Political Science 3208A
Reform and Political Change in the Russian Federation
Friday 11:35 – 14:25
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Professor: Andrea Chandler
Office: Loeb D691
Phone: 613-520-2600 ext 1418
Hours: Monday 11:15-14:00 and Friday 10:00-11:15
E-mail: Andrea_Chandler@carleton.ca

Course description:

This course examines the politics of reform in the Russian Federation, including its historical roots in the Soviet Union, the politics of privatization under post-communist leader Boris Yeltsin, the reorientation of the state under Vladimir Putin, and the evolving political arena under President Dmitrii Medvedev. In the past two decades, this country has endured great change, and the notion of reform has been a dominant theme of politics. Since 2000, scholars have tried to explain the upsurge of nationalism, the increased control of the state and the apparent reversal in democratization. Despite Russia’s bouts of sudden political tumult, many basic institutional structures remain relatively resilient to change. Because of the extent of reforms that were undertaken during Putin’s presidency, the course will pay considerable attention to political trends since 2000. However, the course will sustain a strong emphasis on the examination of the reform process throughout the transition from Soviet socialism, which must be understood in its historical context. During the term, Russia is expected to begin the campaign for its 2010-2011 election cycle, and it is anticipated that course lectures and discussions will be attentive to the prospects for political change in the country.

The goals of the course are to provide a survey overview of Russian politics, within a historical and comparative context; to examine critically some of the major theoretical and analytical approaches that scholars have employed to try to explain the peculiarities of Russian development; to develop skills in research and analytical writing; and to debate the questions that post-Soviet politics raises for our understanding of political change in general. Students are required to attend and participate actively in class discussions, as spoken debate can promote greater understanding of complicated, dynamic political processes. Written assignments are intended to encourage students to read sources critically and to engage in thoughtful, original analysis based on thorough research.

Textbook: (available for purchase at the Carleton University Bookstore)

In addition to the textbook, a number of additional articles and book chapters are assigned. All readings have been placed on reserve in MacOdrum Library. All assigned readings are compulsory, and students are expected to come to class having prepared the readings for that week in advance.

**Course Requirements:**

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<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation in three designated class discussions (see below)</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposal for final research paper, due <strong>October 21</strong>, to be submitted online through WebCT</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final research paper</td>
<td>30%, due in hard copy on or before November 25, to be submitted directly to the instructor, in person.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final examination (to be held during the scheduled examination period in December)</td>
<td>35%</td>
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</table>

- Class attendance and participation in discussion: **15% (5% for each of three discussions).** In the course, we will have **three** structured group work discussions during part of class time: **September 30, October 28, and November 18.** All students are required to attend, to participate actively in discussions (which may include the preparation of small group presentations), and to prepare for these discussions by completing the assigned reading in advance. Discussion-based work will occur during class time. Attendance will be recorded and will be considered in the calculation of each student’s participation mark. Participation will be evaluated **individually** for each student on the basis of his/her cumulative constructive contributions to focused class discussions. Participation is not defined simply as talking, but also includes listening and contributing to small group discussion. **Late arrivals or early departures from class during the dates specified in this paragraph will result in a reduced mark for attendance and participation.** In preparing presentations, students should endeavour to speak to the group rather than to read from a text. In any group presentations, each group will designate one spokesperson. Students who miss an occasional class discussion because of a documented illness or family emergency are encouraged to see the instructor as soon as possible to discuss the missed work.

- Proposal for final research paper, due **on or before October 21**, to be submitted online through WebCT (20%). **Please either insert the text of your assignment directly into the box provided in the online assignment tool, or submit as an attachment using MS Word (2003 or 2007) or pdf only.** The proposal should include: a research question or hypothesis, with an analytical question to be explained; an explanation of the parameters of the topic, including the specific focus, time period to be examined and/or case study; a bibliography including at
least eight scholarly books and peer-reviewed journal issues relevant to the topic, with one sentence explaining the particular value of each source; a discussion of at least one primary source to be used for the topic; and a focussed outline explaining the sequence of the organization of the paper. Length of assignment: 5-7 pages (double-spaced, 12 point font, including bibliography). The proposal is a discussion or preliminary research that is already underway, so it should demonstrate an appropriate level of familiarity with the research question and with the source material. The professor will post suggested essay topics on WebCT; students who choose other topics are expected to discuss them personally with the professor well in advance of the due date. See additional information below (Statement on Written Work).

- Final paper, 30%, due November 25, in person, to the instructor. The final assignment is a written research paper, 10-15 typed, double-spaced pages long, which must be submitted to the instructor in hard copy. This paper is expected to show original analysis, sustaining an argument which will be supported with evidence. The final assignment is a research paper and should demonstrate that you have considered a range of scholarly sources: a minimum of eight published books or articles. The paper should demonstrate careful and critical consideration of a broad range of carefully chosen, quality research sources (including peer-reviewed scholarly publications). The instructor does not consider encyclopedias or general Internet information sources (such as Wikipedia) to be acceptable research sources for university-level research papers. Papers which simply assemble or reiterate information, or which do not demonstrate sufficiently rigorous research, will not be considered satisfactory assignments. See additional information below (Statement on Written Work).

- Final examination: 35%. The examination will be scheduled during the official exam period (December 8-21). Students will be responsible for all material covered in the course, including lectures, readings and discussions.

All course requirements must be completed to receive a passing grade. Students who do not write the final examination, but whose term work is otherwise complete and satisfactory, will receive a grade of ABS.

CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PROFESSOR

The professor holds scheduled office hours that are specifically dedicated to answering questions from students. Students are encouraged to come to these office hours. When students have questions related to the course material, the content of assignments, and research strategies, it is best to discuss those questions in person with the professor or the teaching assistant. Do not hesitate to ask for help in finding research sources, or to ask further questions about material covered in course lectures. Students can also contact the professor to make an appointment for a meeting time outside of office hours.
Students may also use e-mail to contact the professor for brief exchanges of factual information. The professor normally replies to e-mail messages within two working days. Students are encouraged to check WebCT regularly for possible announcements.

STATEMENT ON WRITTEN WORK

All written assignments should answer a specific question and make a clear argument, providing facts and evidence to back up statements made. Papers should analyze, rather than describe, the issues and events discussed. All papers should use footnotes, endnotes or parenthetical referencing to acknowledge sources consulted, and provide a complete bibliography. Footnotes should be complete and accurate, inserted into the text of your paper as appropriate whenever you have referred to someone else’s idea, argument, or research. Any time you quote directly from a source, the citation should be indicated in quotation marks and footnoted. Quotations from secondary sources are to be avoided, as are quotations of more than fifty words in length from any one source. *** If you are unsure about how to use footnotes or endnotes, please see the professor for advice.

LATE PAPERS

Papers are expected to be submitted on time, to facilitate prompt marking for your fellow students. Extensions for written assignments will be considered only for family emergencies and for documented medical reasons. Marks will be deducted for lateness, and the university schedule for 2010-2011 establishes December 5 as the final deadline for all written assignments. Late penalties will be assessed on the basis of the date that the instructor receives the paper. Please submit papers according to the instructions specified for that assignment. Once term assignments are graded, students may collect their completed papers during the instructor’s scheduled office hours, or by providing a stamped, self-addressed envelope in which the assignment may be returned by mail.

SCHEDULE OF COURSE TOPICS AND READINGS

Week 1. INTRODUCTION (September 9)
Recommended: Remington, ch. 1.

Week 2. THE SOVIET SYSTEM (September 16)
Remington, pp. 31-49; 87-98; and 117-49.

Week 3. PERESTROIKA, 1985-91 (September 23)
Remington, 49-55; 98-102.
Week 4. THE SOVIET COLLAPSE: GROUP WORK DISCUSSION (September 30)
(Review Cohen article from Week 3 in addition to reading the two items below):
Alexei Yurchak, “Soviet Hegemony of Form: Everything was Forever, until it was no More,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, vol. 45, 3, July 2003, pp. 480-510.

NO CLASS OCTOBER 7: UNIVERSITY DAY

Week 5: POLITICS OF ECONOMIC REFORM (October 14)
Remington, pp. 56-60, and chapter 7.

Week 6. CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS; ELECTIONS (October 21)
Remington, pp. 60-73, 106-16.

Week 7. Class discussion: POLITICAL PARTIES, OPPONITIONS AND SOCIETY (October 28).
Remington, chapter 6.

Week 8. REFORMS UNDER PUTIN’S PRESIDENCY: I (November 4)
Remington, chapter 8.

Week 9. REFORMS UNDER PUTIN’S PRESIDENCY II: FEDERALISM AND SOCIAL WELFARE (November 11)
Remington, pp. 73-86.


Week 10. DEMOCRATIC REVERSAL -- DISCUSSION (November 18)


Remington, pp. 179-90.

Week 11. STATE AND SOCIETY (November 25)


Week 12. FOREIGN POLICY AND THE STATE (December 2)


Remington, chapter 9.

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**Academic Accommodations**

**For students with Disabilities:** Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your request for accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs **at least two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations.** If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **(November 11, 2011 for fall term examinations and March 7, 2012 for winter term examinations).**

**For Religious Observance:** Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor 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 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. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

**For Pregnancy:** Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

**Plagiarism:** The University Senate defines plagiarism as "presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own." This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

**Oral Examination:** At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

**Submission and Return of Term Work:** Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day’s date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**Grading:** Assignments and exams will be graded with a percentage grade. To convert this to a letter grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>57-59</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>53-56</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>50-52</td>
<td>D-</td>
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**Grades:** Final grades are derived from the completion of course assignments. Failure to write the final exam will result in the grade ABS. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.
Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Connect Email Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

Carleton Political Science Society: The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students in the after-hours academic life at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, or come to our office in Loeb D688.

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.