CPO4643 Politics of Russia
Fall 2016

Professor : Didara Nurmanova, didara@knights.ucf.edu
Class Meets: Tuesday, Thursday 3:00-4:15 ENG1 0227
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 1.45-2.45; and by appointment HPH 313
Credit: 3 Hours

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce undergraduate students to the government and politics in Russian Federation since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. It focuses on principles, organization, and functions of national government, major political and economic developments, and foreign policy of the Russian Federation.

Course Goals

On completing this course students will be able to:

- Comprehend the theory and organization of the Russian national government
- Understand the factors that have shaped Russian domestic politics
- Read and discuss academic texts pertaining to topics of Russian government and politics
- Better understand and analyze contemporary events and developments in Russian foreign policy

Course Materials

Required Text

Politics in Russia, by Thomas Remington; Routledge, 7th edition 2016. ISBN 978-0205005796.

Other Materials

Students will be assigned additional articles and/or multimedia materials available through UCF library and the Internet. Some of the articles are listed in the course schedule. However, I will also assign additional articles for your reading. I will provide details about additional materials and provide you with links or a clear indication where you can find the material, in a timely manner. These articles will be part of the class, and quizzes and the final assignment will draw on these materials extensively.

Course Schedule

Week 1

August 23: Introduction
-Syllabus and general discussion.

August 25: Russia under Soviet Rule
-Remington, Chapter 2, pp. 31-46.

Week 2

August 30: Transition from Communism: Political Institutions and Economy
- Remington, Chapter 2, pp. 47-55.

September 1: Transition from Communism: Political Institutions and Economy
- Remington, Chapter 1, pp. 16-25.

Week 3

September 6: Transition from Communism: Political Institutions and Economy
- Remington, Chapter 7, pp. 191-198.
- Russia's Economic Transition: Challenges, Results, and Overhang. http://www.yaleeconomicreview.org/archives/380

September 8: Transition from Communism: Political Institutions and Economy
- Remington, Chapter 7, pp. 199-211.

Week 4

September 13: In-class quiz

September 15: Russia's Constitutional Order
- Remington, Chapter 3, pp. 56-65.

Week 5

September 20: Russia's Constitutional Order
- Remington, Chapter 3, pp. 66-71.
- Russian government structure http://government.ru/en/gov/

September 22: Russian Federalism
- Remington, Chapter 3, pp. 73-86.

Week 6

September 27: Political Participation and Recruitment;
Vladimir Putin's Russia
- Remington, Chapter 4, pp. 87-97.
- 15 Years of Vladimir Putin: 15 ways he has changed Russia and the world https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/06/vladimir-putin-15-ways-he-changed-russia-world

September 29: Political Participation and Recruitment
- Remington, Chapter 4, pp. 98-116.

Week 7

October 4: Political Culture and Public Opinion
- Remington, Chapter 5, pp. 117-131.

October 6: Russia's National Identity
- Cultural Struggle to Define Russia's identity http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-31584221
- Black in the USSR: What's Life Like for a Russian of Colour? https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/15/black-in-the-ussr-whats-life-like-for-a-russian-of-colour
-Putin's Patriotism Playbook https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/russian-federation/2016-02-18/putin-s-patriotism-playbook

Week 8

October 11: Political Culture and Public Opinion
- Remington, Chapter 5, pp. 132-149.

October 13: Midterm Exam

Week 9

October 18: Interest Groups and Political Parties
- Remington, Chapter 6, pp.150-170.

October 20: United Russia, Divided Putin http://www.economist.com/news/europe/21699944-president-has-crushed-opposition-technocrats-and-security-hawks-are-fighting-his

Week 10

October 25: Interest Groups and Political Parties
- Remington, Chapter 6, pp. 171-190.

October 27: Russia Report https://freedomhouse.org/report/nations-transit/2016/russia

Week 11

November 1: Politics and the Law
- Remington, Chapter 8, pp. 219-236.

November 3: Human Rights in Russia
Readings: TBA

Week 12

November 8: Politics and the Law
- Remington, Chapter 8, pp. 237-250.

November 10: In-class Quiz

Week 13

November15: Russia's Foreign Policy
- Remington, Chapter 9, pp. 251-260.

November 17: No class. Thanksgiving.

Week 14

November 22: Russia's foreign policy
- Remington, Chapter 9, pp. 260-270.

November 24: No class. Thanksgiving.

Week 15

November 29: Russian Foreign Policy: We Are Smarter, Stronger and More Determined http://www.spiegel.de/international/world/interview-with-putin-foreign-policy-advisor-sergey-karaganov-a-1102629.html

December 1: Final Exam review

Week 16

Final exam. The date will be scheduled by the UCF Registrar's Office.

Course Policies
Grading Policies

(attendance and participation*.15)+(quiz 1*.15)+ (quiz 2*.15)+(midterm exam*.20)+(final paper *.35)= final grade

Attendance and participation – 15%
Two in-class quizzes – 30%

Midterm exam – 20%
Final exam – 35%

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Points
A	93 – 100
A-	90 – 92
B+	87 – 89
B	83 – 86
B-	80 – 82
C+	77 – 79
C	73 – 76
C-	70 – 72
D+	67 – 69
D	63 – 66
D-	60 – 62
F	59 and below

Academic Honesty

Students must demonstrate a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records.

If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it, take the UCF library tutorial.

Students who cheat, plagiarize, falsify records or practice any other form of academic dishonesty will receive an automatic FZ grade for the class.

Class Attendance

Attendance is required. Lectures cover material that you will not be able to find in the book. I will not provide notes for students missing class.

Make-up Policy

Exams are scheduled well in advance so that you can plan around these dates. No one may make up a test at will. There are two exceptions.
First, for personal emergencies (a death in the family, medical problems), students should obtain a note from the dean of students or their physician.
Second, for students with extra-curricular activities that conflict with deadlines, arrangements for an alternate test date must be made at least a week in advance of the scheduled test or deadline. Students must provide verification of the activity in order to be eligible for an alternate test date. I do not accept notification after the fact.

Federal Financial Aid Requirement

Beginning in the Fall 2014 semester, UCF must comply with a federal financial aid regulation that states that in order to receive federal aid, students must be actively academically engaged (according to a federal definition) in each course in which they are enrolled. As of Fall 2014, all faculty are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. Without verification of this engagement, students will not receive their financial aid. In order to document that you began this course, you will be required to complete a short quiz in Canvas during the first week of classes, no later than May 20th. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of students' financial aid, or will mean that students will not receive their aid.

Student Accessibility Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has contacted Student Accessibility Services, and the professor, in order to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Classroom Citizenship

Besides interactive participation, I expect discipline in the class room. Be courteous to others, be on time and do not leave early, unless there is a pertinent reason and you have notified me. Do not eat, text or talk to your colleagues during lecture. An important part of being a college student is having manners and respecting those around you.

Turn off your cell phones and store them away in your book bag, for the duration of the class. Set your laptop's volume on mute. Laptop users: make sure you are using your laptop exclusively for taking notes while in class. Laptop usage is a privilege and I reserve the right to revoke it at any time during the semester if you do not follow these rules.

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

Religious Holidays

The University of Central Florida welcomes diversity of religious beliefs and practices, recognizing the contributions differing experiences and viewpoints can bring to the community. There may be times when an academic or work requirement conflicts with religious observances and practices. If that happens, students may request reasonable accommodation of their religious practices. In all cases, you must put your request in writing and present it to the instructor at the beginning of the semester. The instructor or supervisor will review the situation in an effort to provide a reasonable accommodation when possible to do so without fundamentally altering a course or creating an undue burden for the department.

Disclaimer

Please note that the academic calendar, policies, procedures and assignments listed in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the professor.