Instructor: Yuri M. Zhukov, GCIS E-207, Phone: 617-495-0989

Office Hours: 0:00-0:00 AM, TTh and by appointment.

Course Description: This course offers an introduction to the political economy of Russia. We will cover three distinct periods of Russian history: (1) Tsarist, (2) Soviet, and (3) contemporary. Within each, we will explore how Russia has managed the challenges of economic development, internal security, and relations with other actors in the international system. In doing so, we will draw on literature from various disciplines, including political science, economics and history.

The course is organized into two 50-minute lectures and one 50-minute discussion section per week. The sections will place a heavy emphasis on activity-based learning through student participation in games, simulations and debates. In these exercises, students will draw on the history of the Russian case to explore different strategies of state-building, industrialization, policing, and market reform.

Prerequisites: This course has no formal prerequisites. Students with basic knowledge of Russian history or coursework in [an introductory class on comparative politics or macroeconomics] will have a slight advantage. Those who want additional background in Russian history or political economy should consult the recommended readings listed in this syllabus.

Grade Policy: Grades will be based on a midterm exam (20%), a final exam (30%), a final project (40%), and class participation (10%). The final project will be a term paper, 15-20 pp., exploring a historical counterfactual. In this project, students will select a key event in Russian history (e.g. the adoption of serfdom, the conquest of the Caucasus, the collectivization of agriculture, “shock therapy” economic reforms), and will compare the actual consequences of this event to potential outcomes in a hypothetical “parallel universe” scenario where a different course of action would have been taken (e.g. no serfdom, no conquest, no collectivization, no “shock therapy”). In selecting their counterfactual scenario, students will be expected to consider the feasibility of an alternative course of action, and the constraints facing Russian leaders at the time.

Important Dates:

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<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Drop Deadline</td>
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<td>Add Deadline</td>
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<td>Paper Proposal Due</td>
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<td>Paper Deadline</td>
<td>Month Day</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Month Day</td>
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Class Schedule

- **Course introduction** .................................................. Day, Month, Year

1. Tsarist Russia

- **Land, Labor, and Serfdom** ........................................ Day, Month, Year

Recommended:

- **Imperial Expansion and an Unstable Frontier** .................. Day, Month, Year

Recommended:
• The Seeds of Revolution ............................................. Day, Month, Year

Recommended:

2. Soviet Russia

• Building Communism ............................................. Day, Month, Year

Recommended:

• Collectivized Agriculture and Industrialization ..................... Day, Month, Year

Recommended:


• **Stalin’s Terror** ................................................................. Day, Month, Year


Recommended:


• **The Great Patriotic War** .................................................. Day, Month, Year


Recommended:


• **The Cold War** ................................................................. Day, Month, Year


Recommended:

• Perestroika .............................................................. Day, Month, Year

Recommended:

• Nationalism, Revolution and Collapse ..................................... Day, Month, Year

Recommended:

3. Contemporary Russia

• Liberalization, Privatization and Capitalism ............................ Day, Month, Year

Recommended:
• The Politics of Transition .................................................. Day, Month, Year
  – McFaul, M. “Explaining Party Formation and Non-Formation in Russia.” Comparative Political Studies 34 (10).

Recommended:

• Putin’s Reassertion of the Russian State .................................. Day, Month, Year

Recommended:

• Energy and Natural Resources .............................................. Day, Month, Year

Recommended:


Recommended:


Recommended:


Recommended:


4. Conclusion

- *Student Presentations I* .................................................. Day, Month, Year
- *Student Presentations II* .................................................. Day, Month, Year