**RUSSIAN POLITICS**

Political Science 340 Spring 2012

Stetson University TTh 2:30

Students raised on American politics are used to settled institutional arrangements and a stable society. Russia offers neither. There, the most fundamental questions concerning territorial boundaries, the distribution of political power, and the nature of the economy have been the subject of debate and action during the last quarter-century. Choices made in Russia this semester, this year, and this decade may have profound consequences for the country--and the world--well into this century.

There is a temptation, as Jerry Hough once observed, for students of Russian politics to become astrologers. We must resist that in this course. This is not to say that we'll shy away from all speculation about the current presidential race or the degree of discontent in Russian society, but our primary task is to develop an analytical framework through which we can view recent political developments. This requires us to become familiar with some specific features of Russia's history, culture, and demography and with selected theories in comparative political science, including those on transitions, institutional design, and public choice. The challenge for all of us is to understand where Russia fits existing theoretical molds and where it breaks them.

Assessment in the course will be based on a midterm examination, a final examination, and a research paper. Each will be weighted equally (30 percent) in the determination of the final grade. I shall reserve the final 10 percent of the grade to reward informed participation or discourage poor attendance (more than two absences). The research paper will give students an opportunity to pursue a vital issue of politics or public policy in Russia. For the research paper, students should use, whenever possible, materials translated from the Russian press.

The books to be purchased for the course are the following:

Marshall Poe, *The Russian Moment in World History*

Stephen Kotkin, *Armageddon Averted*

Vladimir Voinovich, *The Ivankiad*

Henry Hale, *Why not Parties in Russia?*

Stephen White *et al.*, *Developments in Russian Politics 7*

Students are encouraged to stop in during office hours (Monday and Wednesday from 3 to 4 and Tuesday and Thursday from 1:30 to 2:30 in Elizabeth 332, and also immediately after our class). My extension is 7576 and the e-mail is “ehuskey@stetson.edu”.

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**I. THE RUSSIAN POLITICAL INHERITANCE**

1. Lands and peoples

Examine maps available on Blackboard through the External Links section for physical, cultural, and political features of the country.

2. How and Why is Russia Different?

Marshall Poe, *The Russian Moment in World History*

**II. THE SOVIET EXPERIMENT**

1. Building Communism, 1917-1953

Wolfgang Leonhard, *Child of the Revolution*, pp. 17-69.

Seweryn Bialer, *Stalin's Successors*, pp. 7-46.

2. Reforming Communism, 1953-1987

Stephen Kotkin, *Armageddon Averted*, pp. 1-57.

3. Responding to Scarcity under Communism

Vladimir Voinovich, *The Ivankiad*

3. Dismantling Communism, 1987-1992

Stephen Kotkin, *Armageddon Averted*, pp. 58-112.

Eugene Huskey, *Presidential Power in Russia*, pp. 12-25.

Alexander Dallin, "The Causes of the Collapse of the USSR," *Post-Soviet Affairs* (October-December 1992), pp. 279-302.

**III. THE POLITICS OF TRANSITION**

1. Conceptualizing the Transition from Communism

Valerie Bunce, “Rethinking Recent Democratization. Lessons from the Postcommunist Experience,” *World Politics* (January 2003), pp. 167-192.

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2. A Survey of Russia’s Political History since 1991: The Yeltsin Era

Stephen Kotkin, *Armageddon Averted*, pp. 113-192.

Eugene Huskey, *Presidential Power in Russia*, pp. 25-42.

3. The Rise of Putin and the Consolidation of Authoritarian Rule

Stephen Kotkin, *Armageddon Averted*, pp. 193-220.

Richard Sakwa, "Politics in Russia," in White *et al*., pp. 1-17.

**MIDTERM**

**IV. POWER IN POSTCOMMUNIST RUSSIA: THE INSTITUTIONAL DIMENSION**

1. Creating Russia’s New Institutions: The Transfer of Power from Party to Presidency

John Willerton, "Putin and the Hegemonic Presidency," in White et al., pp. 18-39.

Eugene Huskey, The Dynamics at the Center of Russian Politics (OECD Working Paper, 2009)

2. The *Siloviki* and the Central Role of the Power Ministries in the Discourse and Operation of Russian Government

Brian Taylor, *State Building in Putin's Russia: Policing and Coercion after Communism*, pp. 36-70.

3. The Parliament and Executive-Legislative Relations

Eugene Huskey, *Presidential Power in Russia*, pp. 163-182.

Thomas Remington, "Parliamentary Politics in Russia," in White *et al*., pp. 40-60.

4. The Provinces in Russian Politics

Gordon Hahn, "Reforming the Federation," in White *et al*., pp. 148-167.

Darrell Slider, "Politics in the Regions," in White *et al*., pp. 168-185.

5. Voters, Parties, and Elections

Michael McFaul, "The Electoral System," in White *et al*., pp. 61-79.

Henry Hale, *Why Not Parties in Russia*

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**V. ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS IN POST-COMMUNIST RUSSIA**

1. Society and State in Russia

Alfred Evans, "A Russian Civil Society?" in White *et al*., pp. 96-113.

Sarah Oates, "Media and Political Communication," in White *et al*., pp. 114-129.

Judy Twigg, "Social Policy in Post-Soviet Russia," in White *et al*., pp. 204-220.

2. State, Markets, Networks, and Corruption in the Russian Economy

Peter Rutland, "Putin's Economic Record," in White *et al*., pp. 186-203.

Alena Ledeneva, *How Russia Really Works*, pp. 91-114, 142-163.

3. The Limits of Legal Reform in Post-Communist Russia

Robert Sharlet, "In Search of the Rule of Law," pp. 130-147.

Kathryn Hendley, "Varieties of Legal Dualism: Making Sense of the Role of Law in Contemporary Russia," *Wisconsin Journal of International Law* (forthcoming).

Peter Solomon, "Authoritarian Legality and Informal Practices: Judges, Lawyers and the State in Russia and China," Communist and Post-Communist Studies, 43:4 (2010), 351-362.

**VI. COMPARING RUSSIA IN TIME AND SPACE**

1. Societal, Institutional, and Discursive Legacies in Russian Politics

Grigore Pop-Eleches and Joshua Tucker, "Post-Communism's Shadow: Post- Communist Legacies and Political Behavior" (Unpublished paper, 2009).

Eugene Huskey, "Legacies and Departures in the Russian State Executive" (Unpublished paper, 2011).

Brian Taylor, "Historical Legacies and Law Enforcement in Russia," PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo no. 150 (May 2011).

2. Getting Beyond the Democratic/Authoritarian Framework

Zvi Gitelman, "The Democratization of Russia in Comparative Perspective," in White *et al*., pp. 241-256.

Steven Levitsky and Lucan Way, *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes after the Cold War*, pp. 3-36.

**FINAL EXAMINATION**

**Saturday, May 5, 2-4pm**