

PS 156A: Government and Politics of Russia

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3365 Bunche Hall
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Office Hours: Thurs 1-2 pm

Winter 2010
Tu, Th 9:30-10:45 am
Haines A25

I. ABOUT THE COURSE

The course provides an introduction to the government and politics of Russia since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. Following a brief review of the country's history under tsarist and then Soviet rule, it focuses on the dramatic changes of the last 20 years and the attempts in Russia to create a democratic political system and an economy based on free markets. It provides background into the major political and economic events of recent years—the Soviet collapse, attempts at economic reform, parliamentary and presidential elections, political crises. It also analyzes the problems of Russia's transition, using concepts and techniques from comparative politics and political economy.

II. READINGS

A course reader containing some of the readings will be available for purchase from Academic Publishing at the UCLA Store. The other readings will be available on line, as indicated below.

In addition, you are strongly encouraged to gain more familiarity with Russian politics and current events by regularly browsing the following internet sources:

- The Moscow Times, <http://www.themoscowtimes.com>
- Russia Profile magazine, <http://www.russiaprofile.org>
- Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, <http://www.rferl.org/featuresarchive/country/Russia.html>

III. REQUIREMENTS

Attendance at lectures and discussion sections is mandatory. The lectures will present new material, as well as setting the readings in context. You should read the readings listed before the associated lecture. There will be a take-home midterm and a take-home final exam. Both will require both knowledge of the material presented in readings and lectures and the ability to identify theories, assess evidence, and present convincing arguments. The midterm will count for 35% and the final exam for 45% of the course grade. Participation in discussion sections will count for 20%.

COURSE MEETINGS

1. Introduction (Jan 5)

-Richard Layard and John Parker, *The Coming Russian Boom*, ch.2, "Is Russia Different?", pp.7-43, The Free Press, 1996.

2. Russia—geography, history, culture (Jan 7)

-Fernand Braudel, *A History of Civilizations*, Penguin, 1993, pp.527-73.

3. Russia Under Soviet Rule (Jan 12)

-Geoffrey Hosking, *The First Socialist Society*, ch.7, Harvard University Press, 1985, pp.183-204.
-Lionel Kochan, *The Making of Modern Russia*, chs.15-20, pp.240-98, Penguin, 1962.

4. The Soviet System (Jan 14)

-Mary McAuley, *Soviet Politics, 1917-1991*, pp.62-88, Oxford University Press.
-Anders Aslund, *Building Capitalism*, ch. 1, Cambridge University Press, pp.20-38.

5. The Gorbachev Era (Jan 19)

-Daniel Treisman, "Chapter 2: The Captain," from *The Return: Russia's Journey from Gorbachev to Medvedev*, on line, course website.
-Mary McAuley, *Soviet Politics, 1917-1991*, pp.89-119, OUP.

6. August Coup and Collapse of the USSR (Jan 21)

-Daniel Treisman, "Chapter 6: The Unraveling," from *The Return: Russia's Journey from Gorbachev to Medvedev*, on line, course website.
-Roman Laba, "Ethno-Nationalism: How to Bring Down an Empire," *Transition* 12 January 1996. (Available online. Search UCLA library catalog for *Transition* (Prague, Czech Republic), then search archive for the title.)

Recommended: Boris Yeltsin, *The Struggle for Russia*, Times Books, 1994, on the coup and Soviet collapse, 26-7, 36-9, 105-116.

Leon Aron, "The 'Mystery' of the Soviet Collapse," online at http://www.aei.org/publications/filter.all.pubID.24215/pub_detail.asp.

7. The Yeltsin Era (Jan 26)

-Daniel Treisman, "Chapter 3: The Natural," from *The Return: Russia's Journey from Gorbachev to Medvedev*, on line, course website.
-David Remnick, "How Russia is Ruled," *The New York Review of Books*, April 9, 1998, www.nybooks.com/articles/891 (free access via UCLA Library).

8. Russia under Putin and Medvedev (Jan 28)

-Daniel Treisman, "Chapter 4: Unreasonable Doubt," from *The Return: Russia's Journey from Gorbachev to Medvedev*, on line, course website.
-Amy Knight, "The Truth about Putin and Medvedev," *The New York Review of Books*, May 15, 2008, online via UCLA Library, <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/21353>.

Recommended:

David Remnick, "Post-Imperial Blues," *The New Yorker*, Oct 13, 2003. (Available online. Search UCLA library catalog for *New Yorker*, follow link to GaleGroup.)

9. Economic Reform 1: How it happened (Feb 2)

-Peter Boone and Boris Fyodorov, "The Ups and Downs of Russian Economic Reforms," in Wing Thye Woo, Stephen Parker, and Jeffrey Sachs, eds., *Economic in Transition: Comparing Asia and Europe*, MIT Press, pp.161-88.

-Daniel Treisman, "Chapter 7: The Transformation," from *The Return: Russia's Journey from Gorbachev to Medvedev*, on line, course website.

Recommended: Adam Przeworski, "The Neoliberal fallacy," *Journal of Democracy*, July 1992, pp.45-59, available on line via UCLA Library.

10. Economic Reform 2: Explanations and evaluations (Feb 4)

-Joseph Stiglitz, "The Ruin of Russia," *The Guardian*, April 9, 2003,

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2003/apr/09/russia.artsandhumanities>.

-Anders Aslund, "Ten Myths About the Russian Economy", in Adrew Kuchins, ed., *Russia After the Fall*, Washington, DC: Carnegie Endowment, pp.110-124.

-Joel Hellman, "Russia's Transition to a Market Economy: A Permanent Redistribution?" in Adrew Kuchins, ed., *Russia After the Fall*, Washington, DC: Carnegie Endowment, pp.93-109.

Midterm will be handed out at end of class. Due at beginning of class on Feb 11.

NO CLASS FEB 9—WORK ON MIDTERM.

11. Russia's New Political System (Feb 11)

-John Willerton, "The Presidency: From Yeltsin to Putin," in Stephen White, Alex Pravda, Zvi Gitelman, eds., *Developments in Russian Politics 5*, Palgrave, pp.21-41.

-Thomas Remington, "Parliamentary Politics in Russia," in Stephen White, Alex Pravda, Zvi Gitelman, eds., *Developments in Russian Politics 5*, Palgrave, pp.42-61.

Recommended: Robert Moser, "Executive-Legislative Relations in Russia, 1991-1999" in Moser and Barany, eds., *Russian Politics: Challenges of Democratization*.

12. Russia's Transitional Elections (Feb 16)

-Matthew Wyman, "Elections and Voters," in Stephen White, Alex Pravda, Zvi Gitelman, eds., *Developments in Russian Politics 5*, Palgrave, pp.62-83.

-Michael McFaul, "Russian Electoral Trends," in Moser and Barany, eds., *Russian Politics: Challenges of Democratization*, Cambridge University Press, pp.19-63.

13. Explaining Election Results and Evaluating Democracy in Russia (Feb 18)

-Archie Brown, "Evaluating Russia's Democratization," in Brown, ed., *Contemporary Russian Politics: A Reader*, Oxford University Press, 2001, pp.546-68.

-Timothy Colton and Michael McFaul, "Putin and Democratization," in Dale Herspring, ed., *Putin's Russia: Past Imperfect, Future Uncertain*, Rowman and Littlefield, pp.13-38.

14. Multinational State and Federalism (Feb 23)

-James Hughes, "From Federalisation to Recentralisation," in Stephen White, Alex Pravda, Zvi Gitelman, eds., *Developments in Russian Politics 5*, Palgrave, pp.128-46.

-Darrell Slider, "Politics in the Regions," in Stephen White, Alex Pravda, Zvi Gitelman, eds., *Developments in Russian Politics 5*, Palgrave, pp.147-68.

15. War in Chechnya (Feb 25)

-Daniel Treisman, "Chapter 10: The Mountains," from *The Return: Russia's Journey from Gorbachev to Medvedev*, on line, course website.

-Olga I. Vendina, Vitaliy S. Belozarov, and Andrew Gustafson, "The Wars in Chechnya and Their Effects on Neighboring Regions," *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, 2007, 48, No. 2, pp. 178–201. On line via library.

16. Society, Mafia and Corruption (Mar 2)

-Peter Rutland and Natasha Kogan, "The Russian Mafia: Between Hype and Reality," online at www.tol.cz/look/Transitions/article.tpl?IdLanguage=1&IdPublication=7&NrIssue=10&NrSection=1&NrArticle=5075.

-Gordon Smith, "Russia and the Rule of Law", in Stephen White, Alex Pravda, Zvi Gitelman, eds., *Developments in Russian Politics 5*, Palgrave, pp.108-27.

Recommended: Leon Aron, "In Search of a Russian Middle Class," online at http://www.aei.org/publications/pubID.12224/pub_detail.asp.

17. Russia in World Politics (Mar 4)

-Margot Light, "Post-Soviet Russian Foreign Policy: The First Decade," in Brown, ed., *Contemporary Russian Politics: A Reader*, Oxford University Press, 2001.

-Dmitri Trenin, "Russia Leaves the West," *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2006, available at <http://www.carnegieendowment.org/publications/index.cfm?fa=view&id=18467>.

18. Conclusion: Understanding Russia in Transition (Mar 9).

-Andrei Shleifer and Daniel Treisman, "A Normal Country", *Foreign Affairs*, Mar-April 2004. Online at <http://www.foreignaffairs.org/20040301faessay83204/andrei-shleifer-daniel-treisman/a-normal-country.html>, free access via UCLA.

-Leon Aron, "Making Sense of a Revolution," online at http://www.aei.org/publications/pubID.14384/pub_detail.asp.

Final handed out at end of class. Due Mar 16 by 11 a.m. at my office, 3365 Bunche Hall.

Academic Integrity

To all UCLA Students:

UCLA is a community of scholars. In this community, all members including faculty, staff and students alike are responsible for maintaining standards of academic honesty. As a student and member of the University community, you are here to get an education and are, therefore, expected to demonstrate integrity in your academic endeavors. You are evaluated on your own merits. Cheating, plagiarism, collaborative work, multiple submissions without the permission of the professor, or other kinds of academic dishonesty are considered unacceptable behavior and will result in formal disciplinary proceedings usually resulting in **suspension** or **dismissal**.

Forms of Academic Dishonesty

As specified in the UCLA Student Conduct Code, violations or attempted violations of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, multiple submissions or facilitating academic dishonesty (see below for detailed definitions).

While you are here at UCLA, you may find yourself in a situation where cheating seems like a viable choice. You may rationalize to yourself that "Everyone else does it" Well, they don't. And will that matter when YOU get caught? NO! If you are unsure whether what you are considering doing is cheating, just ask yourself how would you feel if your actions were public, for anyone to see? Would you feel embarrassed or ashamed? If the answer is yes, that's a good indicator that you are taking a risk and rationalizing it to yourself.

If after reviewing the information below, you are still unclear about any of the items – **don't take chances**, don't just take your well-intentioned friend's advice – ASK your TA or your Professor. Know the rules - Ignorance is NO defense. In addition, avoid placing yourself in situations which might lead your TA or Professor to **suspect you of cheating**. For example, during an exam don't sit next to someone with whom you studied in case your answers end up looking "too similar."

Alternatives to Academic Dishonesty

- * **Seek out help** – meet with your TA or Professor, ask if there is special tutoring available.
- * **Drop the course** – can you take it next quarter when you might feel more prepared and less pressured?
- * **Ask for an extension** – if you explain your situation to your TA or Professor, they might grant you an extended deadline.
- * **See a counselor** at Student Psychological Services, and/or your school, college or department – UCLA has many resources for students who are feeling the stresses of academic and personal pressures (**please see below**)

Remember, **getting caught cheating affects more than just your GPA**. How will you explain to your parents, family and friends that you have been suspended or dismissed? How will it affect your financial aid award and/or scholarship money? Will you be required to, and be able to pay

back that money if you are no longer a student? If you live in the residence halls, where will you go if you are told you can no longer live there?

You have worked very hard to get here, so don't cheat! If you would like more information, please come see us at the Dean of Students' Office in 1206 Murphy Hall, call us at (310) 825-3871 or visit our Web site at www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu.

Cheating

- Unauthorized acquiring of knowledge of an examination or part of an examination
- Allowing another person to take a quiz, exam, or similar evaluation for you
- Using unauthorized material, information, or study aids in any academic exercise or examination – textbook, notes, formula list, calculator, etc.
- Unauthorized collaboration in providing or requesting assistance, such as sharing information
- Unauthorized use of someone else's data in completing a computer exercise
- Altering a graded exam or assignment and requesting that it be regraded

Plagiarism

Presenting another's words or ideas as if they were one's own

- Submitting as your own through purchase or otherwise, part of or an entire work produced verbatim by someone else
- Paraphrasing ideas, data or writing without properly acknowledging the source
- Unauthorized transfer and use of someone else's computer file as your own
- Unauthorized use of someone else's data in completing a computer exercise

Multiple Submissions

Submitting the same work (with exact or similar content) in more than one class without permission from the instructor to do so. This includes courses you are currently taking, as well as courses you might take in another quarter

Facilitating Academic Dishonesty

Participating in any action that compromises the integrity of the academic standards of the University; assisting another to commit an act of academic dishonesty

- Taking a quiz, exam, or similar evaluation in place of another person
- Allowing another student to copy from you
- Providing material or other information to another student with knowledge that such assistance could be used in any of the violations stated above (e.g., giving test information to students in other discussion sections of the same course)

Fabrication

Falsification or invention of any information in an academic exercise

- Altering data to support research
- Presenting results from research that was not performed
- Crediting source material that was not used for research

Places to go for help when you are feeling overwhelmed and need personal and/or academic assistance:

(In addition to the resources listed below, you can get assistance from a counselor in your college/dept., check out the current schedule of classes under "Academic Counseling" to find the location and phone number)

* **Letters & Science Counseling Service** A316 Murphy Hall: (310) 825-1965 www.college.ucla.edu

* **Academics in the Commons** at Covell Commons: (310) 825-9315

free workshops on a wide variety of issues relating to academic & personal success
www.orl.ucla.edu (click on "academics")

* **College Tutorials:** at Covell Commons: (310) 825-9315 free tutoring for ESL/math & science/composition/and more! www.college.ucla.edu/up/ct/

* **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Resource Center** 220 Kinsey Hall: (310) 206-3628
www.lgbt.ucla.edu

* **Office for Students with Disabilities** A255 Murphy Hall: (310) 825-1501, TDD (310) 206-6083
www.saonet.ucla.edu/osd

* **Office of International Students and Scholars** 106 Bradley Hall: (310) 825-1681 www.intl.ucla.edu

* **Student Legal Services** 70 Dodd Hall: (310) 825-9894 www.studentlegal.ucla.edu

* **Student Psychological Services** 4223 Math Sciences: (310) 825-0768

A3-062 Center for Health Sciences: (310) 825-7985 www.saonet.ucla.edu/sps.htm

* **Center for Women and Men** 2 Dodd Hall: (310) 825-3945 www.thecenter.ucla.edu

* **Dean of Students Office** 1206 Murphy Hall: (310) 825-3871 www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu