GOVT 338-001
Government and Politics of Russia
Fall 2018

W 4:30-7:10 pm
Robinson B 102

Instructor: Mark N. Katz
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Learning Outcomes: Students will acquire an overview history of the politics and international relations of Russia focusing on the Putin era which will enable them to view the context of current US-Russia relations.

Course Requirements: Students are required to arrive 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.

Two midterm exams and one final exam (30% of grade each); class participation (10% of grade).


Michael McFaul, *Russia’s Unfinished Revolution: Political Change from Gorbachev to Putin*, Cornell University Press


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

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments:
Aug. 29--Introduction

Sept. 5—The Tsarist and Soviet Legacies: Politics
   Hosking, *Russian History: A Very Short Introduction*

Sept. 12—The Tsarist and Soviet Legacies: Foreign Policy
   McMahon, *The Cold War: A Very Short Introduction*

Sept. 19—Gorbachev and Yeltsin: Politics and Foreign Policy
   Recommended: McFaul, *Russia’s Unfinished Revolution*

Sept. 26—Putin: Politics 1
   “Mobilizing Patriotism in Russia,” *Russian Analytical Digest*, no. 207,
   http://www.css.ethz.ch/content/specialinterest/gess/cis/center-for-securities-studies/en/publications/rad/rad-all-issues/details.html?id=/n/o/2/0/no_207_mobilizing_patriotism_in_russian
   “Russian Presidential Elections,” *Russian Analytical Digest*, no. 217,
   http://www.css.ethz.ch/content/specialinterest/gess/cis/center-for-securities-studies/en/publications/rad/rad-all-issues/details.html?id=/n/o/2/1/no_217_russian_presidential_elections
   Recommended: Hill and Gaddy, *Mr. Putin: Operative in the Kremlin*

Oct. 3—Putin: Politics 2
   “Political Economy,” *Russian Analytical Digest*, no. 220,
   http://www.css.ethz.ch/content/specialinterest/gess/cis/center-for-securities-studies/en/publications/rad/rad-all-issues/details.html?id=/n/o/2/2/no_220political_economy
   “North Caucasus,” *Russian Analytical Digest*, no. 222,
   http://www.css.ethz.ch/content/specialinterest/gess/cis/center-for-securities-studies/en/publications/rad/rad-all-issues/details.html?id=/n/o/2/2/no_222_north_caucus

Oct. 10—Putin: Foreign Policy toward the Former Soviet States
   “Russia and Ukraine,” *Russian Analytical Digest*, no. 203,
   http://www.css.ethz.ch/content/specialinterest/gess/cis/center-for-securities-studies/en/publications/rad/rad-all-issues/details.html?id=/n/o/2/0/no_203_russia_and_the_ukr
   “Russian Relations with Belarus,” *Russian Analytical Digest*, no. 206,
   http://www.css.ethz.ch/content/specialinterest/gess/cis/center-for-securities-studies/en/publications/rad/rad-all-issues/details.html?id=/n/o/2/0/no_206_russian_relations_with_belarusrus
   “The Armed Conflict in Eastern Ukraine,” *Russian Analytical Digest*, no. 214,
   http://www.css.ethz.ch/content/specialinterest/gess/cis/center-for-securities-studies/en/publications/rad/rad-all-issues/details.html?id=/n/o/2/1/no_214_the_armed_conflict_in_eastern_ukr
   “The Eurasian Economic Union” Chatham House,

Oct. 17—Putin: Foreign Policy toward Europe

Oct. 24—Putin: Foreign Policy toward the Middle East
“Russia in the Middle East,” Russian Analytical Digest, no. 219, http://www.css.ethz.ch/content/specialinterest/gess/cis/center-for-securities-studies/en/publications/rad/rad-all-issues/details.html?id=/n/o/2/1/no_219_russia_in_the_middle_east

Oct. 31—Putin: Foreign Policy toward Asia
“Russia’s Political Role in East Asia,” Russian Analytical Digest, no. 209, http://www.css.ethz.ch/content/specialinterest/gess/cis/center-for-securities-studies/en/publications/rad/rad-all-issues/details.html?id=/n/o/2/0/no_209_russias_political_role_in_east_as

Nov. 7—Putin: Foreign Policy toward America
Recommended: Stent, The Limits of Partnership

Nov. 14—Putin: Defense and Security Policy
“Russian Security/Defense,” Russian Analytical Digest, no. 196, http://www.css.ethz.ch/content/specialinterest/gess/cis/center-for-securities-

Nov. 21—NO CLASS

Nov. 28—Role Playing Game

Dec. 5—The Future

Dec. 12—FINAL EXAM

**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 4, 2018
Last Day to Drop: September 9, 2018