CPO4643-001 Government and Politics of Russia
Spring 2019

Professor: Didara Nurmanova, didara@knights.ucf.edu
Class Meets: Tuesday, Thursday 4:30-5:45 in CB1 0122
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 3.15-4.15; and by appointment in HPH 313
Credit: 3 Hours
Phone: 407-823-2608

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 Organization and Requirements

This course is conducted through a combination of lectures and in-class discussions. The class will consist of two parts: in-class lecture and in-class discussion of the assigned readings/assignments. Students are expected to complete **all** of the required readings before each discussion section and come to class fully prepared to participate in the discussions.

Assignments

Exams

Midterm and final exams will be in-class and consist of three essay questions. Final exam will cover the information from the second half of the course.

Quizzes

There will be six quizzes on weekly readings randomly assigned during the semester. Each quiz will consist of one multiple choice and one short-answer question. Each quiz is worth 2 points. The lowest scoring quiz will be dropped. The highest scoring five quizzes will make up 10% of the grade.

Presentation

Students are expected to do an in-class presentation analyzing a domestic or foreign policy issue in Russia. The instructions will be posted on Webcourses.

Policy Brief

Students will have to complete a policy brief and submit it via Webcourses by March 28, 2019. The instructions will be posted on Webcourses.

Grades will be based on the following assignments:

Quizzes 10%
Midterm exam 35%
Policy brief 10%
Presentation 10%
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

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 and multimedia materials. 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 materials will be part of the class, and quizzes and exams will draw on these materials extensively.

Course Policies

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. In order to fulfill this requirement, you should complete a syllabus quiz that is due by 11:59 on Friday, January 11.

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.

You will also be expected to complete the UCF Online Information Literacy tutorial "Avoiding Plagiarism Using Chicago Manual of Style, 16th Edition" (link will be provided by your instructor) and the assessment included in it by February 12th, 2019.

Class Attendance and Participation

Attendance is required. Lectures cover material that you will not be able to find in the book.

Make-up Policy

Exams are scheduled well in advance so that you can plan around these dates. Presentations and policy briefs must also be submitted on time. No one may make up an exam/assignments but for 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.

Quizzes are administered randomly during the semester. If you miss one quiz, the remaining five quizzes will count towards your grade. If you miss more than one quiz, you can submit a summary of the readings (at least 800 words) for that week.

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 Accessibility Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Deployed Active Duty Military Students

If you are a deployed active military student and require special accommodation, please contact the instructor as soon as possible.

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 Webcourses email and university email. The expected response time is 48 hours not including holidays and weekends.

Cancellation of Class

In the event that the class needs to be cancelled, an e-mail will be sent to all students via Webcourses mail prior to class time.

Disclaimer

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

Course Schedule

Week 1

January 8: Introduction. Russia under Soviet Rule
-Syllabus and general discussion.

January 10: Russia under Soviet Rule
-Remington, Chapter 2, pp. 31-46.

Week 2

January 15: Transition from Communism: Political Institutions and Economy
- Remington, Chapter 2, pp. 47-55.

January 17: Transition from Communism: Political Institutions and Economy
- Remington, Chapter 1, pp. 16-25.

Week 3

January 22: 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

January 24: Transition from Communism: Political Institutions and Economy
- Remington, Chapter 7, pp. 199-211.

Week 4

January 29: Russia's Constitutional Order
- Remington, Chapter 3, pp. 56-65.

January 31: Russia's Constitutional Order
- Remington, Chapter 3, pp. 66-71.
- Russian government structure http://government.ru/en/gov/

Week 5

February 5: Russian Federalism
- Remington, Chapter 3, pp. 73-86.
- Hale, H. (2005). Making and Breaking Ethnofederal States: Why Russia Survives Where the USSR Fell. *Perspectives on Politics*, 55–70.

February 7: 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
- Vladimir Putin's 18 years in power — the highs and lows, and don't forget the shirtless pics https://www.latimes.com/world/europe/la-fg-vladimir-putin-timeline-20180319-story.html

Week 6

February 12: Political Participation and Recruitment
- Remington, Chapter 4, pp. 98-116.

February 14: Political Culture and Public Opinion
- Remington, Chapter 5, pp. 117-131.
- Chaisty, P., & Whitefield, S. (2013). Forward to democracy or back to authoritarianism? The attitudinal bases of mass support for the Russian election protests of 2011-2012. *Post-Soviet Affairs*, (5), 387.

Week 7

February 19: Political Culture and Public Opinion
- Remington, Chapter 5, pp. 132-149.
- Ross, C. (2015). State against Civil Society: Contentious Politics and the Non-Systemic Opposition in Russia. *Europe-Asia Studies*, 67(2), 171–176.

February 21: 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

February 26: Midterm Exam

February 28: Interest Groups and Political Parties
- Remington, Chapter 6, pp.150-170.

Week 9

March 5: Interest Groups and Political Parties
- Remington, Chapter 6, pp. 171-184.

March 7: Elections in hybrid regimes
-Treisman, D. (2011). Presidential Popularity in a Hybrid Regime: Russia under Yeltsin and Putin. American Journal of Political Science, (3), 590.

Spring Break

March 11 - March 16: No classes

Week 10

March 19: Politics and the Law
- Remington, Chapter 8, pp. 219-236.

March 21: Politics and the Law
- Remington, Chapter 8, pp. 237-245.

Week 11

March 26: Human Rights in Russia
-Human Rights Watch. World Report 2018: Russia
https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2018/country-chapters/russia
-Freedom of the Press 2017: Russia
https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2017/russia

March 28: Human Rights in Russia.
- Stallard, J. (2018, Mar). The dark reality of Russia's domestic violence laws.
https://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcthree/article/0dd0ab91-145a-4137-bf87-28d0498c8d56
-Korzhov, N. (2018, Apr). Domestic battery surges in Russia after decriminalisation
https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/domestic-battery-surges-russia-decriminalisation-180428174945153.html

Policy Brief is due via Webcourses

Week 12

April 2: Russia's Foreign Policy
- Remington, Chapter 9, pp. 251-270.
- Daalder, I. H. (2017, Nov). Responding to Russia's resurgence: Not quiet on the eastern front. *Foreign Affairs*, 96, 30-38.
- Biden,Joseph R.,,Jr, & Carpenter, M. (2018, Jan). How to stand up to the Kremlin: Defending democracy against its enemies. *Foreign Affairs*, 97, 44-57.

April 4: Presentations

Week 13

April 9: Presentations

April 11: Presentations

Week 14

April 16: Russia's Foreign Policy: Crimea/Ukraine and South Ossetia.
- Treisman, D. (2016). Why Putin Took Crimea The Gambler in the Kremlin. *Foreign Affairs*, 95(3), 47–54.
- Otarashvili, M. (2015, Feb). Russia's Quiet Annexation of South Ossetia
https://www.fpri.org/article/2015/02/russias-quiet-annexation-of-south-ossetia/
-2008 Georgia Russia Conflict Fast Facts https://edition.cnn.com/2014/03/13/world/europe/2008-georgia-russia-conflict/index.html

April 18: Russia's foreign policy: Syria
-Trenin, D. (2017). Putin's Plan for Syria. *Foreign Affairs*
https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/syria/2017-12-13/putins-plan-syria

Final exam. Thursday, April 25, 2019, 4:00-6:50 PM in our regular classroom.