Syllabus

TITLE: Russia: The Political Economy of Transition
NUMBER: CRN: CREDITS: PREREQUISITES: LOCATION: MEETING TIME:

INSTRUCTOR: Artem Zagorodnov
OFFICE LOCATION: OFFICE HOURS: TELEPHONE: EMAIL ADDRESS: artem.zagorodnov@gmail.com

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will provide students with an overview of the evolution and operation of the Soviet and Russian domestic and international political economies. It will begin by examining the dominant schools of thought prevailing in economics and then focus on Russia as a country that has transitioned from a state-controlled command economy to a free market over the last 30 years. Special attention will be given to crises that have ensued throughout this process and how the government has responded to them. The course will explore how the interactions between political behaviors, economic forces and international relations have shaped the outcomes of Russia's transition.

COURSE GOALS

In this course we will survey some of the main topics in the field of political economy, including economic and political actors, how they influence public policy, and how Russia’s economy is shaped by the dominant ideas of the day regarding the role that government should play.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

Governments and the economies they regulate affect most of our choices we make in our daily lives. Studying another country’s case is an excellent way to better understand the trials, dilemmas and choices facing the US government via a cross-country comparison. At the conclusion of this course, you should be able to:
1. perform a basic political analysis of an issue facing Russia’s government
2. understand the primary forces shaping Russia’s political economy over the last 30 years
3. connect these principles to domestic and global issues as you go forward

COURSE READINGS/MATERIALS


Course Packet

The books can be purchased at the UAF Follett Bookstore online at: http://elearning.uaf.edu/go/books. The UAF Bookstore is located in Constitution Hall on the UAF campus. Additional reading assignments will be posted on BlackBoard on the course materials link within the folder for the weekly lesson.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR COURSE

You are required to have a UAF-issued email address. These will be used to create access for you into this course’s Blackboard location. This website will post the assignments, course changes or updates, study hints, and other information pertinent to the class.

INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS

This class will involve a lot of independent study, including daily readings and homework assignments designed to ensure students understand the underlying concepts. The majority of class time will be dedicated to lectures, films, discussions and debates of the relative ideas and cases. You will be invited to join the class blog for discussion during the first week of school. Assigned reading and viewing material will decrease in intensity as the course progresses to allow more time for students to prepare their final presentations and term papers.

COURSE SCHEDULE (tentative, subject to change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Reading and viewing assignments</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lesson 1</td>
<td>Getting started in the course</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Lecture on methods of research for final presentation; choosing presentation times</td>
<td>Syllabus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lesson</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Read Course Packet:</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The Battle of Ideas: Hayek vs. Keynes</td>
<td>Lecture &amp; Discussion</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Marx, Communism and Socialism in Theory and Practice</td>
<td>Lecture &amp; Debates: Is Communism Desirable?</td>
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<td>Marx, Communism and Socialism in Theory and Practice</td>
<td>Read Course Packet: Lavigne Ch. 1</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>The Soviet Political and Economic Model: 1917-1991</td>
<td>Lecture &amp; Discussion</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Price Liberalization and Voucher Privatization</td>
<td>Lecture &amp; Discussion</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Beyond Kremlin Walls (Soviet/Russian history: 1985-2005)</td>
<td>Lecture &amp; Discussion</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Frederich Hayek: Relevant to this Day?</td>
<td>Lecture &amp; Discussion</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>USSR on its Last Economic Breaths</td>
<td>Lecture &amp; Discussion</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Yeltsin: The Pain of Reform</td>
<td>Lecture &amp; Debate: Could the Soviet System have been Salvaged?</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>How Does the Russian Government Steer Its Economy?</td>
<td>Lecture &amp; Discussion</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Globalization</td>
<td>Lecture &amp; Discussion</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>The 1998 Default</td>
<td>Lecture &amp; Discussion</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Boom Years 1999-2008: Economic Growth and Financial Wellbeing</td>
<td>Lecture &amp; Discussion</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>The Oil Curse</td>
<td>Lecture &amp; Debate: Is There a Case for Protectionism?</td>
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<td>Lesson</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Reading Assignment</td>
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<td>Lesson 15</td>
<td>Development of the modern Russian economy</td>
<td>Read Klebnikov Ch. 7 – 9</td>
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<td>Lesson 16</td>
<td>Putinomics: Russia’s “National champions” (aka “Too Big to Fail”)</td>
<td>Read Klebnikov Ch. 10, Epilogue</td>
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<td>Lesson 17</td>
<td>The 2008 Economic Crisis (or Russia’s “Great Recession”)</td>
<td>Read Course Packet: Polterovich, Belousov et. al. &amp; Glinkina et. al.</td>
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<td>Lesson 18</td>
<td>Dmitry Medvedev: Reform or Bust!</td>
<td>Read Course Packet: Martinot et. al. &amp; Intriligator et. al. Watch Hello World: Russia by Bloomberg (approx. 45 min.)</td>
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<td>Lesson 19</td>
<td>Life after Sanctions: International Relations and Economics</td>
<td>Read Course Packet: Bershidsky</td>
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<td>Lesson 20</td>
<td>Advertising Russian-style and the Role of the Media</td>
<td>Read Course Packet: Aris, Westin</td>
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<td>Lesson 21</td>
<td>Modern Capitalism in Russia</td>
<td>Read Course Packet: Karlin</td>
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<td>Lesson 22</td>
<td>Student Presentations</td>
<td>No assigned reading</td>
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<td>Lesson 23</td>
<td>Student Presentations</td>
<td>No assigned reading</td>
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<td>Lesson 24</td>
<td>Student Presentations</td>
<td>No assigned reading</td>
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**COURSE SCHEDULE CHECKLIST**
See separate document

**COURSE POLICIES**
Attendance: Missed debates cannot be made up unless you have a documented excuse from the health center, a doctor, or a UAF-affiliated activity leader. Excessive absences invite academic problems or even failure because the assignments in this course stress material covered in the lectures and discussions as well as from the texts.
Should you be required to be away due to any University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) sponsored events, job interviews, or medical emergencies you may receive an excused absence, provided you furnish documentation in order for me to consider your case. Absences will only be excused if you provide documentation for these absences. No make-up quiz will be given once the next week’s quiz in the sequence is given.

There are no curves on any exam, quiz, or final grade. However, I do take into account a student’s willingness to work hard, improve over time, and contribute to class interactions. At any time during the semester if you feel you are not performing at your desired level please me during my office hours to discuss it. Remember that the earlier you discuss your concerns with me, the better your chances will be to improve your performance in the course.

EVALUATION POLICIES
The grade breakdown: 20 homework assignments = 1% each; 5 debates participation = 6% each; final presentation = 25%; final paper = 25%; TOTAL = 100%

This course will assess your ability to apply and critically evaluate the information you have learned inside and outside the classroom. Over the course of the semester you will participate in five debates that will give you a chance to engage peers in exchanging views about the material we have covered. Additionally, you will be assessed via completion of a final presentation and paper on a topic of your choosing from the materials we have covered. Finally, points will be given for brief daily homework assignments that will ensure you understand the underlying information from the assigned readings and movies. Any assignments turned in late will be docked 5 points for each day late – but better to turn in late than never!

The grade scale: 97-100 = A+  
94-96 = A  
90-93 = A-  
87-89 = B+  
84-86 = B  
80-83 = B-  
77-79 = C+  
74-76 = C  
70-73 = C-  
67-69 = D+  
65-66 = D  
60-64 = D-  
0-59 = F

EXPLANATION OF MINIMUM/NB/I/W GRADES
C- (1.7) is the minimum acceptable grade that undergraduate students may receive for courses to count toward the major or minor degree requirements, or as a prerequisite for
another course. A minimum grade of C (2.0), however, MAY be required by specific programs for prerequisite and/or major/minor courses. Please consult specific program listings in the UAF Catalog.

C– (1.7) is the minimum acceptable grade required for all Core (X) Courses.

This course adheres to the UAF regarding the granting of NB Grades The NB grade is for use only in situations in which the instructor has No Basis upon which to assign a grade. In general, the NB grade will not be granted.

Your instructor follows the University of Alaska Fairbanks Incomplete Grade Policy:
“The letter “I” (Incomplete) is a temporary grade used to indicate that the student has satisfactorily completed (C or better) the majority of work in a course but for personal reasons beyond the student’s control, such as sickness, he has not been able to complete the course during the regular semester. Negligence or indifference are not acceptable reasons for an “I” grade.”

INSTRUCTOR RESPONSE TIME
I will try to respond to your emails within 24 hours if they are simple questions. More complex questions will take a little longer. ♥

HOW TO CHECK YOUR GRADE
To check your grades for assignments and find comments from your instructor, click on the My Grades link in the sidebar menu. All the assignments and their due dates are listed. If your instructor has left comments, there will be a Comments link. Click on this link to view comments.

If the score is for a test or quiz, click on the check mark or your score to see results and feedback. If the score is for an assignment, the title of the assignment is a link and by clicking this link you’ll be taken to your submission, grade and comments. If you see a green exclamation point, your assignment has not been graded yet.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
As described by UAF, scholastic dishonesty constitutes a violation of the university rules and regulations and is punishable according to the procedures outlined by UAF. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an exam, plagiarism, and collusion. Cheating includes providing answers to or taking answers from another student. Plagiarism includes use of another author’s words or arguments without attribution. Collusion includes unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of any course requirement. Scholastic dishonesty is punishable by removal from the course and a grade of "F." For more information go to Student Code of Conduct. (http://uaf.edu/usa/student-resources/conduct)
SUPPORT SERVICES

UAF Help Desk
Go to http://www.alaska.edu/oit/ to see about current network outages and news.
Reach the Help Desk at:
• e-mail at helpdesk@alaska.edu
• fax: 907.450.8312
• phone: 450.8300 (in the Fairbanks area) or 1.800.478.8226 (outside of Fairbanks)

DISABILITIES SERVICES

The UAF Office of Disability Services operates in conjunction with UAF eLearning.
Disability Services, a part of UAF’s Center for Health and Counseling, provides academic accommodations to enrolled students who are identified as being eligible for these services.

If you believe you are eligible, please visit their web site (http://www.uaf.edu/disability/) or contact a student affairs staff person at your local campus. You can also contact Disability Services on the Fairbanks campus by phone, 907.474.5655, or by e-mail (uaf-disabilityservices@alaska.edu).

TITLE IX PROTECTION

University of Alaska Board of Regents have clearly stated in BOR Policy that discrimination, harassment and violence will not be tolerated on any campus of the University of Alaska. If you believe you are experiencing discrimination or any form of harassment including sexual harassment/misconduct/assault, you are encouraged to report that behavior. If you report to a faculty member or any university employee, they must notify the UAF Title IX Coordinator about the basic facts of the incident.

Your choices for reporting include:

1. You may access confidential counseling by contacting the UAF Health & Counseling Center at 474-7043;
2. You may access support and file a Title IX report by contacting the UAF Title IX Coordinator at 474-6600;
3. You may file a criminal complaint by contacting the University Police Department at 474-7721.