

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This is an intermediate level politics course. It does not presume any background in the subject matter. However, students are certainly welcome if they have some background. The academic focus is on politics and political issues in contemporary Russia. Because the information is quite new to most students, it will require serious effort and very regular attention to the readings and on-line lectures and assignments. The challenge associated with understanding the contemporary politics of the Russian system is a daunting one. The issues, problems, and fluid nature of politics are hard to grasp. Students that make this effort will be rewarded with discovering a fascinating and intriguing system. Please review the syllabus carefully. We will deal with history quite briefly. Students will find course options in history that can provide an insight into 19th and 20th century Russian affairs. In practical terms, we will provide a platform of information on the current state of politics, a focused look at the political leadership, and some careful examination of the issues that affect people and organizations in Russia. This course examines internal politics and PSC 243 RUSSIAN FOREIGN POLICY examines the international dimensions of the subject and is offered in the next summer session.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Please read and THINK about the following list. If you are unable to do these things, it will not be possible for you to complete this course in a satisfactory way.

- (a) all readings from the text
- (b) careful study of the PPT slides and the lectures linked to those slides
- (c) additional readings from the electronic course file (supplemental articles)
- (d) view and analyze one feature film
- (e) research and submit one short research paper
- (f) two term-long worksheets
- (g) a comprehensive final exam

COURSE TEXTBOOK

- ▶ Remington, POLITICS IN RUSSIA, 7th edition, paperback, 2012
important that you have the correct edition!

FACULTY - STUDENT CONTACT

The on-line format of this course can present extra challenges. Recognizing that you may have very different circumstances that led you to take an on-line class, I propose to be available to you in person many weeks during our ten week course. Every Wednesday (from April 22nd) from 11am to 1pm, I will be available in the Political Science Department to work through, explain or review the module assigned in that time frame. Any of you wishing to have that added exposure to the material are welcome. Lectures are also available in the PSC lounge (room 2212) on DVD. In person contact is NOT required and I assume that many of you will not find it workable or necessary. It is an opportunity for those desiring some professor-student contact of this sort. No rewards or penalties will be ascribed to those who do or do not make these sessions. They are completely optional. If any of you wish, we can arrange a time to Skype as an alternative.

Location of My Office

The DePaul building at 990 West Fullerton Ave. (adjacent to the Fullerton "el")

Office: #2207 or in the PSC Lounge (room 2212)

Office phone: 773 325-1977 cell phone: 847 251-2671 Skype: dick.farkas

E-mail: dfarkas@depaul.edu

GRADES

First, my general approach to grades. For integrity sake, course grades need to differentiate levels of individual performance and understanding of the subject matter. For this reason, it is important to take the gradations seriously.

A's indicate exceptional and excellent level work.

B's are a reward for good, solid and above average work.

C's are assigned for average performance.

D's indicate below average work or failure to complete work

F's are assigned when a professor is convinced that the student was unwilling or unable to do the work in the course. This can happen for many reasons and does not necessarily reflect on the character of the student.

The following elements will be formally evaluated:

Quizzes Postings Worksheets Formal paper Final exam

To deal with the final exam successfully, you will have to read all of the assigned materials and have worked through all of the modules. Questions will be developed directly from these two sources. You are responsible for understanding

the concepts and you will need to recall many details. Some questions will be "objective." That is, they will require you to know specifics. You may need to connect two elements or order events to answer some of the questions. Points earned during the term will be summed. On the final exam, if no student scores a perfect score, I will add the number of points between the highest score and the perfect score to everyone's total on the final exam only. At the end of the course, I will array the students' point totals and cluster them around what my forty years in the classroom suggests is a reasonable distribution of final grades. I reiterate, I take seriously that D = poor performance, C = average performance, B = good (above average) performance, and A is reserved for excellent or exceptional performance

RESEARCH PAPER

The subject of the paper will be a single Russian political leader or oligarch. That person must be alive but not necessarily in power at the moment. Students will need to research their subject and write a paper using the following organizational structure: Submit electronically to the dropbox by May 23. No late submissions will be accepted. Students will receive a brief note if their electronic submission is received. The name of your leader (paper topic) **will be assigned**.

- | | |
|---|------------|
| I. Brief non-political biographical sketch (life details) | 3 pts. max |
| II. Current and/or past political position(s) & responsibilities | 3 pts. max |
| III. Locate leader on the ideological continuum using issues
(lecture will define continuum) | 3 pts. max |
| IV. Select one important and memorable quote from this leader
(explain how provides insight) | 3 pts. max |
| V. Politically assess this leader's future in Russia & how history will write about
him or her | 3 pts max |

You must label all sections clearly!

The rubric that will be used to evaluate this short research paper. Is included on line (Module 0). Failure to follow this format will be penalized. Papers that do not build on course material will be evaluated critically.

Proper grammar, spelling and sentence structure are required.

Guidelines for length: 5 –6 pages double spaced.

All documents should be submitted in Word Document format (docx/doc).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

This is the standard and the norm at DePaul. It requires complete academic honesty. Any violation of this principle will cause you to fail the course and will cause me to write a letter to the Dean outlining the violations of our academic community's policies. Your work must be your own original thought or you must cite the source of the words or ideas that you borrow from another source. If you have any doubt about what is a violation, consult me. "Academic honesty" is crucial to our enterprise. The faculty has effective ways of investigating suspicious cases ("Turn It In"). To avoid any possibility, cite all sources and consult with me if you have any questions. University regulations are clear and will be followed in cases requiring such action. This is an essential "rule of the game" and all students should do their own thinking and attribute ideas to their originators.

MISSING WORK

Over the years, I have simply declined to make judgments about the "validity" of student "reasons" for missing assignments. If you miss an assignment, I will assume YOU made a judgment that something else was "more important." While I may or may not share that view, the important thing is that you made the decision. All decisions have consequences. In the end, YOU ARE responsible for the work assigned and the deadlines specified. All students must know that "incompletes" will NOT be assigned unless discussed prior to the final exam.

LIBERAL STUDIES LEARNING OBJECTIVES

PSC 251 is a "self, society, and the modern world" course in the DePaul liberal studies program. Completion of this course can be used to fulfill that degree requirement.

Substantive Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will use the constructs of power, diversity, and/or culture to describe examples of where, why and how inequities exist in modern society.
2. Students will be able to frame a theory about the relationship between individuals and modern society.
3. Students will be able to analyze central institutions and/or underlying social structures and their impact on the larger society.

Methodological & Critical Thinking Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to articulate an argument based on theory and empirical evidence regarding the modern world.
2. Students will be able to analyze critically research and arguments about the modern world.

Personal/Reflective Learning Outcomes:

1. Students will be able to reflect, in writing, upon their role in the modern world, including their relationship to their own and/or other communities.
2. Students will be able to analyze social problems and public policies on the basis of ethics and values

MODULES Professor initiated changes are possible but rare. If any occur, you will be notified by our on-line communication system (i.e. NEWS)

textbook reading

Module 1: Pre-Soviet Background	Remington, Chapter 1
Module 2: Soviet Political History	Remington, Chapter 2
Module 3: Yeltsin & the New Russian Federation	Remington, Chapter 3 & 8
Module 4a: Conceptual Model: VALUES	Remington, Chapter 5
Module 4b: Conceptual Model: MACHINERY	Remington, Chapter 6 & 7
Module 4c: Conceptual Model: LEADERSHIP	Remington, Chapter 4
Module 5: Political Performance	
Module 6: The Future	

Course Outline:

- I. Background
 - a. Geography
 - b. Pre-Revolution History
 - c. Marxism
- II. Political History
 - a. Lenin
 - b. Stalin & “the design”

c. Khrushchev / Brezhnev & Kosygin

d. Gorbachev

III. Yeltsin & the New RUSSIA

IV. The Conceptual Model

a. Values

b. Political Institutions Political Parties Elections

c. Democracy?

d. Leadership Putin Medvedev Factions

V. Political Performance

a. Public Services

b. Media

c. Economics

d. Corruption

e. Chechnya

VI. The Future