



Post-Soviet Politics

Political Science 410, Spring 2018

Instructor: Dr. Jess Morrisette

Office Hours: M 9-12, Tu/Th 3:30-4:30, or by appointment

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Course Description

Study of the politics of Russia and the former Soviet Union (International, 3 credit hours).

Course Learning Outcomes

Outcome	How we will practice it...	How we will assess it...
Evaluate the legacies of communism in Russia and the post-Soviet states.	Discussions, lectures, in-class activities.	"What if...?" essay, exam questions.
Contextualize key historical junctures the Soviet and post-Soviet eras.	Discussions, lectures, in-class activities.	"What if...?" essay, exam questions.
Compare the political, economic, and social institutions of the post-Soviet states.	Discussions, lectures, in-class activities.	Exam questions, term paper.
Understand others in terms of how people in post-Soviet states view politics, economics, and society.	Discussions, lectures, in-class activities, polling data analysis.	Exam questions, candidate profile.
Integrate Russian foreign-policy interests with a broader sense of geopolitics.	Discussions, lectures, in-class activities.	Geography quiz, term paper, exam questions.
Evaluate how specific approaches to global issues will affect multiple cultural communities or political institutions.	Discussions, lectures, in-class activities.	Exam questions, term paper.
Untangle competing economic, religious, social, political, institutional, or geographical interests of cultural groups in conflict.	Discussions, lectures, in-class activities.	Exam questions, candidate profile, term paper.

Requirements and Grading Policy

Your grade will be based on your performance on two exams, a geography quiz, two essays, a term paper, and class participation.

5%	Geography Quiz	A = 90-100%
10%	"What if?" Essay	B = 80-89%
25%	Midterm Exam	C = 70-79%
5%	Candidate Profile	D = 60-60%
25%	Term Paper	F ≤ 59%
25%	Final Exam	
5%	Participation	

Please note that failure to complete any component of the course will result in a failing grade for the semester, regardless of the missing assignment's point value.

"How will you calculate my participation grade?"

Your participation grade will be calculated as follows: 5 points will be awarded to students who attend class consistently and make valuable contributions to class discussion on a regular basis; 4 points will be awarded to students who consistently attend and contribute occasionally; 3 points will be awarded to students who attend consistently, but seldom participate. Attendance grades of 2, 1, and 0 points are reserved for those students who fail to attend class regularly and therefore cannot participate meaningfully in class discussions.

If you feel that you are having trouble getting your voice heard in our discussions, please contact me as soon as possible and we will work together to get you more involved.

Required Readings

- Kelley. *Russian Politics & Presidential Power* (ISBN: 9780199324354)
- McAuley, *Soviet Politics 1917-1991* (ISBN: 9780198780670)
- Sperling, *Sex, Politics, and Putin* (ISBN: 9780199324354)
- Tsygankov, *Russia's Foreign Policy*, 4th edition (ISBN: 9781442254022).

Supplemental readings will be placed on MUOnline throughout the semester.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance is required in this class, and students are expected to have read and be ready to discuss all assigned readings prior to class. Students will also be graded based on their class participation—engaging in discussion of the readings and current political events, asking questions, and so forth.

Academic Honesty

Students are expected to adhere to the University's policies concerning academic honesty (please see the 2017/2017 undergraduate catalog). Cheating or plagiarism on any exam, quiz, or assignment will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted to the fullest extent under University policies. **The penalty for cheating or plagiarism is a failing grade for the course.**

Cheating is defined by the University as “[a]ny action which if known to the instructor in the course of study would be prohibited.” This includes, but is not limited to, the use of any unauthorized materials or assistance during an academic exercise.

The University defines plagiarism as “[s]ubmitting as one’s own work or creation any material or an idea wholly or in part created by another.” Furthermore, it is “the student’s responsibility to clearly distinguish his/her own work from that created by others. This includes the proper use of quotation marks, paraphrase and the citation of the original source. Students are responsible for both intentional and unintentional acts of plagiarism.”

Personal Electronic Devices

Please turn off your cell phone prior to class. Students who text during class will be asked to leave. Students should also refrain from using PKE Meters, boom boxes, Xboxes, Pandora’s Boxes, Crock-Pots, lightsabers, laser tag guns, Moog synthesizers, old-timey collodion process cameras, electromagnetic pulse emitters, tanning lamps, sonic screwdrivers, baseball pitching machines, Nintendo Power Gloves, laser epilators, PoulonPRO PP3516AVX chainsaws, Dance Dance Revolution arcade machines, night vision goggles, Margaritaville™ frozen drink machines, shiatsu massage chairs, drones, or similar electronic devices during class time.

Email Policy

Please check your Marshall email account regularly. Important announcements may be sent to your “@marshall.edu” e-mail address during the course of the semester.

Late Assignments and Make-Up Work

Late assignments will be assessed a 10% penalty per day after the missed deadline (including weekends), with a maximum penalty of 50%. The final date to submit late work for the semester is Friday, April 27. Please keep in mind that you must complete all assignments in order to receive a passing grade in the course, regardless of the point values of those assignments. There will be no make-up exams administered for students without an excused absence from the University. Students who need to miss an exam should contact me prior to the scheduled exam period if at all possible.

7 Tips for Success

1. Complete readings prior to class. You'll understand the material better and be ready to participate in discussions.

2. Keep notes on the readings. It's easy to get the readings mixed up in class. Take notes and bring them along with you to help keep everything straight.

3. Aren't familiar with a term or historical event you stumble across in the readings? Look it up! This is where Wikipedia is your friend.

4. Participate in class discussions. It's five percent of your grade! Even asking a question counts.

5. Work on papers ahead of time. I'm happy to provide feedback on rough drafts.

6. Proofread, proofread, proofread. Seriously, proofread.

7. Come see me. I'm always willing to offer help, brainstorm ideas, or provide feedback.

Other University Policies

By enrolling in this course, you agree to the University Policies listed below. Please read the full text of each policy by going to www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs and clicking on "Marshall University Policies." Or, you can access the policies directly by going to www.marshall.edu/academic-affairs/policies/.

- Academic Dishonesty, Excused Absence Policy for Undergraduates, Computing Services Acceptable Use, Inclement Weather, Dead Week, Students with Disabilities, Academic Forgiveness, Academic Probation and Suspension, Academic Rights and Responsibilities of Students, Affirmative Action, Sexual Harassment

Assignments

Geography Quiz: This quiz will require students to identify the fifteen post-Soviet states on a map. I will upload a practice map to MUOnline.

Midterm & Final Exams: Students will complete two exams: a midterm and a non-cumulative final. I will provide additional details on the content and format of the exams as they approach.

"What if?" Essay: It's time to engage in a little speculative history. What if the 1991 coup to remove Gorbachev from office had succeeded? Would the USSR still be around today, or would internal and external pressures led to its collapse anyway? Drawing on class discussions and readings, write a three-page analysis of how you think events might have unfolded.

Candidate Profile: Write a two-page profile of a candidate *other than Vladimir Putin* in the 2018 Russian presidential elections. The profile should summarize the candidate's background, party affiliation, and platform.

Term Paper: Students will write a term paper (approximately 10 pages) comparing the current state of a specific policy or political issue across two post-Soviet states. For instance, you might compare immigration policies in Russia and Lithuania. Or, you could contrast Georgia's and Ukraine's relationships with the European Union. Alternatively, you might compare LGBT rights in Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan.

The goal of the term paper is to analyze—not just summarize factual details. Therefore, a successful term paper will not only identify similarities and differences in these policies, but also attempt to offer an explanation for how and why we observe these similarities and differences. My advice is to choose a narrow topic, allowing for in-depth analysis. Something as broad as "the economy" won't cut it; a topic like "trade relations with the West" is closer to the mark.

Your paper should cite a minimum of eight sources, as least four of which should be scholarly sources (e.g. academic journals or university-press books). Avoid using online encyclopedias and other sources inappropriate for college-level research.

Writing Tips

- You will submit all assignments electronically via MUOnline.
- Cite your sources! You can choose any widely used citation style (e.g. APA, MLA, Chicago), but stay consistent. Also, be sure to make it clear where you found any “outside” information in your essay. This includes not only citing direct quotations, **but also any paraphrased material or statistics**. As a rule of thumb, any information that you decide to include in the paper and didn’t know before you began working on the project merits a citation. Also, include a “works cited” page at the end of your essays and exams. Failure to properly cite your sources constitutes **PLAGIARISM**.
- Be judicious in choosing your online sources, and **do not cite Wikipedia or other online encyclopedias**. Articles from major media outlets and official organizational websites are always safe bets. On the other hand, if it’s a website you’ve never heard of prior to it popping up in a Google search, that’s probably a good sign that it’s not an appropriate academic source.
- Papers should conform to the suggested lengths provided above (title pages and works cited pages do not count toward the suggested length). Papers should be double-spaced with 1” margins and typed using the standard 12-point Times/Times New Roman font (or the Macintosh equivalent). Please include page numbers in the upper right-hand corner of your pages.

Course Schedule

Week of January 9: Introduction

- McAuley, *Soviet Politics* (Intro & Chapter 1)

Week of January 16: The Soviet Era

- McAuley, *Soviet Politics* (Chapters 2-5)

Week of January 23: The Fall of the Soviet Union

- McAuley, *Soviet Politics* (Chapters 6-8 & Conclusion)
- Kelley, *Russian Politics* (Chapters 1-2)
- Vanden Heuvel and Cohen, "Gorbachev on 1989" (PDF)

Geography Quiz

Tuesday, January 30

Week of January 30: Boris Yeltsin at the Crossroads

- Kelley, *Russian Politics* (Chapters 3-4)
- Frontline, "Analyses of Yeltsin's Achievements" (PDF)
- Berger, "Boris Yeltsin Dies at 76" (PDF)

Week of February 6: The Rise of Vladimir Putin

- Kelley, *Russian Politics* (Chapters 5-6)
- Fish, "The End of the Putin Mystique" (PDF)
- Greene and Robertson, "Explaining Putin's Popularity" (PDF)

"What if?" Essay Due

Thursday, February 8

Week of February 13: The Russian Presidency

- Kelley, *Russian Politics* (Chapter 7)

Week of February 20: Parties and Parliament

- White, "Voters, Parties, and Parliament" (PDF)

Candidate Profile Due

Tuesday, February 27

Week of February 27: The Russian Economy

- White, "From Plan to Market" (PDF)
- Shelley, "Crime, Organized Crime, and Corruption" (PDF)

Midterm Exam

Tuesday, March 6

Week of March 6: Political Culture, Civil Society, and Media

- Evens, "Civil Society and Protest" (PDF)
- Lipman, "The Media and Political Developments" (PDF)
- Senzee, "Kremlin Targets LGBT Youth Support" (PDF)
- Omid, "WTF? Russia Bans Swearing in the Arts" (PDF)
- Gessen, "The Dying Russians" (PDF)

Week of March 13: Sex and Gender in Putin's Russia

- Sperling, *Sex, Politics, & Putin* (Chapters 1-3)

Week of March 20: Class cancelled for Spring Break!

Week of March 27: Sex and Gender in Putin's Russia

- Sperling, *Sex, Politics, & Putin* (Chapter 4-Conclusion)

Week of April 3: The Rebirth of Russian Nationalism

- Tsygankov, *Russia's Foreign Policy* (Chapters 1-2)
- Marten, "Vladimir Putin: Ethnic Russian Nationalist" (PDF)

Week of April 10: Military Action from Afghanistan to Chechnya

- Tsygankov, *Russia's Foreign Policy* (Chapters 3-5)

Term Paper Due

Thursday, April 12

Week of April 17: Expansionist Policies in Georgia and Ukraine

- Tsygankov, *Russia's Foreign Policy* (Chapters 6-7)
- Kramer, "Why Russia Intervenes" (PDF)

Week of April 24: Russia and the West

- Tsygankov, *Russia's Foreign Policy* (Chapters 8-9)
- Hunter, "Diverging Visions of Partnership" (PDF)
- Fisher, "The Worse Russia's Economy Gets, the More Dangerous Putin Becomes" (PDF)

Final Exam Due

Thursday, May 3 by 12:45PM

This course schedule is subject to change. Readings may be removed, added, or moved to a different day based on our progress in the semester.