GOVT 338-001
Government and Politics of Russia
Fall 2019

M 4:30-7:10 pm
Art & Design L008

Instructor: Mark N. Katz
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Schar School of Policy and Government

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Overview: This course provides a broad introduction to the politics and international relations of Russia, with a focus on the Putin era.

Course Requirements: Students are required to attend all class sessions, and to arrive on time for each one. Students are expected to have read the assigned readings before the start of each class session, and be prepared to discuss them.

Two midterm exams and one final exam: 30% of grade each. All exams are take-home.

Class participation: 10% of grade.


Other readings listed can be accessed as indicated on the syllabus. Where applicable, be sure to download the full document, and don’t just read the summary.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments:

Aug. 26—Introduction

Sept. 2—LABOR DAY (No class)

Sept. 9—The Tsarist Era
   Hosking, Russian History: A Very Short Introduction

Sept. 16—The Soviet Era
McMahon, *The Cold War: A Very Short Introduction*

Sept. 23—Gorbachev and Yeltsin
  Marc D. Zlotnik, “Yeltsin and Gorbachev: The Politics of Confrontation,” *Journal of Cold War Studies*, Winter 2003 (on Blackboard);
  Robert H. Donaldson, “Boris Yeltsin’s Foreign Policy Legacy,” *Tulsa Journal of Comparative and International Law*, 2000,
  [https://digitalcommons.law.utulsa.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1079&context=tjcil](https://digitalcommons.law.utulsa.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1079&context=tjcil)

Sept. 30—Putin: Politics and Economics 1
  **First midterm distributed**
  Miller, *Putinomics*

Oct. 7—Putin: Politics and Economics 2
  **First midterm due by 4:30 pm**
  Jean-Robert Raviot, “Putinism: A Praetorian System,” IFRI, March 2018,
  “North Caucasus,” *Russian Analytical Digest*, no. 238, July 22, 2019,

Oct. 15 (Tue.)—Putin: Foreign Policy toward Europe
  Stent, *Putin’s World*, pp. 1-140

Oct. 21—Putin: Foreign Policy toward the Former Soviet States
  Stent, *Putin’s World*, pp. 141-207

Oct. 28—Putin: Foreign Policy toward Asia
  Stent, *Putin’s World*, pp. 208-257

Nov. 4—Putin: Foreign Policy toward the Middle East
  **Second midterm distributed**
  Stent, *Putin’s World*, pp. 258-292

Nov. 11—Putin: Foreign Policy toward Africa, Latin America, and the Arctic
  **Second midterm due by 4:30 pm**
  Arnaud Kalika, “Russia’s ‘Great Return’ to Africa?” IFRI, April 2019,
Nov. 18—Putin: Foreign Policy toward the United States
   Stent, *Putin’s World*, pp. 293-362
   “Assessing Russian Activities and Intentions in Recent U.S. Elections,” Office of the

Nov. 25—Role Playing Game
   **Final exam distributed**

Dec. 2—The Future
   Mark N. Katz, “Putin and Russia’s Strategic Priorities,” *Strategic Asia 2017-18*, National
   Bureau of Asian Research (on Blackboard)
   Russia in Decline?” Russia Matters, https://www.russiamatters.org/analysis/measuring-national-
   power-vladimir-putins-russia-decline
   2018, (on Blackboard)
   Bobo Lo, “Chutzpah and Realism: Vladimir Putin and the Making of Russian Foreign
   Policy,” IFRI, https://www.ifri.org/en/publications/notes-de-ifri/russieneivisions/chutzpah-and-
   realism-vladimir-putin-and-making-russian
   Marlene Laruelle, “How Islam Will Change Russia,” Jamestown Foundation,
   https://jamestown.org/program marlene-laruelle-how-islam-will-change-russia/

Dec. 16—**Final exam due by 4:30 pm**

**Students with Disabilities:** If you are a student with a disability and you need academic
accommodations, please contact me as soon as possible and contact the Office of Disability
Resources at (703) 993-2474 or ods@gmu.edu. All academic accommodations must be arranged
through this office.

**Honor Code:** George Mason University has an Honor Code which requires all members of this
community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating,
plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be
reported to the Honor Committee. See honorcode.gmu.edu for more detailed information.

**Enrollment:** Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule
adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes.
Last Day to Add: September 3
Drop Deadlines: September 9 (100% tuition refund); September 17 (50% tuition refund);
September 30 (no refund)
Selective Withdrawal Period for Undergraduates: October 1-29