

**NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
Department of Politics**

**The Government and Politics of Russia
Fall 2006**

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COURSE OUTLINE AND READING LIST

Course Requirements:

1. Mid-Term Essay: An essay question will be distributed mid-way through the semester. You will have one-week to complete the assignment. (Your entire work should be no more than 12 pages and should be double-spaced, in 12-point font, preferably Times Roman, with one inch margins all around.)

2. Policy Proposal for President Putin: You are to write a brief policy memorandum to President Vladimir Putin. You are to name one crucial problem facing Russia today. You are to argue why this problem is especially pertinent to Russia and its future as well as to propose a specific policy or set of policies that will remedy this problem. Consider the benefits as well the negative impacts of your policy, if it were to be implemented, and whether negative “side-effects” of your proposal can be remedied or overcome. (Your entire work should be no more than 3 single-spaced pages, and should be in 12-point font, preferably Times Roman, with one inch margins all around.) The assignment will be handed in at the beginning of Week XI.

3. Final Research Paper: You will be asked to write a term paper that will address a particular aspect of the current state of governance and politics in Russia today. Your topic should be approved by me. (Your entire work should be no more than 25 pages and should be double-spaced, in 12-point font, preferably Times Roman, with one inch margins all around.) The assignment will be handed in at the end of the semester.

TOPICS AND READINGS

Week I: Introduction: Understanding the Challenges of Governing Russia Today

No reading assignments.

**PART I: WHAT WAS STATE SOCIALISM? WHAT WAS THE SOVIET UNION?
WHY DID THE SOVIET UNION COLLAPSE?**

Week II: A (Short) History of the Soviet Union: Economic and Political Life Under State Socialism

Carl Friedrich and Zbigniew Brzezinski, Totalitarian Dictatorship and Autocracy, (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1956) p. 15-27.

Janos Kornai, The Socialist System: The Political Economy of Communism (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1992), p. 71-90, 110-130.

Week III: Attempts to Reform State Socialism

Timothy J. Colton, The Dilemma of Reform in the Soviet Union (New York: Council on Foreign Relations, 1986), p. 32-67.

Moshe Lewin, The Gorbachev Phenomenon (Berkeley and Los Angeles, CA: University of California Press, 1988), p. 101-121, 157-174.

Archie Brown, The Gorbachev Factor (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 1996), p. 1-23.

Week IV: Why Did the Soviet Union Collapse?

John P. Dunlap, The Rise of Russia and the Fall of the Soviet Empire (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1993), p. 38-66, 123-284.

Alexander Dallin, "Causes of the Collapse of the USSR," Post-Soviet Affairs, Vol. 8, No. 4 (October – December 1992), p. 279-302.

Steven L. Solnick, "The Breakdown of Hierarchies in the Soviet Union and China: A Neo-Institutional Perspective," World Politics, Vol. 48, No. 2 (January 1996), p. 209-238.

Valerie Bunce, Subversive Institutions: The Design and the Destruction of Socialism and the State, (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1999), p. 1-19.

PART II: THE DIFFICULT DUAL TRANSITION

Week V: What Accounts for the Diversity in Postcommunist Outcomes?

Herbert Kitschelt, "Accounting for Postcommunist Regime Diversity: What Counts as a Good Cause?" in Grzegorz Ekiert and Stephen Hanson, ed., Capitalism and Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2003), p. 49-88.

Grzegorz Ekiert, "Patterns of Postcommunist Transformation in Central and Eastern Europe," in Grzegorz Ekiert and Stephen Hanson, ed., Capitalism and Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2003), p. 89-119.

Jeffrey S. Kopstein and David A. Reilly, "Postcommunist Spaces: A Political Geography Approach to Explaining Postcommunist Outcomes," in Grzegorz Ekiert and Stephen Hanson, ed., Capitalism and Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2003), p. 120-157.

Cynthia Roberts and Thomas Sherlock, "Review Article: Bringing the Russian State Back In: Explanations of the Derailed Transition to Market Democracy," *Comparative Politics*, July 1999, p. 477-498.

Week VI: The Politics of Economic Reform I: Building a Market Economy

Anders Åslund, How Russia Became a Market Economy, (Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution, 1995), p. 1-52.

Joel Hellman, "Winners Take All: The Politics of Partial Reform in Postcommunist Transitions," World Politics, Vol. 50, No. 2 (January 1998), p. 203-234.

Adam Przeworski, Democracy and the Market: Political and Economic Reforms in Eastern Europe and Latin America, (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1992), p. 1-19, 34-40, 51-66, 136-191.

Dmitri Glinski and Peter Reddaway, "What Went Wrong in Russia? The Ravages of `Market Bolshevism,'" Journal of Democracy, Vol. 10, No. 2 (April 1999), p. 19-34.

Peter Rutland, "The Rocky Road from Plan to Market," in Stephen White, Alex Pravda and Zvi Gitelman, ed., Developments in Russian Politics 4, (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1997), p. 149-168.

Week VII: The Politics of Economic Reform II: What Was Shock Therapy? What was Privatization?

Anders Åslund, How Russia Became a Market Economy, (Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution, 1995), p. 53-271.

Adam Przeworski, "The Neo-Liberal Fallacy," Journal of Democracy, Vol. 3, No. 3 (July 1992), p. 45-57.

Peter Murrell, "What is Shock Therapy? What did it do in Poland and Russia?" Post-Soviet Affairs, Vol. 9, No. 2 (April – June 1993), p. 111-140.

Joseph R. Blasi, Maya Kroumova and Douglas Kruse, Kremlin Capitalism: Privatizing the Russian Economy, (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1997), p. 13-49.

Week VIII: Institutional Reforms I: Presidential vs. Parliamentary Systems

Juan Linz, "The Perils of Presidentialism," Journal of Democracy, Vol. 1, No. 1 (Winter 1991), p. 51-69.

Alfred Stepan and Cindy Skach, "Constitutional Frameworks and Democratic Consolidation: Parliamentarianism versus Presidentialism," World Politics, Vol. 46, No. 1 (October 1993), p. 1-22.

Timothy Colton, "Boris Yeltsin, Russia's All-Thumbs Democrat," in Timothy J. Colton and Robert C. Tucker, Patterns in Post-Soviet Leadership, (Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1995):

Richard Pipes, "Yeltsin—and After," Commentary, Vol. 109, No. 3 (March 2000), p. 37-41.

John P. Willerton, "Putin and the Hegemonic Presidency," in Stephen White, Zvi Gitelman and Richard Sakwa, ed., Developments in Russian Politics 6, (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2005), p. 18-39.

Thomas F. Remington, "Parliamentary Politics in Russia," in Stephen White, Zvi Gitelman and Richard Sakwa, ed., Developments in Russian Politics 6, (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2005), p. 40-60.

Week IX: Institutional Reforms II: Federalism

Steven L. Solnick, "The Political Economy of Russian Federalism: A Framework for Analysis," *Problems of Post-Communism*, November/December 1996, p. 13-25.

Kathryn Stoner-Weiss, "Regionalism and Federalism," in Stephen White, Alex Pravda and Zvi Gitelman, ed., Developments in Russian Politics 4, (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1997), p. 229-247.

Gordon Han, "Reforming the Federation," in Stephen White, Zvi Gitelman and Richard Sakwa, ed., Developments in Russian Politics 6, (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2005), p. 148-167.

Darrell Slider, "Politics in the Regions," in Stephen White, Zvi Gitelman and Richard Sakwa, ed., Developments in Russian Politics 6, (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2005), p. 168-185.

Nikolai Petrov and Darrell Slider, "Putin and the Regions," in Dale R. Herspring, Putin's Russia: Past Imperfect, Future Uncertain, (Oxford, UK: Roman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2003), p. 203-224.

Huskey, Eugene, "Political Leadership and the Center-Periphery Struggle: Putin's Administrative Reforms," in Archie Brown and Lilia Shevtsova, ed., *Gorbachev, Yeltsin and Putin: Political Leadership in Russia's Transition*, (Washington, DC: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2001), p. 113-142.

Week X: Institutional Reforms III: Political Parties and Electoral Systems

M. Steven Fish, "The Advent of Multipartyism in Russia, 1993-1995," in Post-Soviet Affairs, Vol. 11, No. 4 (October – December 1995), p. 340-385.

Thomas Remington, "Political Conflict and Institutional Design: Paths of Party Development in Russia," in John Lowenhardt, Party Politics in Post-Communist Russia, (London, UK: Frank Cass Publishers, 1998), p. 201-223.

Kathryn Stoner-Weiss, "The Limited Reach of Russia's Party System: Under-Institutionalization in Dual Transitions," Politics & Society, Vol. 29, No. 3 (September 2001), p. 385-414.

Michael McFaul, "The Electoral System," in Stephen White, Zvi Gitelman and Richard Sakwa, ed., Developments in Russian Politics 6, (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2005), p. 61-79.

Stephen White, "The Political Parties," in Stephen White, Zvi Gitelman and Richard Sakwa, ed., Developments in Russian Politics 6, (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2005), p. 80-95.

PART III: PUTIN'S RUSSIA

Week XI: The Yeltsin Era and Putin's Rise to the Presidency

Alex Pravda, "Introduction: Putin in Perspective," in Alex Pravda, Leading Russia: Putin in Perspective, (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2005), p. 23-36.

George W. Breslauer, "Regimes of Political Consolidation: The Putin Presidency in Soviet and Post-Soviet Perspective," in Alex Pravda, Leading Russia: Putin in Perspective, (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2005), p. 37-58.

Lilia Shevtsova, Putin's Russia, Revised and Expanded Edition (Washington, DC: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2005), p. 44-103, 322-351.

Jacob W. Kipp, "Putin and Russia's Wars in Chechnya," in Dale R. Herspring, Putin's Russia: Past Imperfect, Future Uncertain, (Oxford, UK: Roman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2003), p. 177-202.

Olga Khryshchanovskaya and Stephen White, "Putin's Militocracy," Post-Soviet Affairs, Vol. 19, No. 4 (October – December 2003), p. 289-306.

Week XII: Political Parties and Civil Society under Putin

Andrew Kuchins, "Russian Democracy and Civil Society: Back to the Future," Testimony for the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, February 8, 2006. Available at <www.carnegieendowment.org>.

Alfred B. Evans, Jr., "A Russian Civil Society?" in Stephen White, Zvi Gitelman and Richard Sakwa, ed., Developments in Russian Politics 6, (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2005), p. 96-113.

Timothy J. Colton and Michael McFaul, "Putin and Democratization," in Dale R. Herspring, Putin's Russia: Past Imperfect, Future Uncertain, (Oxford, UK: Roman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2003), p. 13-38.

Timothy J. Colton, "Putin and the Attenuation of Russian Democracy," in Alex Pravda, Leading Russia: Putin in Perspective, (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2005), p. 103-118.

M. Stephen Fish, "The Institutional Problem: Superpresidentialism," in M. Stephen Fish, Democracy Derailed in Russia: The Failure of Open Politics (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2005), p. 193-245.

Thomas Remington, "Putin, the Duma and Political Parties," in Dale R. Herspring, Putin's Russia: Past Imperfect, Future Uncertain, (Oxford, UK: Roman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2003), p. 39-62.

Paul Chaisty, "Majority Control and Executive Dominance: Parliament-President Relations in Putin's Russia," in Alex Pravda, Leading Russia: Putin in Perspective, (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2005), p. 119-138.

Week XIII: Corruption under Putin

Vadim Volkov, Violent Entrepreneurs: The Use of Force in the Making of Russian Capitalism, (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2002), p. 1-64, 126-192.

András Sajó, "Clientelism and Extortion: Corruption in Transition," in Stephen Kotkin and András Sajó, Political Corruption in Transition, (Budapest: Central European University Press, 2002), p. 1-22.

Vadim Radaev, "Corruption and Administrative Barriers for Russian Business," in Stephen Kotkin and András Sajó, Political Corruption in Transition, (Budapest: Central European University Press, 2002), p. 287-312.

Leslie Holmes, "Russian Corruption and State Weakness in Comparative Post-Communist Perspective," in Alex Pravda, Leading Russia: Putin in Perspective, (Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2005), p. 75-102.

Week XIV: International Responses to Putin's Russia

Margo Light, "Foreign Policy," in Stephen White, Zvi Gitelman and Richard Sakwa, ed., Developments in Russian Politics 6, (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2005), p. 221-240.

Dale R. Herspring, "Putin and Russian Foreign Policy," in Dale R. Herspring, Putin's Russia: Past Imperfect, Future Uncertain, (Oxford, UK: Roman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2003), p. 225-256.

Anders Åslund, "Putin's Decline and America's Response," *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Policy Brief*, No. 41 (August 2005.)

Dmitri Trenin, "Reading Russia Right," *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Policy Brief*, Special Edition No. 42 (October 2005.)

Council on Foreign Relations, "Independent Task Force Report No. 57: Russia's Wrong Direction: What the United States Can and Should Do," John Edwards and Jack Kemp, Chairs; Stephen Sestanovich, Project Director. 2006.