CPO4643-002 Government and Politics of Russia
Spring 2017

Professor: Didara Nurmanova, didara@knights.ucf.edu
Class Meets: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:30-11:20 CB1 318
Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday 11.35-12.35; 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

January 9: Introduction
-Syllabus and general discussion.

January 11: Russia under Soviet Rule

-Remington, Chapter 2, pp. 31-38.

January 13: Russia under Soviet Rule
-Remington, Chapter 2, pp. 39-46.

Week 2

January 16: No class. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

January 18: Transition from Communism: Political Institutions and Economy
- Remington, Chapter 2, pp. 47-55.

January 20: Transition from Communism: Political Institutions and Economy
- Remington, Chapter 1, pp. 16-25.

Week 3

January 23: Transition from Communism: Political Institutions and Economy
- Remington, Chapter 7, pp. 191-196.
- Russia's Economic Transition: Challenges, Results, and Overhang. http://www.yaleeconomicreview.org/archives/380

January 25: Transition from Communism: Political Institutions and Economy
- Remington, Chapter 7, pp. 197-205.

January 27: Transition from Communism: Political Institutions and Economy
- Remington, Chapter 7, pp. 206-214.

Week 4

January 30: In-class quiz

February 1: Russia's Constitutional Order
- Remington, Chapter 3, pp. 56-60.

February 3: Russia's Constitutional Order
- Remington, Chapter 3, pp. 61-66.

Week 5

February 6: Russia's Constitutional Order
- Remington, Chapter 3, pp. 66-72.
- Russian government structure http://government.ru/en/gov/

February 8: Russian Federalism
- Remington, Chapter 3, pp. 72-78.

February 10: Russian Federalism
- Remington, Chapter 3, pp. 79-82.

Week 6

February 13: Political Participation and Recruitment;
Vladimir Putin's Russia
- Remington, Chapter 4, pp. 87-92.
- 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

February 15: Political Participation and Recruitment
- Remington, Chapter 4, pp. 92-102

February 17: Political Participation and Recruitment
- Remington, Chapter 4, pp. 102-112.

Week 7

February 20: Political Culture and Public Opinion
- Remington, Chapter 5, pp. 117-126.

February 22: Political Culture and Public Opinion
- Remington, Chapter 5, pp. 127-132.

February 24: Russia's National Identity
- Cultural Struggle to Define Russia's identity http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-31584221

-Putin's Patriotism Playbook https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/russian-federation/2016-02-18/putin-s-patriotism-playbook

Week 8

February 27: Political Culture and Public Opinion
- Remington, Chapter 5, pp. 132-136.

March 1: Political Culture and Public Opinion
- Remington, Chapter 5, pp. 136-143.

March 3: Midterm Exam

Week 9

March 6: Interest Groups and Political Parties
- Remington, Chapter 6, pp.150-161.

March 8: Interest Groups and Political Parties
- Remington, Chapter 6, pp.161-171.

March 10: Class discussion
Anti-corruption Foundation
1. https://fbk.info/english/about/
2. https://fbk.info/english/ Read investigations/articles on the page.
3. Watch the documentary https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3eO8ZHfV4fk
4. https://fbk.info/english/navalny/ Read Navalny's biography, and the following article on this page: Alexey Navalny's very strange form of freedom. The New Yorker

Spring Break

March 13-March 18: No classes.

Week 10

March 20: Interest Groups and Political Parties
- Remington, Chapter 6, pp. 171-178.

March 22: Interest Groups and Political Parties
- Remington, Chapter 6, pp. 179-184.

March 24: Class discussion
-CNN Special Report: The Power of Vladimir Putin
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R2PU7Hl6W_4

-Putin's Way
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/putins-way/

Week 11

March 27: Politics and the Law
- Remington, Chapter 8, pp. 219-228.

March 29: Politics and the Law
- Remington, Chapter 8, pp. 228-237.

March 31: Human Rights in Russia
Readings: TBA

Week 12

April 3: Politics and the Law
- Remington, Chapter 8, pp. 237-241.

April 5: Politics and the Law
- Remington, Chapter 8, pp. 241-245.

April 7: In-class Quiz

Week 13

April 10: Russia's Foreign Policy
- Remington, Chapter 9, pp. 251-256.

April 12: Russia's Foreign Policy
- Remington, Chapter 9, pp. 256-261.

April 14: Russia's Foreign Policy
- Remington, Chapter 9, pp. 261-268.

Week 14

April 17: Russia's foreign policy: Crimea/Ukraine and South Ossetia.
Readings: TBA

April 19: Russia's foreign policy: Syria.
Readings: TBA

April 21: Class discussion.

-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

Week 15

April 24: Final Exam Review

Final exam. Monday, 5/1/2017, 10:00-12:50 PM in our regular classroom.

Course Policies
Grading Policies

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

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. 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.

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 and quizzes 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 (medical problems), students should obtain a note from their physician. Second, for students with extra-curricular activities (athletic contests or other University-sponsored 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.

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.

E-mail Protocols

You can contact the professor both via the webcourses email and personal email.

Be patient. Don’t expect an immediate response when you send a message. Generally, two days is considered reasonable amount of time to receive a reply. Please not that your professor only checks and answers to e-mails during regular business hours.

Include “Subject” headings: use something that is descriptive and refer to a particular assignment or topic.

Break up large blocks of text into paragraphs and use a space between paragraphs.

Sign your e-mail messages.

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.