Course Description:

It has been twenty-five years since the Soviet Union collapsed, leaving behind its fifteen constituent republics as independent successor states. The states in this region include:

- Russia, which stands out for the de-participation of its reform process and its complicated federal system;
- states, such as Armenia, Moldova and Tajikistan, which were notable for their early political conflicts;
- and others, such as Belarus, where an authoritarian political system prevails.

Post-Soviet societies have faced serious challenges, including economic crises, interethic disputes and declining welfare states. This part of the world is a fascinating laboratory for studying numerous questions of value to political scientists: how do multiethnic societies respond to rapid political change? How are political institutions rebuilt after a collapse of a state? How can a society adapt to a state which has altered its traditional controls over citizens? Does the international environment offer new opportunities to these states, or is it instead a source of new pressures and tensions?

The course will examine the politics of Russia and the Soviet successor states, in a way that is informed by historical and comparative perspective. Students will examine readings that reflect various disciplines and methodological approaches. Among the planned topics of discussion are the politics of reform and revolution, and citizens’ responses to these processes; conflicts and territorial disputes; the role of international relations in political transformation; and the politics of memory and identity.

The goals of the course are 1) to examine and compare political changes in the post-Soviet states since the transition from communism; 2) to discuss and evaluate critically debates in the literature on this transition process; 3) to analyze a range of methods of doing research on political change, 4) to develop research skills and writing
abilities, through the pursuit of individual research projects. Although readings will cover a variety of countries, the focus in the course will be on debating questions rather than covering countries individually. This is a seminar course, and group discussions will constitute the bulk of each class. As part of class participation, students will work in groups to prepare questions or other assignments given during class time.

**Readings:** All readings assigned for the course are compulsory. Students are expected to come to each class having prepared the assigned readings in advance. There is no textbook for the course. All course readings have been placed on reserve with McOdrum 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 group work and contribution to regular weekly discussion of assigned readings: **20%**. Participation marks will be assessed on the basis of attendance and participation in classes from Weeks 2-8 and Week 12 (see below regarding group work evaluation during weeks 9-11). Students will be asked to work in groups on questions related to the readings during class time.

- Short proposal for term research project (upon which the final research paper will be based): 5 pages (double-spaced, 12-point font, in hard copy) due February 7. **20%**

  The proposal must include: a brief statement of the research question and working hypothesis to be addressed; a discussion of the importance of the topic for current debate on political change in one or more countries of the region; 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. The proposal should include a discussion of the primary source(s) that will inform the research. See also STATEMENT ON WRITTEN WORK, on p. 4, which applies to both of the written assignments for the course.

- Group work, class participation and individual presentation during classes in Weeks 9, 10 and 11 of course (March 14, 21 and 28), **20%**

  This component of the course mark will include the following: a) participation in group work, during class time, in which students working on related topics for their final papers discuss their ideas, b) Each student will make a short (5 minute) presentation to the class on his/her research paper, c) Each student will fill out and submit a worksheet (distributed by the professor) on the results of the group work. The worksheet is to be handed in on or before April 4.

- Final research paper, **40%** due on or before April 7, 2013. The paper will develop the
research question that was identified in the first written assignment, and as a result, it should reflect a cumulative effort to gather and analyze evidence. The paper should be approximately 20-25 pages in length, typed and double-spaced. Students are required to incorporate research from primary sources, whether in the original language or in English translation. Papers should be organized so as to develop a clear argument systematically, and should be analytical rather than descriptive. The final research paper in particular should explore a comprehensive survey of literature and secondary sources: a minimum of fifteen items should be consulted, as appropriate to the topic. Clear, parsimonious and accurate writing are part of the communication of research results; as a result, grammar, spelling and careful editing will be considered in the criteria for grading. See the next paragraph for additional expectations.

STATEMENT ON WRITTEN WORK

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 must be included at the end of the paper. Papers must be handed in personally to the instructor on or before the due date. Marks will be deducted for lateness and university term deadlines apply. Extensions will be considered for documented medical reasons or for family emergency.

Office hours and e-mail: Students with questions for the professor may reach her by coming to her office hours (no appointment needed), by arranging a personal meeting outside of office hours, by phone, or by e-mail. Following university policy, the instructor will communicate by e-mail with students using university e-mail addresses. Normally, the instructor expects to reply to e-mail or voicemail queries within 1-2 days during the working week (Monday through Friday). Students who wish to communicate with the instructor are encouraged to meet personally during her office hours, at another convenient time by appointment, or at the end of class. Students are encouraged to check the course Web page at CuLearn regularly for possible announcements.

Schedule of Course Topics:

Week 1 (January 10) Introduction
Week 2. (January 17) INTERPRETING THE COLLAPSE OF THE SOVIET UNION

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.


Week 3. (January 24) THE TRANSITION FROM COMMUNISM


Week 4 (January 31) POLITICAL ECONOMY


Week 5. (February 7) ) REVOLUTION AND REGIME CHANGE: WHY IT HAPPENS, WHY IT DOESN’T HAPPEN


Week 6. (February 14) GLOBALIZATION, MIGRATION AND TRANSNATIONAL RELATIONS


**READING WEEK FEBRUARY 20-24: NO CLASS**

Week 7 (February 28). SOCIAL MOVEMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY


Nadia Diuk, “Youth as an Agent for Change: the Next Generation in Ukraine,” *Demokratizatsiya*, vol. 21, no. 2, spring 2013, pp. 179-?

Week 8 (March 7) RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN RELATIONS SINCE THE EUROMAIDAN CRISIS OF 2014


Weeks 9-11 (March 14, 21 and 28). GROUP WORK AND PRESENTATIONS

Week 12 (April 4) IDENTITY, ETHNICITY AND MINORITY RIGHTS


Francesca Stella, “Queer Space, Pride, and Shame in Moscow” *Slavic Review*, vol. 72, no. 3, fall 2013, pp. 458-80.


Academic Accommodations
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 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.

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<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>12</td>
<td>67-69</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.