GOALS OF THE COURSE

Course Description:

The course will examine the evolution of Russian domestic politics and society since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Themes discussed include the transformation of Russia’s political system, changes in the behavior of political elites, the evolution of Russia’s social structure, and federal-regional relations.

Course Objectives:

Russia is rapidly transforming and her international behavior frequently overshadows a complex and dynamic domestic evolution. The purpose of the course is to critically examine key processes in Russian domestic politics and society since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 and to explore a complex evolution of the interplay of the Russian political, social and institutional system at the federal and regional levels.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Seminar participation: Regular weekly attendance is compulsory for this class. Unexcused absences will result in a significant reduction in the participation mark for the course, which can have a marked impact of the course grade. Students will be graded on the basis of attendance, the quality of regular contributions to the class discussion, and, most importantly, demonstrated familiarity with required course readings. Each student will be evaluated according to these criteria during each seminar session. Regular weekly attendance is compulsory for this class.
• **Discussion paper:** The paper should address a specific question provided by the course instructor in advance (usually two weeks before the respective class). The length should be 6-8 pages (typed, double-spaced, 12-point font). The paper should contrast, critique and analyze the readings offering a concrete argument with respect to the given question. Additional reading, beyond what is required for the week, may be specified by the instructor to enrich your discussion. Clarity and conciseness are important; the paper should **NOT** simply describe or reiterate the readings. The paper should be submitted electronically to the instructor for the respective session and to the student commentator by 10 a.m. on each FRIDAY before the class presentation. It is very important that the paper be submitted on time, since both the instructor and the class need time to read it before the session.

• **Presentation of the Discussion Paper:** All students will present their discussion paper to the class (dates will be assigned in the first meeting). In the presentation of his or her discussion paper, each student should focus on the key arguments made within the written discussion paper, drawing on examples from the readings where appropriate. The student should be prepared to present the arguments verbally in a presentation of 15 minutes. Students should **NOT** simply read the written paper.

• The discussion paper and presentation will be evaluated on the basis of the cogency of the argument made, presentation and effectiveness of communication, and demonstrated familiarity with and reflection on course readings, with a combined grade for the oral and written components. Neither the paper nor the oral presentation should provide lengthy summaries of course readings. (You may provide a short synopsis of the relevant reading, however, up to one page in the written paper, or two pages if more than one reading is involved.)

• Policy paper shall address key policy recommendations for week 12 of the seminar. The length should be 5-6 pages (typed, double-spaced, 12-point font). Area of the policy paper shall follow key areas discussed during the seminar (for instance social policy or elite formation). Structure of the paper will be provided.

**Important Information regarding the course:**

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is a core value of the university and essential for creating a constructive environment for teaching, learning, and research in the Institute’s programs. Students are responsible for being aware of the University’s Academic Integrity Policy, understanding what constitutes academic dishonesty, and ensuring that all course assignments submitted for evaluation abide by University policy. **Any suspected violations of the academic integrity policy will be referred to the Institute’s Director and then to the appropriate Dean for further investigation.** Students who are found to have violated the standards of academic integrity will be subject to sanctions. An overview of the University’s Academic Integrity Policy is available at [http://www1.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/](http://www1.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/) and the full policy at [http://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Academic-Integrity-Policy1.pdf](http://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Academic-Integrity-Policy1.pdf)

**Late Penalties and Failure to submit assignments:**

- Any student who fails to hand in the critical review or the discussion paper will receive a failing mark in the course. Penalties for late assignments will be as follows:
Critical review and proposal for the critical review: Two points (of a % scale) for each day late (including weekends). Papers will not be accepted more than one week after the due date without a valid (e.g., written medical) excuse.

Discussion papers: Late assignments will suffer an immediate deduction of 15% (on a 100% scale), and 3% for each day late.

- Students absent on a date of an oral presentation or commentary will receive a “0” unless a valid medical (or equivalent) excuse is provided. Advance notice should be provided to the instructor.
- Any student who fails to meet the pass/fail requirement to attend guest lectures (or to hand in three satisfactory reaction papers in lieu of this) will receive a deduction of 4 percentage points (on a 100 point scale) from the final course mark.
- Consistent attendance is expected in this core seminar; it is expected that students who must miss a class for any reason will contact the instructor responsible for that session in advance, if possible.

Course Readings:
The main course readings will be placed on reserve in the Carleton University Library (marked ‘R’ on the outline). Most required readings (journal articles and book chapters) will be available in electronic format via the Ares Course Reserves system (there is a link in CU Learn to Ares). In some cases, the library will only make items available on physical reserves to be consulted onsite in the library (they will be indicated as such in the Ares system). Readings assigned for the course that are compulsory (and marked *) for all students are marked with an asterisk (*). There are also suggested additional readings. Most of these optional supplemental readings are available in the library stacks. If they are checked out, you may place a hold on them to receive them when they are returned. If you find that a required reading is not available for a given week, please notify the instructor for that session immediately.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 Jan.7
INTRODUCTION

1. Explanation of requirements and content of the course.
2. Approaches to the region(s) transformation - mini-lecture on “grand transformation in Eastern Europe – key issues.”
3. Discussion of academic resources.
4. Selection of presenters.

Week 2 Jan.14
EVOLUTION OF THE POST-COMMUNIST REGIME – FROM YELTSIN TO PUTIN – PART ONE (System collapse – Yeltsin)

We will discuss two approaches to the regime change in Russia after collapse of communism.

1. Orthodox view on regime evolution:
   - The collapse of the Soviet Union marked “the end of history,” meaning that liberal democracy became the only viable model for organizing societies worldwide.
   - Implication for Western policy toward Russia: non-intervention/non-confrontation.
   - Later, it became apparent that liberalism in post-Soviet countries could not be achieved overnight. This led to the transitionalist paradigm, where the societies were understood...
as transitioning on a spectrum from A (“communist dictatorship”) to B (“liberal democracy”). Implication for Western policy toward Russia: low-scale intervention, promotion of civil society NGOs – i.e., small nudges toward the endpoint on the transition spectrum.

- (ongoing) Acceptance of entrenched authoritarianism (alternatively called by many other definitions, e.g.: hybrid regime, competitive authoritarianism, patrimonial presidentialism, superpresidentialism, etc.) as status-quo. Implication for Western policy toward Russia: non-intervention/confrontation.

2. Non-Orthodox view on regime evolution:
The style of power and the political process (liberal/authoritarian) is not instrumental for understanding regime evolution, as it would then appear static (authoritarian at all times, not the least due to remnants of the authoritarian Soviet institutions). Rather, it is more important to look at the regime’s legitimation on social, economic, and ideological grounds, where each compete in terms of importance and complete each other to create a more or less solidified support base for the regime.

Readings:

Chapter 3 Democrats on the Offensive, pp. 114-154
Chapter 4 August 1991 and the Decline of Russia's Democratic Movement, pp.156-196


*Vadim Volkov. Violent Entrepreneurs: The Use of Force in the Making of Russian Capitalism. Cornell University Press (THEME: ELITES or SOCIAL STRUCTURE or ECONOMY)
Chapter 6, “The Politics of State Formation,” pp. 181-192 (final part of chapter, starting with “Putin’s Dilemma” subsection)


*Piotr Dutkiewicz and Vladislav Inozemtsev (eds.). *Democracy versus Modernization, A Dilemma for Russia and for the World*. Routledge 2012
Chapter 9, G. Pavlovsky. “Democracy and How it is used in Russia,” pp. 97-110


*Bunce and Wolchik, Defeating Authoritarian Leaders in Post-Communist Countries (for another theme: NGOs), Conclusion, 327-352

**Week 3 Jan. 21**

**EVOLUTION OF THE POST-COMMUNIST REGIME – FROM YELTSIN TO PUTIN – PART TWO (Putin and Putinism)**

In order to make any change after taking over from Yeltsin, to define new rules and “bring state back” Putin’s Kremlin elite needed more power and new resources in order to avoid becoming
trapped in the new dependency cycle by the oligarchs. In fact, power and resources are synonymous with *accumulation*. What they were really looking for was a different mode of accumulation that would not differentiate between “economic” and “political power”. We will unveil that – quite complex - process of regaining “undifferentiated power” by V.Putin’s group.

**Readings:**
Chapter 2, The Contradictions of Putinism, pp. 14-38
Chapter 3, The Impasse of Power, pp. 61-81
*Piotr Dutkiewicz and Dmitri Trenin (eds.). *Russia: The Challenges of Transformation. NYU Press 2011*
Chapter 1, Piotr Dutkiewicz. “Missing in Translation: Re-conceptualizing Russia’s Developmental State,” pp. 9-40
Chapter 3, G. Derluguian. “The Sovereign Bureaucracy in Russia’s Modernizations,” pp. 73-87

**Week 4 Jan 28**
**RUSSIAN SOCIETY – EVOLUTION & STRUCTURE**

We will paint the portrait of a contemporary Russian society that is undergoing a massive transformation since mid-1980s. With the help of selected readings based on large scale sociological surveys we will try to reconstruct social structure of the country in the context of a long, turbulent, socially costly and multi-faceted transformation from a centrally planned to a market economy, from socialism to capitalism and from the empire to a regional power. One of our key tasks will be to show the complexity and dynamics of Russian society and its formal and informal mechanisms and rules, including in its relations to the state. Russian society in our seminar will be presented as socially complex, multi-ethnic, multi-confessional whose civilization is both deeply rooted historically and simultaneously representative of the post-modern system of unconstrained constructivism (an ability to transform almost anything into an object of capitalization).

One of the key goals of this class will be to provide evidence for our guiding thesis that Russian society is, in fact, not merely an object of high-level political processes, but an adaptive, dynamic and – at times reluctant – subject of its own history.

**Readings:**

* Natalya Tikhonova, The Russian roller coaster: Changes in Russia’s social structure in the post-communist period, in SOCIAL HISTORY OF POST-COMMUNIST RUSSIA, Piotr Dutkiewicz, Vladimir Kulikov and Richard Sakwa (eds), Routledge, 2016, pp. 1-18
Week 5 Feb. 4

CIVIL SOCIETY IN RUSSIA or RUSSIAN CIVIL SOCIETY

The meaning of “civil society” has been contested over time. An ideologically-charged neoliberal understanding of it was imposed on the new Russian regime in the 1990s. This understanding was informed by the Western (mostly American) foreign policy objectives, which were informed by a desire to replicated the 1989 color revolutions in post-communist countries. Here, civil society is adversarial towards the state. However, the foreign NGOs did not do enough to engage the public or the market, focusing instead on political PR campaigns, which made them irrelevant to the Russian population. Further, their support for Western foreign policy and attempts to smear the Russian government also tarnished their reputation with the population.

After the US withdrew funding to the sector, the emergent vacuum – both conceptual and institutional – was overtaken by local initiatives. In effect, Putin’s “crackdown” on the NGOs followed a withdrawal of funds. Since grassroots organizations concerned with service provision had not received much in foreign funding, the restrictions on foreign financing did not impact the actual service provision, but did curb foreign political influence. Further, some foreign-origin organizations, such as faith organizations, continue to operate and provide services to the disenfranchised.

Readings:

*Lisa McIntosh Sundstrom, *Funding civil society: foreign assistance and NGO development in Russia*, 2006. Chapter 1: Crossing Boundaries: Analyzing Civil Society and Transnational Influences (pp. 1-25)
Bunce and Wolchik, Defeating Authoritarian Leaders in Post-Communist Countries. Conclusion, 327-352

Week 6 Feb.11
RUSSIAN ELITES – WHO RULES RUSSIA

During this class we will define the composition of various elite groups in Russia, their evolution and links to the respective Soviet-era groups. We will reveal different patterns of elite formation characteristic of different regimes (Yeltsin -Putin-Medvedev). We will also discuss relations between “elites” and rest of the Russian society notably middle classes.

Readings:
*Gaman-Golutvina O. V. Changes in Elites Patterns // Europe-Asia Studies. 2009. Vol. 60. No. 6
*Ilja Viktorov, The Legacy of Tandemocracy Russia’s political elite during Putin’s third presidency: Interview with the sociologist Olga Kryshtanovskaya (note : this reading will be posted on CuLearn)

Week 7 Feb.25
“GENDER” IN RUSSIAN CONTEXT – SOCIO-POLITICAL and ECONOMIC ASPECTS

This section of our seminar will provide a broad overview of gender issues in Russia. Its aim is to introduce class to the development of Russian gender order in Pre-revolutionary, Soviet and Post-Soviet periods of Russian history. We will discuss such issues as:
• Russian gender culture in historical perspective and its conceptualization (women's movements, women's issues and man's question in the 20-th century),
• contemporary gender culture (transformation of the gender arrangements during the last two decades)
• gender inequality, within the spheres of economy and employment, politics, family, sexuality and citizenship

Readings:
*Janet Elise Johnson and Aino Saarinen, “Twenty-First-Century Feminisms under Repression: Gender Regime Change and the Women’s Crisis Center Movement in Russia.” Signs, Vol. 38, No. 3 (Spring 2013), pp. 543-567
* Richard Stites, The Women’s Liberation Movement in Russia, pp. 3-37; 89-99
(optional) Elizabeth Wood, The Baba and the Comrade: Gender Politics in Revolutionary Russia, pp. 1-12; 68-98.


Week 8 March 4
RUSSIAN INCARNATION OF “THE ECONOMICS OF TRANSITION “

This seminar seeks to explore the milestones along the path of economic and social development in Russia in the 1991 - 2017 period. This time of transition from a centrally planned to a market economy, from socialism to capitalism, from authoritarianism to new forms of individual freedoms was, as is any turning point, brimming over with action and policies that – sometimes – had to be made overnight. It was a blur of events, from which it is not always so easy to sift out the really important moments that defined path of Russian economic transformation. During this seminar, we will attempt to draw as unbiased a picture of the economic changes, anchoring the discussion in the central theme of this section, which is how economic transformations and transition affected the social structure of society and delineated the path of current Russian economic development.

Readings:
Week 9 Mar. 11

The goals of this class are to:

- Outline multiple ways to perceive regional complexity of Russia, countering a monolithic and unitary view of the country;
- Demonstrate how the focus of perception influences the research questions pursued;
- Emphasize questions related to populations and the representation of their political interests via institutional and non-institutional means (“Russia is not only Putin and the regime: there are people living there”);
- Explore whether it is warranted to assume a radical break/discontinuity in regional politics between the Yeltsin and Putin regime;
- Explore whether Russia’s institutional federalism should be equated with democracy/democratic procedure

Readings:

*Nikolay Petrov, “From a Federation of Corporations to a Federation of Regions,” in Lipman et al. (eds.), Russia 2025 2013, pp. 181-201.

**Week 10 Mar. 18**
**RUSSIAN REGIONS 2: Regional Politics – 2018 Gubernatorial Elections**

We will discuss recent gubernatorial elections, challenges, possible scenarios for the future

**Readings:**
Press, news, social media ; some will be provided by the instructor

**Week 11 Mar. 25**
**Ideological currents in the post-soviet Russian politics**

There are roughly two types of ideological projects in the public space right now: ones that seek to imitate ideologies from the west, re-develop traditional Russian currents or amalgamate both. We will discuss: “Eurasianism”, New Russian traditionalism, Russian version of liberal democracy, Russian nationalism and so called “system” approach in the process of regime’s (de)legitimization.

**Readings:**
*A M. Kuznets (2007) Russia in Search of a National Idea, Russian Social Science Review, 48:3, 4-7
*Elena Chebankova (2015) Competing Ideologies of Russia's Civil Society, Europe-Asia Studies, 67:2, 244-268.
* EURASIAN INTEGRATION: THE VIEW FROM WITHIN Edited by Piotr Dutkiewicz and Richard Sakwa (Routledge, Great Britain), 2014
EURASIANISM AS A “ PHILOSOPHY OF THE NATION ” by Valery Badmaev (pp.31-46)

**Week 11  April 1**

A PEOPLE IN THE ABSENCE OF THE PEOPLE, OR A VIEW OF RUSSIAN POSTCOMMUNISM FROM BELOW

Readings:

*Boris Kapustin, chapter 2 in : SOCIAL HISTORY OF POST-COMMUNIST RUSSIA, Piotr Dutkiewicz, Vladimir Kulikov and Richard Sakwa (eds), Routledge, 2016,

**Week 12  April 8**

WHAT CAN/SHALL BE DONE - What kind of policies for what kind of Russia?

Presentations of the “policy papers”.

In this class participants/students will present a short “policy papers” on how to improve key aspects of Russian state management, improve NGO capacity, revamp economy etc. A short guidelines on how to prepare such paper will be posted on CuLearn. Each student shall contact instructor to discuss in advance a topic and sources for this presentation/paper.

Readings:


**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).

**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).

**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.

All suspicions of plagiarism will be dealt with according the Carleton’s Academic Integrity
Policy (http://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/). The Associate Dean of the Faculty
will conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student. Penalties are not
trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of F for the
course.

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes,
labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They
are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written
consent of the author(s).

**Submission, Return and Grading of Term Work:**

Written assignments must be submitted directly to the instructor(s) according to the instructions
in the course outline. If permitted in the course outline, late assignments may be submitted to the
drop box in the corridor outside room 3305 River Building. Assignments will be retrieved every
business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructors. For
written assignments not returned in class please attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you
wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose
of evaluation and will not be returned.
Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

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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.

**Carleton E-mail Accounts:** All email communication to students from the Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and university information is distributed this way, it is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

**Official Course Outline:** The course outline posted on Pol.Science/ EURUS website is the official course outline.