This course introduces students to important issues in contemporary Russian politics including the development of Russia’s political institutions, the nationality question, the impact of the economic transition and the role of Russia as a regional and global great power. These developments will be grounded in an understanding of the Soviet context from which they arose. We will examine historical development of Russia’s governing institutions and explore the social consequences of the Soviet collapse, paying attention to how these dramatic changes fed back into contemporary political processes. We will examine Russia’s politics employing the theories and approaches commonly used in political science; focusing especially on the development of Russian “Great Power” identity and the withering of democratic processes during the presidencies of Vladimir Putin.

Readings:


Ostrow, Joel editor (2013) Politics in Russia: A Reader, Los Angeles, Sage


Several additional readings will be assigned. All these additional course readings will be available through the course page on D2L so students should familiarize themselves with this as soon as possible. Readings may be placed online at the instructor’s discretion.
Expectations:

Attendance/ Quizzes / Class Assignments
It is the students' responsibility to remain informed about all class activities. Students are expected to attend classes on a regular basis, and keep up with the readings. **All assigned readings should be completed by the class indicated on the syllabus.** Though attendance will not be taken daily the instructor will give unannounced quizzes at various times throughout the semester. Additional short writing assignments related to the films presented in class will be given. Each will be worth two quizzes. **Normally no make up work will be given for quizzes or class assignments.** One quiz grade will be dropped when final grades are calculated. Quizzes may cover any material in the lectures or readings. Students facing exceptional circumstances that make attendance impossible should consult with the instructor as soon as possible. Students who have a valid excuse and inform the instructor of their absence before the class occurs can make arrangements to make up missed quizzes.

Participation

Students are expected to participate in class discussions, so it is very important that the readings are completed before the assigned class. The number of classes each student contributes to will be recorded. At the end of the term students will be assigned a participation score based on the number of classes in which they participated. The average raw participation score will constitute an 85%; the top score will equal a 100%. The other raw scores will be translated into participation points based on their distance from the average. These points will constitute the students participation grade.

Exams

Two exams will be given, a midterm and a final. The format of these exams will be essay and short answer. The final exam is cumulative.

Reading Presentations

This course is a mix between lecture and seminar format. Several class meetings will be run as seminars. For these seminar days, two or three students will be asked to present a summary of the main ideas and themes covered in that day’s readings. Students will be encouraged to offer a critique of the readings and frame some questions to help kick of the day’s session.

Research Paper

Students are expected to write a research paper evaluating some aspect of Russian or Post-Soviet affairs. Students are expected to meet with the instructor to work out the details of her/his individual project. All topics must be approved, in advance, by the instructor. It is important to discuss your paper ideas with the instructor early in the semester. Students should also meet with the instructors at least once while in the process of researching the paper to discuss her/his progress on the paper. Students must follow standard guidelines for college-level writing
regarding grammar, spelling, and organization. While the length of individual papers will depend upon both the topic selected and the author’s writing style, an average paper should be 10-12 pages.

Academic Integrity:

This course is covered by all College policies on academic integrity. No forms of academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will be tolerated. The instructor will insist as a \textit{minimum punishment} that \textit{students determined to have cheated on any exam or assignment will receive an “F” in the course (PS 236)}. Be advised that more serious actions may be taken by the administration. The instructor will report all instances of academic dishonesty to the appropriate college officials and vigorously pursue all cases though the College’s disciplinary procedures.

Grading:

Course grades will be calculated according to the following formula.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation /quizzes</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Presentations (at least 2)</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midterm</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Assignment or Research Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
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+- Grades will be issued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93% and up=A</td>
<td>77-79% = C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90-92% = A-</td>
<td>73-76% = C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89% = B+</td>
<td>70-72% = C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-86% = B</td>
<td>67-69% = D+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82% = B-</td>
<td>63-66% = D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60-62% = D-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>59% &amp; less= F</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Course Schedule: Political Science 236

The course schedule is subject to modification, as the needs of the course may require. Quizzes in this section occur unannounced at the discretion of the instructor.

Jan 14: Introduction to Russian Politics

Jan 16: Why Study Russia?
    Readings: Sharev Ch 1 (see D2L)

Jan 18: Overview of Russian Politics
    Readings: Developments…Ch 1

Jan 21: Martin Luther King Day, no classes

Jan 23: Russian Foreign Policy
    Readings: Tsygankov “Understanding Change and Continuity in Russian Foreign Policy” (see D2L) [student presenters]

Jan 25: The Fall of Tsarism
    Readings: from Robert Service, A History of Modern Russia pp 1-41 (see D2L)

Jan 28: Marxism, Revolution and the Establishment of the Soviet Union
    Readings: McAuley, Introduction, Ch.1 & 2 [student presenters]

Jan 30: Stalinism
    Readings: McAuley: Ch 3

Feb 1: Film: Defense Council Sedov
    Readings Selection from Solzhenitsyn, Aleksandr, The Gulag Archipelago, pp 2-23 (see D2L)

Feb 4: The Terror
    Readings: McAuley Ch 4
    Politics in Russia; 1.2 (Fainsod) [student presenters]

Feb 6: The Mature Soviet System
    Readings: Readings: McAuley Ch 5 & 6

Feb 8: The Stability of the Soviet System
    Readings Politics in Russia; 1.3 (Bialer) [student presenters]
Feb 11:  from Perestroika to Collapse  
Readings: McAuley; Chapters 7 & 8

Feb 13:  Why did the Soviet Union Fall? Socialism? [student presenters]  
Readings: Politics in Russia; 2.1 (Verdery) & 2.3 (Dallin)

Feb 15  Why did the Soviet Union Fall? Reform?  
Readings: Politics in Russia; 2.2 (Ostrow)

Feb 18:  Russian Democracy and the new “Time of Troubles”  
Readings: Ostrow: 3.3 (Fogelsong and Hahn), 4.3 (Handleman) & 4.2 (Shevtsova)

**Feb 20 & 22  Film: Window to Paris**

Feb 25:  Russian Political Institutions: The Executive  
Readings: Developments…Ch 2

Feb 27:  Russian Political Institutions: the Parliament  
Readings: Developments…Ch 3

March 1  Russian Political Institutions: The Political Parties  
Readings: Developments…Ch 5

March 4:  Russian Political Participation: Elections and Voting  
Readings: Developments…Ch 4 & 6

March 6:  Review for the Midterm Exam

March 8:  Midterm Exam

**Spring Break, March 9th thru 17th Classes Do Not Meet**

March 18:  Assessing the decline of Russian “democracy” [student presenters]  
Readings: Politics in Russia 3.1 (Ostrow et al), 3.2 (Gitelman),

March 20:  Assessing the decline of Russian democracy  
Readings: Politics in Russia 5.3 (Chatsty) & 5.1 (Shevtsova) [student presenters]

March 22:  Assessing Russian Federalism and the Power Vertical in Russia  
Readings: Developments…Ch 10

March 25:  Assessing the Failure of the Political Party System
Readings: Politics in Russia Ostrow 6.1 (Gel’ man), 6.2 (Gel’man) & 6.3 (White) [student presenters]

March 27: Corruption in the Electoral process
Readings Politics in Russia; 7.1 (Ostrow et al) & 7.2 (Myagkov and Ordeshook) [student presenters]

March 29: “Managed Democracy,” NGO’s and opposition movements
Readings: Developments, Ch 7

April 1: Political Communication and the Media
Readings: Developments… Ch 8

April 3: Controlling the Media [student presenters]
Readings: Politics in Russia 7.3 Fish, 9.1 (Ostrow et al) & 9.3 (Lipman)

April 5: Journalism
Readings: 9.2 (Fish) 9.4 (Panfilov) & 9.6 (Satter) [student presenters]

April 8: Society and Social Inequality
Readings: Developments…Ch 12

April 10: Russian Economic Policy
Readings: Developments…Ch 11

April 12: Russian Foreign and Security Policy
Readings: Developments…Ch 13 & 14

April 15: Westminster MUN, classes do not meet.

April 17: Foreign Policy and Russian Politics
Readings: Aleprete “International Relations and Political Centralization During Putin’s First Term) (see D2L)
‘Pain “ The Chechen War in the Context of Contemporary Russian Politics” (see D2L) [student presenters]
April 16: 2nd Chechen War [student presenters]  
Readings: Van Herpen Ch 12  
Securitization of the Russian State (See my Westminster)

April 18th –April 22nd Easter Break: classes do not meet

April 24: URAC: classes do not meet

April 26: Georgia, Ukraine and Crimea the return of Russian Great Power Politics  
Readings: Great Power Readings I, (see D2L)

April 29: Assessing Russian Great Power Ambitions  
Readings: Great Power Readings II (see D2L) [student presenters]

May 1: Russia’s Future  
Readings Developments… 15

May 3: Review for Final Exam

Final Exam, Wednesday May 8th at 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 pm