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Office hours, July-August: Tuesday, 15:30-17:30; Thursday, 15:00-17:00, or by appointment

Course Description:

Almost twenty years have gone since the breakup of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). Fifteen independent states emerged on its territory. Their post-soviet development revealed very different transition paths: from a considerably successful adoption of the rules and principles of democratic states to return to various forms of authoritarian and even totalitarian regimes. The collapse of the Soviet Union exposed many latent problems that existed in these transition states. Economic turmoil, humanitarian and civil crises uncovered inconsistencies of social, economic and political development in these countries. At the same time a very high pace of political processes as well as radicalism of some reformatory efforts in these countries showed that post-soviet states have been among the most intensively developing regions in the world.

As the former communist system collapsed, social scientists began to consider new approaches to the study of the region, often with particular attention to the process of democratization. Specialists who study the former Soviet Union provide differing assessments of post-Soviet politics. Some analysts point to resurgent authoritarianism and widening economic disparities; others insist that slow progress has been made in creating institutions of governance, resolving conflicts, and recognizing the participation of social movements. Regional and local politics have become a prominent focus of politics throughout the former Soviet Union, as have the dynamics of ethnic and group identities. Meanwhile, unexpected events, such as Georgia’s “Rose Revolution”, Ukraine’s “Orange Revolution” and Kirgiz “Tulip Revolution”, demonstrate that politics in this region continue to be unpredictable.

This course is aimed at investigating new patterns of academic perceptions about the region as well as pointing at the most remarkable events in the history of the former soviet states. The course will adopt a comparative approach, aiming to explore political, economic and social patterns of development in the southern, eastern and western post-Soviet states as well as in the Russian Federation. The focus of the course will be on a few grouping topics rather than on examining specific regions. These topics are:

1) Transformations of political systems and types of political regimes;  
2) Patterns of economic development;  
3) Civil society and social development;  
4) Ethnic conflicts and humanitarian catastrophes;
5) Coloured revolutions;

The course concentrates on a few major countries. As the largest and arguably most dynamic state in the region, Russia will receive special attention. In some other countries (Georgia, Ukraine and Kirgizstan) relationships between the state and society have been quite spectacular. Political and social processes in these countries will also be discussed in seminars with great attention. This is a seminar course, and group discussions will constitute the bulk of each class. Students are expected to prepare the assigned readings in advance of each class, and to take an active role in class discussion. As part of class participation, students will prepare in-class presentations on the outlined issues or about countries they are interested most. Students will be required to develop an independent research project on an approved topic (to be explored in depth in the post-Soviet country/countries of their choice); they will present their research to the class in the middle of the term, and each student will complete a final research paper on their topic.

**Readings:** The readings assigned for the course are divided on compulsory (marked with *) and supplementary. Students are expected to come to each class having preparing the assigned readings in advance. There is no textbook for the course. All course readings are available online through your Carleton University library account. Hard copies of the majority of articles exist in MacOdrum Library.

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

- ✓ Class participation, including regular attendance, participation in class discussions of assigned readings and group work: 20%. In discussion sessions students must show their knowledge of the assigned readings.

- ✓ Two in-class reports on different readings assigned to the course: 30% (15% for each report). These reports (approximately 10 minutes in length) must reflect major issues discussed in the selected readings. Additional research on the topics is highly welcomed. Assignment of the topics will take place on the first seminar in the course.

- ✓ Short proposal of a research paper, (max. 5 pages), due July 26. 15%. Students are encouraged to discuss potential topics with the instructor in advance. The paper must include: a brief statement of the research question and preliminary argument to be addressed; a discussion of the importance of the topic for current debate on political change in the former Soviet Union; a discussion of the parameters of the topic to be addressed in the final paper; and a mention of the sources and methodology to be used, including a brief bibliography.

- ✓ Final research paper, 35% due August 16, 2011. The paper should be approximately 12-15 pages in length and should incorporate some research from primary sources.

**All course requirements must be completed in order to receive a passing grade.** Papers should be organized so as to develop a clear argument systematically, and should be analytical rather than final research paper in particular should explore a comprehensive survey of literature and secondary sources: a minimum of fifteen items should be consulted. Students should be able to incorporate research from primary sources, whether in the original language or in English translation. All papers should use footnotes or endnotes as appropriate whenever referring to an author’s idea, citing empirical facts or
drawing on research from published sources. Parenthetical referencing may be used if the student prefers, but citations and bibliography must be correct and complete. Any direct quotations from a source should be clearly indicated in quotation marks. As a general rule, however, direct quotations should be kept to a minimum and should not exceed fifty words from any one source. A complete bibliography of sources consulted should be included at the end of the paper. Papers must be handed in personally to the instructor on or before the due date. One letter grade will be deducted per every day of lateness.

Extensions will be granted only for illness (with a doctor’s note) or for a family emergency. Late papers will be penalized one letter grade (i.e. A- to B+) per day late. No work will be accepted after the end of classes. Assignments sent electronically will not be accepted without prior consent of the instructor. It is not acceptable to hand in the same assignment for two or more courses.

Note: no laptops will be allowed for use in class, except as needed during news or oral reports.

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.

TENTATIVE OUTLINE

Readings marked with (*) are imperative to read for everyone in class. Additional materials are designed to assist students presentations as well as preparation of the research report.

July 5. Introduction. The collapse of the Soviet Union and patterns of post-soviet politics.


* R. Judson Mitchell; Randall S. Arrington, Gorbachev, ideology, and the fate of Soviet communism // Communist and Post-Communist Studies (December 2000), 33 (4), pg. 457-474

On comparative method in studying post-soviet states.

* Rod Hague and Martin Harrop (eds.), 2010 Comparative Government and Politics: An Introduction 8th edition; Palgrave; PART I.

July 7. Political regimes (from democracy to authoritarianism)

Discussion of various strategies implemented by different post-soviet states while building their political systems. The discussion will include analysis of democratization attempts in these countries. Success of the Baltic states, compromise in Georgia, “Governed (sovereign) democracy” in Russia, ‘soft’ and ‘hard’ authoritarian regimes in Belarus, Kazakhstan and central Asian states are the topics of this debate.

Selected readings:

* Hale, Henry E., Regime Cycles: Democracy, Autocracy, and Revolution in Post-Soviet Eurasia // World Politics 58 (October 2005) 133-165
July 12. Political regimes (continued)


*W.E. Crowther; I. Matonyte, Parliamentary elites as a democratic thermometer: Estonia, Lithuania and Moldova compared* // Communist and Post-Communist Studies (September 2007), 40 (3), pg. 281-299


Wheatley, Jonathan (2005), *Georgia from National Awakening to Rose Revolution: Delayed Transition in the Former Soviet Union* (Ashgate), pp. 103-142


July 14. Patterns of economic development

Seminar addresses different patterns of economic reforms in the post-soviet countries. Due to various opportunities post-soviet countries implemented various strategies of economic reforms. With the major focus on the troubled rapid economic liberalization in Russia and its later return to the resource-based economy, the discussion later proceeds to similar processes in some other countries and assess the role of foreign monetary institutions such as IMF and the World Bank in economic development of these countries.

**Selected readings:**


*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;


Kenisarin Murat M.; Andrews-Speed, Philip, *Foreign direct investment in countries of the former Soviet Union: Relationship to governance, economic freedom and corruption perception* // Communist and Post-Communist Studies (September 2008), 41 (3), pg. 301-316
Bayulgen O., *Foreign capital in Central Asia and the Caucasus: curse or blessing?* // Communist and Post-Communist Studies (March 2005), 38 (1), pg. 49-69


Those interested in making presentation and/or writing the research paper on the topic may find interesting the following issue of the journal: *Comparative Economic Studies*, Vol. 53, Issue 1, March 2011. It contains works for the symposium: “Eurasia: Natural Resources and Economies.”

**July 19. Civil Society**


*R. Sapsford; P. Abbott,* *Trust, confidence and social environment in post-communist societies* // Communist and Post-Communist Studies (March 2006), 39 (1), pg. 59-71


**July 21. Humanitarian and Ethnic conflicts**

This week’s discussion will concentrate on several remarkable issues that plagued social and political development on the post-soviet landscape. Among those are long-term ethnic conflicts in Nagorno-Karabakh oblast, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, as well in Uzbekistan and Chechnya.

*Selected readings:*


This week’s discussion covers basic ideas about popular choice and elections in the post-soviet states. Once the patterns are outlined the case of the Russian Federation will be considered in detail.

Selected readings:


Katz, Richard S., Democracy and Elections , pp. 46-66 and 78-100


Russia’s case


McFaul, Michael (1997), The Russia’s Presidential Election of 1996: The End of Polarized Politics (Stanford University Press);


July 28. Public choice, elections and democracy in post-soviet states (other than Russia)

Belarus


Ukraine


August 2. Political Parties in post-soviet states
This week’s discussion is dedicated to the role and differences in partisan systems of post-soviet countries. The issue of importance of political parties is the top question of the in-class debate. Another question is: whether parties in post-soviet states are genuine vehicle of democratic representation or they are just elite cliques?

Selected readings:


*Contemporary Belarus: Between Democracy and Dictatorship*, pp. 68-84, 53-67


August 4. Coloured revolutions (Georgia, Ukraine, Kirgizstan)

The first public discontent concerning fraudulent elections emerged in Georgia in 2003. It ended up with failure of then ruling political elite. The situation later repeated Ukraine a year later and in Kirgizstan in the spring of 2005. But after 5 years from these events the outcomes were different. If new Georgian leader M. Saakashvilli is still in power, leaders of other ‘revolutions’ – V.Yuschenko and K.Bakiev lost popular support in their countries. In-class discussion will incorporate analysis of major aspects of these cornerstone events in modern history of these countries, variety in outcomes of these ‘revolution’, search for similarities and peculiarities among these events.

Selected readings:

*Zherebkin, Maxim, *In search of a theoretical approach to the analysis of the ‘Colour revolutions’: Transition studies and discourse theory* // Communist and Post-Communist Studies (June 2009), 42 (2), pg. 199-216


This week’s discussion is dedicated to two major and the most significant events in post-soviet history of the former USSR countries. The first is an ongoing “battle over gas” between Russia and Ukraine that recently involved Belarus. The second one is military conflict between Russia and Georgia in August 2008.

Selected readings:

* Allison, Roy, *Russia resurgent? Moscow’s campaign to ‘coerce Georgia to peace’* // International Affairs, Vol. 84 no.6, November 2008, pp.1145-1171


August 11. Special focus on Russia’s politics.

This week’s discussion will be centred around contemporary political process in Russia. Putin-Medvedev tandem, Russia’s recovery from the world economic crisis. Medvedev’s modernization.

* Medvedev Dmitry, *“Go Russia!”* //

* Sakwa, Richard, *“The Dual State in Russia”* // Post-Soviet Affairs, Vol.26 No.3, pp.185-206


* Kryshtanovskaya, Ol’ga; White, Stephen // *The Sovietization of Russian Politics* // Post-Soviet Affairs, Vol.25 No.4, pp.283-309


August 16. Conclusive remarks and open discussion.
Academic Accommodations
For Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact the Paul Menton Centre (PMC) for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) to complete the necessary forms. 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 in-class test or CUTV midterm exam. This will allow for sufficient time to process your request. Please note the following deadline for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations: March 14, 2008 for April 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 Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: “to use and pass off as one's own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another.” The Graduate Calendar states that plagiarism has occurred when a student either: (a) directly copies another's work without acknowledgment; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's own would contribute to the merit of his or her own work. Instructors who suspect plagiarism are required to submit the paper and supporting documentation to the Departmental Chair who will refer the case to the Dean. It is not permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses. The Department's Style Guide is available at: http://www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/Essay%20Style%20Guide.html

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.

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.

Course Requirements: Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

Connect Email Accounts: The Department of Political Science strongly encourages students to sign up for a campus email account. Important course and University information will be distributed via the Connect email system. See http://connect.carleton.ca for instructions on how to set up your account.