Carleton University
Department of Geography
2012/13 Fall term

GEOG 3025
REGIONAL DYNAMICS: RUSSIA AND ITS NEIGHBOURS

Monday 18:05-20:55

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Office hours: Mondays 16:30-17:30; Wednesdays 10:00-11:00

Course Description:

The goal of the course is to look at the major processes and transformations that occur in Eurasia. In doing so, we will focus on the world's largest country - The Russian Federation that is distinguished by a very high intensity of regional dynamics. Geographically, Russia is one of the major players in the continent. Since the classical theoreticians of continental geopolitics, Sir Halford Mackinder and Klaus Haushoffer, ceded much of Russia's territory to the metaphysical status of "the Heartland", the study of territorial influences on development have grown immensely. Concentrating on Russia allows focusing on the most important geo-political and geo-economic issues that involve almost the entire continent. The major approach of this course is to focus on spatial aspects of political, economic, social, environmental, demographic and other types of development of the region.

The course emphasizes two major vectors of regional development in Eurasia that inevitably concentrate on the role of Russia. The first is the "European vector". In recent years, a series of international events with strong emphasis on the spatial dimension, shook Eurasia and, to a significant extent, shaped contemporary economic and political strategies of the countries of the continent. In the sphere of economy these were gas disputes between Russia and Ukraine in 2005-06 and 2008-09. These disputes made issues of energy security in the European Union the top political priority. A series of new pipeline projects including (South Stream, Nord Stream) or excluding Russia (Nabucco) were prompted by the European Union in addition to further liberalization of the internal European energy market by means of adoption of the Third Energy Package. Another dimension of the 'European vector' of Russian geopolitics included issues of raising influence of the European Union among the former Soviet republics that traditionally Russia considered as its own 'zone of authority' in Eurasia. These programs resulted in a variety of responses from Russia. On the one hand, Russia attempted to present itself as the regional super-power, which is especially evident in its recent military and political actions, most notably in the 2008 Russo-Georgian war and Russia's resistance to eastern NATO expansion. On the other hand, Russian elites have put forward other geo-political and geo-economic initiatives, such as an alternative continental union (to the EU) "from Lisbon to Vladivostok".

Focus on Russia also allows exploring 'the Asian vector', and especially its relations with China and Japan. Such economic alliances as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the Custom Union between Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus will be discussed and analyzed in the course. The APEC summit in Vladivostok is one of the rarest events with significant geographical emphasis when interests of Russia and Canada cross. Another one is the Arctic. Arctic studies put great emphasis on geography and related factors in shaping up political and economic decisions. It is important and very practical to focus on these issues as they implicitly involve Canada's direct interests.

The course plan includes to following themes:

No.	Date	Topic
1.	**September, 10**	**Introduction**
2.	**September, 17**	**Physical geography**
3.	**September, 24**	**Environment & climate change**
4.	**October, 1**	**Political geography of Russia**
5.	**October, 8**	**Statutory Holiday. Class suspended**
6.	**October, 15**	**Political geography on the post-Soviet space** 1st short report is due
7.	**October, 22**	**Population and demographic challenges of Russia and post-Soviet countries**
8.	**October, 29**	**Social geography, education and culture**
9.	**November, 5**	**Economic geography: Russia**
10	**November, 12**	**Economic geography: pipelines and energy security in Eurasia**
11	**November, 19**	**Arctic issues**
12	**November, 26**	**The "Asian" vector: China, Japan, Kazakhstan.** 2nd short report is due
13	**December, 3**	**Conclusion: Russia and Canada – perspectives** Final research paper is due

Readings:

Textbook: Mikhail S. Blinnikov (2011) ***A Geography of Russia and its Neighbours.*** New York: The Guilford Press. *The textbook is available to purchase at the Carleton University bookstore.*

The readings assigned for the course are divided on compulsory (marked with *) and supplementary. Supplementary articles may be used for final research papers as well as for deeper study of a particular topic. The majority of articles in academic periodicals are available online through your Carleton University library account. Compulsory readings (e.g. chapters from books) are also placed on reserve in the library.

Course Requirements:
Each of the following will comprise a portion of the final grade, as indicated in percentages.

- ✓ **Two short reports. 20% (10% each).** Each report must be 2-3 pages long* and should comprise compulsory readings from a particular topic that student finds interesting. The first report is ***due October 15.*** It must include summary and short analysis of the readings from one of the themes from the first half of the course (topics 2, 3, 4, 6). The second report is ***due November 26*** and include summary of the readings from one of the themes from the second half of the course (topics 7, 8, 9, 10,

11, 12). The purpose of these reports is to assist students with selection of topic for their final research paper.

- ✓ **Final research paper – 40%.** The paper is due in the last class to the course instructor. It must be 12-15 pages long* (excluding bibliography) and must be dedicated to a particular topic discussed in the course. Although the choice of topic is open, the paper must incorporate the readings (both mandatory and auxiliary) on the subject matter from the syllabus, as well as some additional research will be the certain benefit.

- ✓ **Final exam – 40%.** Further instructions will be provided during the course.

(*) All papers must be double spaced, font Times New Roman, size 12. Students may choose their own preferred quotation style (e.g. MLA, Chicago, etc.), however, once the style is chosen all citations must be done consistently.

Office hours and e-mail: *Students with questions for the instructor may reach him by coming to his office hours (no appointment needed), by arranging a personal meeting outside of office hours, or by e-mail. Following university policy, the instructor will communicate by e-mail with students using university 'connect' e-mail addresses. Normally, the instructor expects to reply to e-mail or voicemail queries within 1-2 days during the working week. The instructor generally does not answer e-mail inquiries on evenings or weekends. Students who wish to communicate with the instructor are encouraged to meet personally during his office hours, at another convenient time by appointment, or at the end of class.*

Selected topics and readings

September 10. Introduction.

Readings*:

- Blinnikov, Mikhail. ***Chapter 1***
- Denis J. B. Shaw & Jonathan D. **Oldfield Landscape Science: A Russian Geographical Tradition.** *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* Volume 97, Issue 1, 2007 pp. 111-126

September 17. Physical geography.

Readings*:

- Blinnikov, Mikhail. ***Chapters 2, 3, 4***

September 24. Environment & climate change

Readings*:

- Blinnikov, Mikhail. ***Chapter 5.***
- Henry, Laura A. and Douhovnikoff, Vladimir. **Environmental Issues in Russia** *Annual Review of Environment and Resources* Vol. 33, 2008. pp: 437-460.

Additional literature:

- Dudek, D., Golub, A., Strukova, E. **Economics of the Kyoto Protocol for Russia.** *Climate Policy* (January 2004), 4 (2), pg. 129-142
- Nikitina, Elena. **Russia: climate policy formation and implementation during the 1990s.** *Climate Policy* (September 2001), 1 (3), pg. 289-308

- Steenhof, Paul A., Hill, Malcolm R. **Carbon dioxide emissions from Russia's electricity sector: future scenarios.** *Climate Policy* (January 2006), 5 (5), pg. 531-548
- Martin Jänicke, Helmut Weidner, (eds.), (1997). ***National environmental policies: a comparative study of capacity-building.***
- Trumbull, Nathaniel and Bodrov, Oleg **Environmental Degradation of Russian Coastal Regions: Exploring the Gulf of Finland** *Eurasian Geography and Economics* Volume 50, Number 5 / September-October 2009

October, 1. Political geography of Russia

Readings*:

- Blinnikov, Mikhail. ***Chapters 6, 7, 8.***

Additional literature:

- Faringdon, Hugh. (1989) ***Strategic geography: NATO, the Warsaw Pact, and the superpowers*** London ; New York : Routledge,. 2nd ed.
- Lapidus, G. **Asymmetrical federalism and state breakdown in Russia**. *Post-Soviet Affairs*, 1999.
- Ross, Cameron. ***Federalism and democratization in Russia.*** Communist and Post-Communist Studies (December 2000), 33 (4), pg. 403-420
- Ross, Cameron. **Putin's federal reforms and the consolidation of federalism in Russia: one step forward, two steps back!** *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* Vol. 36 (2003) 29–47. p. 33

October, 15. Political geography of the post-Soviet space

Readings*:

- Blinnikov, Mikhail. ***Chapter 9.***
- Olcott, Matha Brill (1999) **Getting it wrong; regional cooperation and the Commonwealth of Independent States.** Washington, D.C., Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Chapter 1. "The Failure of the CIS" pp. 1-36

Additional literature:

- Smith, Graham (1999) ***The post-Soviet states: mapping the politics of transition.*** London: Arnold ; New York : Oxford University Press
- Olcott, Matha Brill (1999) **Getting it wrong; regional cooperation and the Commonwealth of Independent States.** Washington, D.C., Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.
  Recommended chapters: 5. "Regional Alternatives to the CIS", and 7. "What Future Does the CIS Have?"
- Kuzio, Taras. **Geopolitical pluralism in the CIS: The emergence of GUUAM.** *European Security* Volume 9, Issue 2, 2000
- Splidsboel-Hansen, Flemming. **GUUAM and the future of CIS military cooperation European Security**. Volume 9, Issue 4, 2000
- Marples, David. **Is the Russia-Belarus Union Obsolete?** *Problems of Post-Communism.* Volume 55, Number 1 / January - February 2008

October, 22. Population and demographic challenges of Russia and post-Soviet countries

Readings*:

- Blinnikov, Mikhail. ***Chapters 10, 11.***
- Andrei Treivish. **A New Russian Heartland: The Demographic and Economic Dimension** *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, 2005, Vol. 46, No. 2, pp. 123-155.

Additional literature:

- Arel, Dominique. **Demography and Politics in the First Post-Soviet Censuses: Mistrusted State, Contested Identities.** *Population*, 57e année, n°6, 2002 pp. 801-827.

October, 29. Social geography, education and culture

Readings*:

- Blinnikov, Mikhail. ***Chapters 12, 13, 14, 15, 16.***

Additional literature:

- Field, Mark G. (2000) **The health and demographic crisis in post-Soviet Russia: a two-phase development.** In Field, M. and Twigg, J. (eds.) *Russia's Torn Safety Nets*. New York: St. Martin's Press., pp. 11-42
- Canning, Mary, Moock, Peter, Heleniak, Timothy (1999). ***Reforming education in the regions of Russia*.** Washington, D.C. : World Bank [available online through Carleton Library]
- Cockerham, William C. **Health lifestyles and the absence of the Russian middle class.** *Sociology of Health & Illness Vol. 29 No. 3 2007 pp. 457–473*
- Cockerham, W.C., Hinote, B.P. and Abbott, P. **Psychological distress, gender, and health lifestyles in Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukraine**, *Social Science and Medicine*, Vol.63 (2005), 2381–94.

November, 5. Economic geography: Russia

Readings*:

- Blinnikov, Mikhail. ***Chapters 17, 18, 19, 20, 21.***
- Nefedova, Tat'yana G., Treyvish, Andrey I. and Pallot Judith **The "Crisis" Geography of Contemporary Russia** *Eurasian Geography and Economics* Volume 51, Number 2 / March-April 2010

Additional literature:

- Bradshaw, Michael J. and Vartapetov, Karen. **A New Perspective on Regional Inequalities in Russia** *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, 2003, Vol. 44, No. 6, pp. 403-429.
- Merlevede, Bruno, Schoors, Koen and Van Aarle, Bas, ***Russia from Bust to Boom and Back: Oil Price, Dutch Disease and Stabilisation Fund*** // Comparative Economic Studies Vol.51: Issue 2 June 2009 pp.213-241;
- Connolly, Richard. **The Structure of Russian Industrial Exports in Comparative Perspective** *Eurasian Geography and Economics* Vol. 49, No. 5 / September-October 2008

November, 12. Economic geography: pipelines and energy security in Eurasia

Readings*:

- Cameron, Fraser **The Politics of EU-Russia Energy Relations** *EU-Russia Energy Relations*. OGEL, 2010 (available on WebCT)

- Bilgin, Mert **Geopolitics of European natural gas demand: Supplies from Russia, Caspian and the Middle East.** *Energy Policy* Vol.37, Issue 11, Nov. 2009, pp: 4482–4492

Additional literature:

- Paillard, Christophe-Alexandre; ***Russia and Europe's Mutual Energy Dependence*** // Journal of International Affairs, Spring/Summer 2010, Vol. 63, No. 2.
- Miller, Frederic P., F Vandome, Agnes, McBrewster, John, (2009) ***Russia-Ukraine Gas Disputes*****,** VDM Publishing House Ltd., 2009
- Stern, Jonathan. ***Natural gas security problems in Europe: the Russian–Ukrainian crisis of 2006*** // Asia-Pacific Review (May 2006), 13 (1), pg. 32-59
- Dieckhöner, Caroline **Simulating Security of Supply Effects of the Nabucco and South Stream Projects for the European Natural Gas Market** *Energy Journal.* 2012, Vol. 33 Issue 3, p153-181. 29p.
- Dorian, James P. et all. **Central Asia's Oil and Gas Pipeline Network: Current and Future Flows.** *Post-Soviet Geography,* 1994, Vol.35 No.7, pp.412-430.
- Blinnikov, Mikhail. ***Chapters 29, 30***

November, 19. Arctic issues

Readings*:

- Byers, Michael, (2010) ***Who owns the Arctic?: understanding sovereignty disputes in the north*** Vancouver, BC ; Berkeley : Douglas & McIntyre. *(Introduction: "Are the Russians Coming?", pp.1-5; Chapter 1. "Why Sovereignty matters", pp.5-22; Chapter 6. "Who owns the seabed?", pp.88-109)*.
- Holmes, Stephanie. **Breaking the Ice: Emerging Legal Issues in Arctic Sovereignty** *Chicago Journal of International Law* Vol. 323 2008-2009

Additional literature:

- Johannessen, O., et all. (2003) **Arctic Climate Change.** in Bobylev, Leonid P (et all.) (2003) *Arctic environment variability in the context of global change* Berlin; New York: Springer; Chichester, UK: Praxis, pp. 1-15.
- Fairhall, David (2010). ***Cold front: conflict ahead in Arctic waters*** London; New York: I.B. Tauris,
- ***Russian Arctic – GIWA Regional assessment*** Online at: http://www.unep.org/dewa/giwa/publications/r1a.asp
- Brosnan Ian G.; Leschine Thomas M.; Miles Edward L. **Cooperation or Conflict in a Changing Arctic?** *Ocean Development & International Law* (February 2011), 42 (1-2), pg. 173-210

November, 26. Asian vector

Readings*:

- Blinnikov, Mikhail. ***Chapter 31***
- Gleason, Gregory (2011) **China, Russia, and Central Asia: Triangular Energy Politics**. in Liu Currier, Carrie and Dorraj, Manochehr (eds.) *China's energy relations with the developing world.* New York: Continuum, 2011. Chapter 5., pp.83-100
- Buszynski, Leszek. **Oil and territory in Putin's relations with China and Japan**. *The Pacific Review* (September 2006), 19 (3), pg. 287-303

Additional literature:

- Yahuda, Michael B. (2011) ***The international politics of the Asia-Pacific.*** London, New York: Routledge, 3rd ed. Chapter 5. "The Soviet Union/Russia and the Asia-Pacific." pp. 116 – 136
- Azizian, Rouben (2006) **Japan's relations with Russia: the painful search of a new paradigm**. In Sato, Y. and Limaye, S. (eds.) *Japan in a dynamic Asia: coping with the new security challenges.* Lanham, MD : Lexington Books. Chapter 8., pp.157-178.
- Gulick, John. **Russo-Chinese Energy Cooperation: Stepping Stone from Strategic Partnership to Geo-economic Integration?** *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* (April 2007), 48 (2-3), pg. 203-233
- Aris, Stephen. **The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation: 'Tackling the Three Evils'. A Regional Response to Non-traditional Security Challenges or an Anti-Western Bloc?** *Europe-Asia Studies* (May 2009), 61 (3), pg. 457-482
- Zhuangzhi, Sun. **New and Old Regionalism: The Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Sino-Central Asian Relations** The Review of International Affairs (June 2004), 3 (4), pg. 600-612

December, 3. Conclusion. Russia and Canada – perspectives

Readings*:

- Burudu, Bogdan and Popa, Dragoş (2005) **Canada-Russia Relations: A strategic Partnership?** In Cooper, Andrew F., Rowlands, Dane (eds.) *Canada Among Nations: Split Images.* Chapter 11., pp. 185-202 [*N.B.* This book is available on-line through your Carleton U. library account]
- Lorentz, Andrzej, (1990) **Some aspects of Canadian-Soviet relations; Arctic cooperation, family reunification, and cultural exchanges.** Ottawa.

Academic Accommodations:

For Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

For Religious Observance:

Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious observance should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no 7 later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Students or instructors who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton's Academic Accommodation policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance.

For Pregnancy:

Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Academic Standing and Conduct

Students must familiarize themselves with the regulations concerning academic standing and conduct in the 2011/2012 Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar:
http://www4.carleton.ca/calendars//ugrad/current/regulations/acadregsuniv14.html.

Retain Copies of Work Submitted

Students are strongly advised to retain a hard copy (and electronic backup) of all assignments and term papers in the event of loss for whatever reason.

Student Life Services

Student Life Services, located in Room 501 of the Unicentre, offers a wide range of programs and services to assist students in adjusting to academic life, in improving their learning skills, and in making academic and career decisions.

University Regulations Regarding Cheating and Plagiarism

University regulations stipulate that any allegation of plagiarism, cheating or violations of examination conduct rules will be thoroughly reviewed. Each case must be reported to the Dean, who investigates each allegation. If there is no resolution following this investigation at the Dean's level, a tribunal will be appointed by the Senate to review the case and make a final decision.

Note on Plagiarism: Webster's Dictionary defines plagiarism as stealing. Plagiarism is the submission of someone else's writing/ideas/work as your own. All ideas presented which are not your own must be properly referenced. While forms of plagiarism may vary, each involves verbatim or near verbatim presentation of the writings or ideas of others' as one's own without adequately acknowledging the original source. Plagiarism includes (but is not limited to) copying from a book, article or another student, downloading material or ideas from the Internet, or otherwise submitting someone else's work or ideas as your own.