

**Political Science 144B: Russian Politics**  
**Spring 2017 Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00 to 10:20 in 206 Olson**

Professor: Josephine Andrews  
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Web Site: Canvas

Course assignments:

There are five graded assignments for the course:

(1) Midterm exam (essay and short answer) – **April 27**

(2) Opinion Papers

Each student will write three 1 to 2 page opinion papers. Papers will be graded on coherence and readability (please be careful of grammatical and spelling errors). NOTE: Late papers will not be accepted.

Opinion papers will cover the following three questions:

First Opinion Paper: Could Gorbachev have succeeded in reforming the Soviet Union? **Due in class on April 25**

Second Opinion Paper: Is Russia a hybrid regime or an authoritarian regime, and from the point of view of Russia's citizens, does this matter? **Due in class on May 23**

Third Opinion Paper: How and why did the Russian intelligence services interfere in the 2016 American Presidential election? **Due in class on June 8**

Each student will be assigned to one of three groups. Given the size of the class, each group will include about 18 students. Each group will be assigned to an opinion paper, and the group assigned to a particular opinion topic will be responsible for leading a class discussion on that topic. We will discuss the logistics of leading a class discussion PRIOR to the first discussion.

(3) Debate Paper – due **May 30** (late papers will be graded down 2.5 points per day)  
You are to write a 5 to 6 page paper on one of the following topics:

**Topic 1: Does Russia need a strong leader more than it needs democracy?**

**Topic 2: In the arena of foreign policy, is conflict between the United States and Russia inevitable?**

Each of these topics poses a question for which there is no right or wrong answer. Your paper must address the question with a well-formulated and supported argument. In your paper, you will take a stand for one side or the other. I will randomly assign each of you to one of the two paper topics as well as to a particular position implied by the question. If you are assigned to Topic 1, you will also be assigned to support either the strong leader or democracy position. If you are assigned to Topic 2, you will also be assigned to argue either that conflict is or is not inevitable. Each of these topics is sufficiently broad that you have leeway in how you approach the topic. They are also highly newsworthy and relevant to understanding Russia today. A more detailed paper assignment and your assigned topic and position will be posted to Canvas.

(4) In-class debates – **Tuesday, June 1 & Tuesday, June 6**

There will be two in-class debates scheduled on the above class dates. I will explain how this will take place and how to prepare for the debates. Each debate will be based on one of the two paper topics, and you will be assigned to the debate that corresponds to your paper topic.

(5) Final exam (essay and short answer) – **June 12, 10:30 to 12:30**

Note: The midterm exam covers material from the first half of the course, and the final exam, although cumulative, concentrates mostly on material from the second half of the course.

Grading:

Grades will be assigned according to the following formula:

Midterm:	30%
Opinion Papers	15%
Debate Paper:	20%
Final Exam:	30%
Participation:	5%
(Includes group discussion Facilitation and debate)	

Readings:

The following books are available at the UCD bookstore and on reserve at Shields Library.

David Remnick, *Lenin's Tomb*  
 Michael McFaul, *Russia's Unfinished Revolution*  
 Karen Dawisha, *Putin's Kleptocracy*

In addition, I will post the remaining assigned readings to Canvas.

## Course Schedule

### **Part 1: Gorbachev: Reforming Communism**

#### Week 1. April 4 & April 6

1. Introduction
2. Overview of Soviet communism: How the old system worked  
**Reading:** Remnick, Chapters 1-3 (pp. 3-35)

#### Week 2. April 11 & April 13

1. The Brezhnev era and the period of stagnation  
**Reading:** Smith, Chapter 2 (pp. 68-105), posted to Canvas  
Remnick, Chapters 4-5 (pp. 36-69)
2. Gorbachev's reforms: *Perestroika* and *glasnost*  
**Reading:** Remnick, Chapters 8, 12, 14-15, 19-20 (pp. 101-119, 180-197, 216-247, 279-305)  
McFaul, Chapter 2 (pp. 33-60)

#### Week 3. April 18 & April 20

1. Gorbachev's reforms stall  
**Reading:** Dawisha, Chapter 1  
McFaul, Chapter 3 (pp. 61-117)
2. The failed coup of August, 1991 and the collapse of the Soviet Union  
**Reading:** Dunlop, Chapter 5 (pp. 186-255), posted to Canvas

#### Week 4. April 25 & April 27

1. Reforming the "Commanding Heights" of the Russian economy  
*Commanding Heights Documentary* (in class)  
**FIRST OPINION PAPER DUE: Group 1 will lead discussion**
2. **MIDTERM (APRIL 27)**

## Part 2: Yeltsin: Building Democracy and a Market Economy

### Week 5. May 2 & May 4

1. Shock Therapy: Jump-starting Capitalism  
**Reading:** Remington, Chapter 7 (pp. 192-220), posted to Canvas
2. Political and Popular Reactions to Economic Reform  
**Reading:** McFaul, Chapters 4-5 (pp. 121-204)

### Week 6. May 9 & May 11

1. The Yeltsin Constitution and the 1996 Presidential Election  
**Reading:** McFaul, Chapters 6 and 8 (pp. 207-264, 265-306),  
1993 *Russian Constitution*, selections posted to Canvas
2. Russia's Virtual Economy  
**Reading:** Dawisha, Chapter 4

## Part 3: Putin: Making Russia Great Again

### Week 7. May 16 & May 18

1. President Putin and Restoration of the Russian State  
**Reading:** Dawisha, Chapters 5-6
2. Russia's Resource-based Economy  
**Reading:** Anders Aslund. 2010. Gazprom: Challenged Giant in Need of Reform,  
Chapter 7 from *Russia after the Global Economic Crisis*. Peterson  
Institute, publisher, posted to Canvas

### Week 8. May 23 & May 25

1. Russian Democracy: Elections and Public Opinion – Why They Matter  
**Reading:** Petrov, Lipman, and Hale. 2013. Three dilemmas of hybrid regime  
governance: Russia from Putin to Putin. *Post-Soviet Affairs*, 30:1, 1-26,  
posted to Canvas  
**SECOND OPINION PAPER DUE: Group 2 will lead discussion**
2. Siloviki in Russian Governance  
**Reading:** Brian Taylor, Chapter 2 (The Power Ministries and the Siloviki) pp. 36-70  
from *State Building in Putin's Russia*. Cambridge University Press 2011,  
posted to Canvas

Week 9. May 30 & June 1

1. Corruption in Russia

**Reading:** Dawisha, Chapter 7

**DEBATE PAPERS DUE IN CLASS**

2. Russia as Superpower?

**Reading:** Peter Rutland. 2008. Russia as an Energy Superpower, *New Political Economy*, 13:2, 203-210, posted to Canvas

**IN-CLASS DEBATE: PAPER TOPIC 1**

Week 10. June 6 & June 8

1. Foreign Policy Under Putin

**Reading:** Kuchins, Andrew and Igor Zevelev (2011), Russian Foreign Policy: Continuity in Change, 35:147-161, posted to Canvas

**IN-CLASS DEBATE: PAPER TOPIC 2**

2. Putin's Third Term

**Reading:** Timothy J. Colton & Henry E. Hale (2014) Putin's Uneasy Return and Hybrid Regime Stability, *Problems of Post-Communism*, 61:2, 3-22, posted to Canvas

**THIRD OPINION PAPER DUE: Group 3 will lead discussion**

**FINAL EXAM: Monday, June 12, 10:30 to 12:30 am**