FOCUS

This course is a survey of post-Soviet Russian politics. The course begins with an examination of the crisis of the USSR in the 1970s and 1980s and the efforts by Mikhail Gorbachev to respond with a program generally know as "perestroika." The bulk of the semester is devoted to examining the efforts to create a new Russian political system following the demise of the USSR and the presidential regimes of Yeltsin, Putin, Medvedev, and the return of Putin. In addition, the Russian experience is analyzed in the context of the more general problem of "transitions" toward more open political and economic systems in former communist settings and in countries that did not have communist governments.

TEXTS

Required:


Recommended:


In addition to the two texts, I will be giving handouts out for additional reading.

**REQUIREMENTS**

Midterm Examination 20%

Research Paper 25%

Final Examination 35%

Class Citizenship 20%

**CLASS POLICIES**

1) Students are responsible for all materials covered in the lectures and assigned readings. You must read the relevant chapters before the lecture pertaining to those readings.

2) Failure to attend class, tardiness and failure to participate in class discussion will negatively affect your grade in this class (class citizenship portion of the course grade).

3) Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated, and will punished to the fullest extent allowable by the Academic Committee at the University of St. Thomas. (See Below)

4) Other than in exceptional cases of personal or family emergencies, no make-ups will be given for students missing any of the regularly scheduled assignments during the semester. In addition, each calendar day late that an assignment is, will result in a reduction of a full letter grade.

5) A grade of “I” (Incomplete) will not be given in the course except in the most extraordinary of circumstances.

**PLAGIARISM**

The following are some dictionary\(^1\) definitions of plagiarism:

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• “The action of copying someone else’s idea or work or pretending that you thought of it or created it” (Collins).

• “To take words, ideas, etc., from someone else’s work and use them in one’s own work without admitting one has done so” (Longman).

• “To steal or pass off as one’s own the ideas or words of another” (Webster).

Plagiarism also includes:

• “Double-dipping - This is submitting a paper or other assignment which had previously earned credit from another course.”

• “Text recycling - Reusing in a new assignment large portions of a previously submitted paper(s) or other written assignment (computer code, speech, etc.) without acknowledging their former use.”

Common student misconceptions on plagiarism:

• “Many students believe that as long as a citation is included, they can simply appropriate portions of text from another source and use that text as their own writing.”

• “Many are also confused as to what constitutes common knowledge believing that anything on the Internet is common knowledge.”

Some General Tips to Students:

• Citation Guidelines
  
  - Common Knowledge: Did you look up the information? If so, then a citation is needed
  
  - An emphasis should be placed on proper paraphrasing

• Student assignments should always be crafted and turned in with the understanding that the professor will be operating under the assumption that:

  - unless otherwise properly noted in the assignment, the assignment submitted is the student’s own.

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2 Dr. Miguel Roig (University of St. Thomas Spring 2004 Faculty Study Day Speaker, January 12, 2004.

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- the representation of their own or others’ work is accurate (e.g., data fabrication).
- that the assignment turned in/presented is exclusive to that course.

**SCHEDULE OF READINGS, LECTURES, AND EXAMS**

August 22 – Introduction to the Course

**Part I – The End of an Experiment: The Soviet State and the Implosion of the USSR**

**Topic One:** Chapter 1, Kotkin

**Topic Two:** Chapter 2, Kotkin

**Topic Three:** Chapter 3, Kotkin

**Topic Four:** Chapter 4, Kotkin

(Chps. 1 and 2, Remington)

**Part II – Transitions**

**Topic Five:** Chapter 5, Kotkin

**Topic Six:** Chapter 6, Kotkin

**Topic Seven:** Chapter 7, Kotkin

(Chps. 1, 2, and 3, Remington)

**Part III – Contemporary Russian Government and Politics**

**Topic Eight:** Russia’s Constitutional Order, Chp. 3, Remington

**Topic Nine:** Political Participation and Recruitment, Remington, Chp. 4

**Topic Ten:** Ideology and Political Culture, Remington, Chp. 5

**Topic Eleven:** Interest Groups and Political Parties, Remington, Chp. 6

**Topic Twelve:** State and Market in Russia’s Economic Transition, Remington, Chp. 7

**Topic Thirteen:** Politics and Law, Remington, Chp. 8
**Topic Fourteen:** Russia as Regional Super-power, Remington, Chp. 9

**Important Dates:**

No Class, Monday, September 5, Labor Day

Dr. Sergei Khrushchev’s on “Putin’s Russia” lecture, Thursday, September 22, 6pm, Jones Hall

No Class, Monday, October 10, Fall Break

Midterm Examination, Wednesday, October 26

No Class, Wednesday, November 23 - Friday, November 25, Thanksgiving Break

Last Day of Class, Monday, December 5

Research Papers are due on Monday, December 5

Wednesday, December 7, Final Examination, 8:00-10:30AM

**PAPER REQUIREMENTS**

The paper must be 8 to 10 pages in length (graduate students, 15 to 20 pages in length). It must be typed, double-spaced, paginated, stapled and must use an academically accepted format for footnotes, citations, and reference pages. A list of possible paper topics will be handed out. The topic, once chosen, will have to be turned in to the instructor on October 26. Since this is a research project, 6 to 8 sources must be cited, with at least four being from recent scholarly publications. In addition, periodicals, magazines and newspapers may be used. Some of the major scholarly journals in political science, Russian/Soviet studies, international relations, and comparative politics are:

*American Political Science Review*
*American Journal of Political Science*
*Journal of Politics*
*American Review of Politics*
*Political Behavior*
*Public Opinion Quarterly*
*American Politics Research*
*Legislative Studies Quarterly*
*Presidential Studies Quarterly*
*Review of Politics*
*Political Research Quarterly*
*Policy Studies Review*
*Journal of Public Policy*
*Policy Studies*
Southeastern Political Review
Polity
Journal of Political Communication
World Politics
International Political Science Review
Political Geography
Comparative Politics
International Studies Quarterly
International Organization
International Security
World Affairs
Communist and Post-Communist Studies
Post-Soviet Affairs
Soviet Economy
Problems of Communism
Problems of Post-Communism
The Russian Review
Russian Politics and Law
Slavic and East European Journal
Soviet Studies
The Soviet Review
Transition
Soviet Geography

Examples of other sources are periodicals such as *The Brookings Review*, and *Cato*; magazines such as *The New Republic*, *The Progressive*, and *The National Review*; and newspapers such as the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, the *Moscow Times*, and the *St. Petersburg Times*. 