GOVT 731-001

Russia

Fall 2016
T 7:20-10:00 pm
Robinson B 103

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

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Overview: This seminar will examine the politics and international relations of Russia, focusing on the Putin era.

Textbooks: Karen Dawisha, Putin's Kleptocracy (Simon & Schuster, 2014);
Fiona Hill and Clifford G. Gaddy, Mr. Putin: Operative in the Kremlin, new expanded edition (Brookings, 2015);
Bobo Lo, Russia and the New World Disorder (Chatham House/Brookings, 2015);
(Other readings listed on the syllabus below)
**Course Requirements:** Students are required to attend all class sessions, and to arrive on time. Students are expected to have read the assigned readings before the start of each class session, and be prepared to discuss them.

**All Students:** Each student will write four short papers (5-7 pages each, double-spaced).

The **first** will be a critical review of Dawisha, *Putin's Kleptocracy*, and/or Hill and Gaddy, *Mr. Putin*. **DUE: SEPT. 27**

The **second** will be an analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the Putin regime and an assessment of its sustainability. **DUE: OCT. 18**

The **third** will be a critical review of Stent, *The Limits of Partnership* and/or Lo, *Russia and the New World Disorder*. **DUE: NOV. 8**

The **fourth** will analyze some aspect of contemporary Russian foreign policy, to be chosen in consultation with the professor. **DUE: NOV. 29**

**Ph.D. Students:** Each Ph.D. student will write a **research paper** of 20-25 pages on a topic to be determined in consultation with the professor. Ph.D. students will also give a 15-20 minute presentation on their project in class on **DEC. 6**. Final version of research paper **DUE: DEC. 13**

All Ph.D. students must undertake this assignment in addition to the four short papers listed above. Other students may undertake this assignment, with permission from the professor, in lieu of the fourth paper.

**Grading:**

Non-Ph.D. Students--
Class participation: 20%
Four short papers: 80% (20% each)

Ph.D. Students—
Class participation: 20%
Four short papers: 60% (15% each)
Research paper: 20%

**Course Schedule and Reading Assignments:**

Aug. 30—Introduction
Sept. 6—Pre-Putin: Tsarism, Communism, Gorbachev, and Yeltsin


Sept. 13—Putin: The Phenomenon

Hill and Gaddy, *Mr. Putin: Operative in the Kremlin*

Sept. 20—Putin: Political Economy

Dawisha, *Putin's Kleptocracy*

Sept. 27—Putin and His Discontents


Oct. 4—Putin, Nationalism, and Ukraine

Three articles from *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* (49:1), March 2016:
  Mykola Riabchuk, “Ukrainians as Russia’s Negative ‘Other’: History Comes Full Circle,” pp. 75-85;

Oct. 11—NO CLASS

Oct. 18—Russia and America

Stent, *The Limits of Partnership*

Oct. 25—TBA
Nov. 1—Russia and Europe

Lo, *Russia and the New World Disorder*

Nov. 8—TBA

Nov. 15—Russia and the Middle East


Links to my recent writings on Russia and the Middle East: [http://www.marknkatz.com/](http://www.marknkatz.com/)

Nov. 22—Russia and Asia

Angela Stent, “Russia, China, and the West after Crimea,” Transatlantic Academy, May 2016, [http://www.transatlanticacademy.org/sites/default/files/publications/Stent_RussiaChina_May16_web_0.pdf](http://www.transatlanticacademy.org/sites/default/files/publications/Stent_RussiaChina_May16_web_0.pdf)

“Competition or Coordination? The Eurasian Economic Union and China’s One Belt, One Road Initiative,” *Russian Analytical Digest*, no. 183, May 2016, [http://www.css.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/special-interest/gess/cis/center-for-securities-studies/pdfs/RAD183.pdf](http://www.css.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/special-interest/gess/cis/center-for-securities-studies/pdfs/RAD183.pdf)

Nov. 29—Reacting to Russia


Dec. 6—Research Paper Presentations

Dec. 13—Extra Session (if needed)
**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. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that 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 6, 2016
- Last Day to Drop: September 30, 2016
After the last day to drop a class, withdrawing from this class requires the approval of the Dean and is only allowed for non-academic reasons.