted excuses*. In the event of an absence, students should provide me with proper documentation. *In all cases, students should try to notify the professor prior to the absence*. If a student misses a quiz or an exam and cannot contact me beforehand, it is the student's responsibility to contact me within 24 hours of the absence. If the student fails to contact the professor within the allotted time, the student will receive a **zero**. (In almost any situation, you should be able to pass along a message to the professor via email, a roommate or a family member.) Make-ups will be given during finals week (see below).

All papers and class assignments are due before the start of class. Late papers will be downgraded in relation to how late they are. Papers arriving after the start of class but within 24 hours will receive a 5% penalty. The late penalty will increase by 5% every 24 hours.

Policies on Cheating & Plagiarism

All students should observe the University of Florida's standards of academic honesty. In the event that a student is found cheating, s/he will automatically fail the course and will be reported to Student Judicial Affairs.

Acts of plagiarism include turning in any assignment that:

- is written by someone else (e.g., by another author, student, or downloaded off the internet);
- copies, verbatim, sentences or phrases from the work of another author without enclosing the sentences or phrases in quotation marks and properly acknowledging the source through a commonly accepted citation style;
- paraphrases (i.e., restating in your own words) text written by someone else without citing that author;
- uses a unique idea or concept, which you discovered in a specific reading, without citing that work.

NOTE: Students are not permitted to turn in the same assignment, or parts of the same assignment, to two classes or two professors without prior authorization from the professor(s).

<u>Grading Scale</u>	<u>(Grade Point Equivalent)</u>
A = 90 or above	4.00
A- = 87-89	3.67
B+ = 84-86	3.33
B = 80-83	3.00
B- = 77-79	2.67
C+ = 74-76	2.33
C = 70-73	2.00
C- = 67-69	1.67

Grading Scale continued (Grade Point Equivalent)

D+ = 64-66	1.33
D = 60-63	1.00
D- = 57-59	0.67
E = 56 or below	0.00

COURSE OUTLINE
(*SUBJECT TO CHANGES*)

Week 1 (May 13-17) – Communism: Theory v. Practice

- Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*
 - Available as a free e-book (in Kindle and other formats) from Project Gutenberg at <http://www.gutenberg.org/cache/epub/61/pg61.html>
- McAuley, *Soviet Politics, 1917-1991*
- Cohen, Stephen F. 2004. “Was the Soviet System Reformable?” *Slavic Review* 63(3): 459-488

Week 2 (May 20-24) – Yeltsin’s Russia

- Remington, Thomas F. 2000. “The Evolution of Executive-Legislative Relations in Russia since 1993.” *Slavic Review* 59(3): 499-520
- Breslauer, George W. 1999. “Boris Yeltsin as Patriarch.” *Post-Soviet Affairs* 15(2): 186-200
- Evans, Geoffrey and Stephen Whitefield. 1998. “The Evolution of Left and Right in Post-Soviet Russia.” *Europe-Asia Studies* 50(6): 1023-43
- Moser, Robert G. 1995. “The Impact of the Electoral System on Post-Communist Party Development: The Case of the 1993 Russian Parliamentary Elections.” *Electoral Studies* 14 (4): 377-98
- Rose, Richard. 2000. “How Floating Parties Frustrate Democratic Accountability: A Supply-Side View of Russia’s Elections.” *East European Constitutional Review* 9: 53-9
- Rose, Richard. 1999. “Living in an Antimodern Society.” *East European Constitutional Review* 8(1/2): 68-75

Week 3 (May 27-31) – From Yeltsin to Putin

Monday: No class (Memorial Day)

- Hendley, Kathryn. 1999. “Rewriting the Rules of the Game in Russia: The Neglected Issue of the Demand for Law.” *East European Constitutional Review* 8(4): 89-95
- Volkov, Vadim. 2002. *Violent Entrepreneurs*. Cornell University Press, **Chapter 1**
- Hale, Henry E. 2005. “The Makeup and Breakup of Ethnofederal States: Why Russia Survives Where the USSR Fell.” *Perspectives on Politics* 3(1): 55-70
- Wilhelmsen, Julie. 2005. “Between a Rock and a Hard Place: The Islamisation of the Chechen Separatist Movement.” *Europe-Asia Studies* 57(1): 35-59
- White, Stephen and Ian McAllister. 2003. “Putin and His Supporters.” *Europe-Asia Studies* 55(3): 383-99
- McFaul, Michael and Nikolai Petrov. 2004. “What the Elections Tell Us.” *Journal of Democracy* 15(3): 20-31

Week 4 (June 3-7) – Consolidating Putin-ism

Monday, June 3 – Exam 1

- McFaul, Michael and Kathryn Stoner-Weiss. 2008. “The Myth of the Authoritarian Model.” *Foreign Affairs* 87(1): 68-84
- Robertson, Graeme B. 2009. “Managing Society: Protest, Civil Society, and Regime in Putin’s Russia.” *Slavic Review* 68 (3): 528-47
- Ryabov, Andrei. 2008. “Analysis: Tandemocracy in Today’s Russia.” *Russian Analytical Digest* 49 (November 5): 2-7
- Atwal, Maya and Edwin Bacon. 2012. “The Youth Movement *Nashi*: Contentious Politics, Civil Society, and Party Politics.” *East European Politics* 28(3): 256-66
- March, Luke. 2012. “The Russian Duma ‘Opposition’: No Drama Out of Crisis?” *East European Politics* 28(3): 241-55

Week 5 (June 10-14) – Contemporary Issues

- Bacon, Edwin. 2012. “Electoral Manipulation and the Development of Russia's Political System.” *East European Politics* 28(2): 105-18
- *Russian Analytical Digest* #108, “Duma Elections and Protest” **[All]**
- Tsygankov, Andrei P. 2012. “Change and Continuity in Russia’s Foreign Policy.” *Russian Analytical Digest* 109: 9-11
- Nygren, Bertil . 2008. “Putin's Use of Natural Gas to Reintegrate the CIS Region.” *Problems of Post-Communism* 55(4): 3-15
- Allison, Roy. 2008. “Russia Resurgent? Moscow's Campaign to 'Coerce Georgia to Peace'.” *International Affairs* 84(6): 1145-71
- Tumanov, Sergey, Alexander Gasparishvili, and Ekaterina Romanova. 2011. “Russia–EU Relations, or How the Russians Really View the EU.” *East European Politics* 27(1): 120-141

Week 6 (June 17-21) – Assessing Russia's Future

- Evseev, Viacheslav and Ross Wilson. 2012. “WTO Accession: Implications for Russia.” *Russian Analytical Digest* 119: 11-16
- Gustafson, Thane. 2012. “Putin’s Petroleum Problem: How Oil Is Holding Russia Back—and How It Could Save It.” *Foreign Affairs* 91(6): 83-96
- Sergej Gogin. 2012. “*Homo Sovieticus*: 20 Years After the End of the Soviet Union.” *Russian Analytical Digest* 109: 12-15
- Schröder, Hans-Henning. 2013. “Forward to the Past! The President’s Message to the Federal Assembly.” *Russian Analytical Digest* 124: 5-10
- Hett, Felix and Reinhard Krumm. 2013. “The Russian Dream: Justice, Liberty, and a Strong State.” *Russian Analytical Digest* 124: 10-15

Friday, June 21 – Exam 2