

INTL 375—Eurasia: Politics and Society since 1914

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Lectures: Tue-Thu, 8:30-9:45, CAS B24

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Syllabus

Course Description:

This course is designed as a comprehensive introduction to the study of Soviet and Post-Soviet Russian and Eurasian politics. Including four weeks on Soviet politics, followed by thematic weeks on various aspects of post-Soviet Russian politics and society, including but not limited to political parties and the parliament, ethnic politics and nationalism, law, media, civil society, military, economy, energy, demography, and foreign policy. Except for a week each dedicated exclusively to post-Soviet Ukraine and Central Asia, the rest of the course uses a regional or global comparative angle in approaching these issues, but with a heavy emphasis on the Soviet Union and post-Soviet Russia.

Readings:

There are two required textbooks for the course, both of which will be read in their entirety. There are also numerous articles available for free online through Koç University network, and the links to the online articles are provided in the Syllabus. If a link does not work, please consult the teaching assistant.

Mary McAuley, *Soviet Politics, 1917-1991* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1992/2011)

Stephen K. Wegren (ed.), *Putin's Russia: Past Imperfect, Future Uncertain*, 6th edition (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2015)

Recommended:

“Red Century” op-eds published in the *New York Times* on the 100th anniversary (2017) of the Bolshevik Revolution. Available online at <https://www.nytimes.com/column/red-century>

Requirements:

Quizzes: You will be given a total of 6 quizzes to check whether you read the assigned readings. Quizzes carry 10 percent of the course grade. Your worst quiz will be dropped.

Midterm Exam: There will be a midterm exam that covers the readings from the first half of the semester.

Final Exam: Final exam will be heavily weighted towards the readings from the second half of the semester.

Midterm Exam	40%	The midterm will be at least 2 hours long and will not be during regular lecture hours; exact date to be announced by the Registrar
Final Exam	50%	The final will be at least 2 hours long and will not be during regular lecture hours; exact date to be announced by the Registrar
Quizzes	10%	6 times during the semester; the worst one will be dropped

Grading Scale:

- A (94% and above)
- A- 90, 91, 92, 93%
- B+ 87, 88, 89%
- B 84, 85, 86%
- B- 80, 81, 82, 83%
- C+ 77, 78, 79%
- C 74, 75, 76%
- C- 70, 71, 72, 73%
- D+ 67, 68, 69%
- D (between 60 and 66%)
- F (59% and below)

Course Outline & Reading List

Please contact the Teaching Assistant (T.A.) for the course if you cannot access any of the electronic readings online.

(September 19 – September 21)

Week 1. Introduction: Bolshevik Revolution and the Soviet Union under Lenin, 1917-24

Mary McAuley, *Soviet Politics*, pp.1-33.

Recommended Further Reading:

Yuri Slezkine, “The Love Lives of Bolsheviks,” *New York Times*, April 17, 2017. “Red Century” op-eds, <https://nyti.ms/2oOorEQ>

Sean McMeekin, “Was Lenin a German Agent?,” *New York Times*, June 19, 2017. “Red Century” op-eds, <https://nyti.ms/2tDEg03>

Catherine Merridale, “How German Condoms Funded the Russian Revolution,” *New York Times*, July 17, 2017. “Red Century” op-eds, <https://nyti.ms/2vt0m6q>

(September 26 – September 28)

Week 2. Stalin and Stalinism in the Soviet Union, 1924-1953

Mary McAuley, *Soviet Politics*, pp.34-61.

Recommended Further Reading:

Fintan O’Toole, “Why George Bernard Shaw Had a Crush on Stalin,” *New York Times*, September 11, 2017. “Red Century” op-eds, <https://nyti.ms/2eQdZpV>

Stephen Kotkin, *Magnetic Mountain: Stalinism as a Civilization*. University of California Press, 1997.

Yuri Slezkine, *The House of Government: A Saga of the Russian Revolution*. Princeton University Press, 2017.

Anita Pisch, *The personality cult of Stalin in Soviet posters, 1929-1953: Archetypes, inventions and fabrications*, Australian National University, 2016. Available online at <http://www.oapen.org/search?identifier=624293>

(October 3 – October 5)

Week 3. Soviet Union under Khrushchev, Brezhnev, Andropov, Chernenko, 1953-85

Mary McAuley, *Soviet Politics*, pp.62-88

Recommended Further Reading:

Anastasia Edel, “The ‘Bright Tomorrow’: Growing Up in the Brezhnev Era,” *New York Times*, September 5, 2017. “Red Century,” <https://nyti.ms/2x8KbQQ>

Kristen R. Ghodsee, “Why Women Had Better Sex Under Socialism,” *New York Times*, August 12, 2017. “Red Century” op-eds, <https://nyti.ms/2vsHKWR>

Şener Aktürk “The Nation That Wasn’t There? Sovetskii Narod Discourse, Nation Building, and Passport Ethnicity, 1953-1983” in Şener Aktürk, *Regimes of Ethnicity and Nationhood in Germany, Russia, and Turkey* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012), pp.197-228.

(October 10 – 12)

Week 4. Gorbachev's Reforms and the End of the Soviet Union, 1985-1991

Mary McAuley, *Soviet Politics*, pp.89-123

Keith Darden and Anna Grzymala-Busse, "The Great Divide: Literacy, Nationalism, and the Communist Collapse" *World Politics*, Vol. 59, No.1, Oct. 2006, pp.83-115.

Link: <http://0-www.jstor.org.libunix.ku.edu.tr/stable/pdf/40060156.pdf>

Hanson, Stephen E. "The Evolution of Regimes: What Can Twenty-Five Years of Post-Soviet Change Teach Us?." *Perspectives on Politics* 15, no. 2 (2017): 328-341.

Link: https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/B120A5EA004A037143637C05A38BE4E9/S1537592717000044a.pdf/evolution_of_regimes_what_can_twentyfive_years_of_postsoviet_change_teach_us.pdf

(October 17 – October 19)

Week 5. Russia under Yeltsin

Olga Kryshstanovskaya and Stephen White, "From Soviet *Nomenklatura* to Russian Elite," *Europe-Asia Studies*, Vol.48, No.5, pp.711-733.

Link: <http://0-www.jstor.org.libunix.ku.edu.tr/stable/pdf/152994.pdf>

Vadim Volkov, "Violent Entrepreneurship in Post-Communist Russia," *Europe-Asia Studies*, Vol. 51, No. 5, 1999, pp.741-754.

Link: <http://0-www.jstor.org.libunix.ku.edu.tr/stable/pdf/153859.pdf>

Tony Wood, "The Case for Chechnya," *New Left Review*, Vol. 30, 2004, pp. 5-36.

Link: <https://newleftreview.org/II/30/tony-wood-the-case-for-chechnya>

(October 24 – October 26)

Week 6. Russia under Putin: Leadership and the Parliament

Stephen K. Wegren, "Introduction: Putin's Challenges," in *Putin's Russia*, pp.1-20.

Richard Sakwa, "Political Leadership," in *Putin's Russia*, pp.23-42.

Thomas F. Remington, "Parliament and the Dominant Party Regime," in *Putin's Russia*, pp.43-61.

(October 31 – November 2)

Week 7. Post-Soviet Russian Politics: Law, Civil Society, and the Media

Kathryn Hendley, "The Role of Law," in *Putin's Russia*, pp.83-101.

Alfred B. Evans Jr. "Civil Society and Protest," in *Putin's Russia*, pp.103-125.

Maria Lipman, "The Media," in *Putin's Russia*, pp.127-150.

(November 7 – November 9)

Week 8. Post-Soviet Russian Economy: Economic Policy, Crime, and Energy

Pekka Sutela, "Economic Policy," in *Putin's Russia*, pp.177-192.

Louise Shelley, "Crime and Corruption," in *Putin's Russia*, pp.193-213.

Kathleen J. Hancock and Taylor Rene Lane, "Energy," in *Putin's Russia*, pp.277-297.

(November 14 – November 16)

Week 9. Post-Soviet Russian Society: Demography, Gender, and Agriculture

Timothy Heleniak, "Population Trends," in *Putin's Russia*, pp.153-176.

Janet Elise Johnson and Alexandra Novitskaya, "Gender and Politics," in *Putin's Russia*, pp.215-230.

Stephen K. Wegren and Alexander M. Nikulin, "Nationalism and Food Security," in *Putin's Russia*, pp.299-322.

(November 21 – November 23)

Week 10. Post-Soviet Russian Military, Russian-American and Russian-EU Relations

Dale R. Herspring, "Military Reform," in *Putin's Russia*, pp.323-345.

Dmitry Gorenburg, "What Russia's Military Operation in Syria Can Tell Us About Advances in its Capabilities." *PONARS Policy Memo 424* (March 2016).

Link: <http://www.ponarseurasia.org/memo/advances-russian-military-operations>

Andrei P. Tsygankov, "Foreign Policy and Relations with the United States," in *Putin's Russia*, pp.233-255.

Jeffrey Mankoff, "Relations with the European Union," in *Putin's Russia*, pp.257-276.

(November 28 – November 30)

Week 11. Post-Soviet Russian-Turkish Relations

Sener Akturk, "Turkish-Russian Relations After the Cold War, 1992-2002," *Turkish Studies* 7, no. 3 (2006): 337-364. Link: <http://0->

www.tandfonline.com/libunix.ku.edu.tr/doi/pdf/10.1080/14683840600891034?needAccess=true

Şener Aktürk, "The Fourth Style of Politics: Eurasianism as a Pro-Russian Rethinking of Turkey's Geopolitical Identity." *Turkish Studies* 16, No. 1 (2015): 54-79.
Link: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14683849.2015.1021246>

Şener Aktürk, "The Crisis in Russian–Turkish Relations, 2008–2015." *Russian Analytical Digest: Russia-Turkey Relations* 179 (2016): 2-5.
Link: http://www.laender-analysen.de/russland/rad/pdf/Russian_Analytical_Digest_179.pdf

Ziya Öniş and Şuhnaz Yılmaz, "Turkey and Russia in a shifting global order: Cooperation, conflict and asymmetric interdependence in a turbulent region." *Third World Quarterly* 37, no. 1 (2016): 71-95.
Link: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01436597.2015.1086638>

Igor Torbakov, "Neo-Ottomanism versus Neo-Eurasianism? Nationalism and Symbolic Geography in Postimperial Turkey and Russia." *Mediterranean Quarterly* 28, no. 2 (2017): 125-145.
Link: <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/667498>

Şener Aktürk, "Turkey's Role in the Arab Spring and the Syrian Conflict," *Turkish Policy Quarterly* 15, no. 4 (2017): 87-96.
Link: <http://turkishpolicy.com/article/844/turkeys-role-in-the-arab-spring-and-the-syrian-conflict>

(December 5 – December 7)

Week 12. Ethnic, Regional, National and Geopolitical Identity in Post-Soviet Russia

Nikolai Petrov and Darrell Slider, "Regional Politics," in *Putin's Russia*, pp.63-82.

Yuri Slezkine, "The USSR as a communal apartment, or how a socialist state promoted ethnic particularism." *Slavic Review* (1994): pp.414-452.
Link: <http://0-www.jstor.org.libunix.ku.edu.tr/stable/pdf/2501300.pdf>

Sener Akturk, "Passport Identification and Nation-Building in Post-Soviet Russia." *Post-Soviet Affairs* 26, no. 4 (2010): 314-341.
Link: <http://0-www.tandfonline.com.libunix.ku.edu.tr/doi/pdf/10.2747/1060-586X.26.4.314?needAccess=true>

Akturk, Sener. "Post-imperial democracies and new projects of nationhood in Eurasia: transforming the nation through migration in Russia and Turkey." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 43, no. 7 (2017): 1101-1120.
Link: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/1369183X.2016.1246177>

Samuel P. Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs* 72, no. 3 (1993): 22-49.
Link: <http://0-www.jstor.org.libunix.ku.edu.tr/stable/pdf/20045621.pdf>

Peter J. Katzenstein and Nicole Weygandt, "Mapping Eurasia in an Open World: How the Insularity of Russia's Geopolitical and Civilizational Approaches Limits Its Foreign Policies." *Perspectives on Politics* 15, no. 2 (2017): 428-442.
Link: https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/AC2FF6030B6A31AECEDAF7F0C8F9FFA2/S153759271700010Xa.pdf/mapping_eurasia_in_an_open_world_how_the_insularity_of_russias_geopolitical_and_civilizational_approaches_limits_its_foreign_policies.pdf

Recommended:

Terry Martin, "The Origins of Soviet Ethnic Cleansing." *The Journal of Modern History* 70, no. 4 (1998): 813-861.
Link: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/10.1086/235168.pdf>

(December 12 – December 14)

Week 13. Politics and Society in Post-Soviet Ukraine, Russia's Annexation of Crimea, and the Ukrainian Civil War

Alfred Stepan, "Ukraine: Improbable Democratic "Nation-State" But Possible Democratic "State-Nation"?" *Post Soviet Affairs* 21, no. 4 (2005): 279-308. (The article will be sent by email)

Alexei Miller, "A Nation-State or a State-Nation?" *Russia in Global Affairs*, Nov. 16, 2008.
Link: http://eng.globalaffairs.ru/number/n_11895

Mykola Riabchuk, "'Two Ukraines' Reconsidered: The End of Ukrainian Ambivalence?" *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism* 15, no.1 (2015): 138-156.
Link: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/sena.12120/full>

December 14, 2017: Who is to blame for the Ukrainian Crisis? (Discussion)

John J. Mearsheimer, "Why the Ukraine Crisis Is the West's Fault: The Liberal Delusions That Provoked Putin." *Foreign Affairs* 93, no.5 (2014): 77-88.
Link: <http://mearsheimer.uchicago.edu/pdfs/Ukraine%20Article%20in%20Foreign%20Affairs.pdf>

Keith Darden, "How to Save Ukraine: Why Russia is not the Real Problem." *Foreign Affairs*, April 14, 2014, Postscript.
Link: https://www.academia.edu/12051160/How_To_Save_Ukraine_-_Foreign_Affairs

Timothy Snyder, "Fascism, Russia, and Ukraine," *The New York Review of Books*, March 20, 2014.
Link: <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/2014/03/20/fascism-russia-and-ukraine/>

Timothy Garton Ash, "Putin's Deadly Doctrine: 'Protecting' Russians in Ukraine Has Fatal Consequences," *New York Times* (Sunday Review), July 18, 2014.

Link: <http://www.nytimes.com/2014/07/20/opinion/sunday/protecting-russians-in-ukraine-has-deadly-consequences.html? r=0>

(December 19 – December 21)

Week 14. Politics and Society in Post-Soviet Central Asia

Kathleen Collins, “Clans, pacts, and politics in Central Asia.” *Journal of Democracy* 13, no. 3 (2002): 137-152.

Link: <https://muse.jhu.edu/article/17211/pdf>

Barbara Junisbai, “A Tale of Two Kazakhstans: Sources of Political Cleavage and Conflict in the Post-Soviet Period.” *Europe-Asia Studies* 62, no. 2 (2010): 235-269.

Link: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09668130903506813>

Rico Isaacs, “*Nur Otan*, Informal Networks and the Countering of Elite Instability in Kazakhstan: Bringing the ‘Formal’ Back In.” *Europe-Asia Studies* 65, no. 6 (2013): 1055-1079. Link:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09668136.2013.802547>