Security Issues in Russia and Eurasia
IAFF 6338 Section 10
Wednesdays, 5:10-7:00 PM, Monroe Hall, Room 350

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Office hours: By appointment (1957 E Street, Ste. 412)

Overview:

This course is a seminar on regional security issues in post-Soviet Eurasia, with a focus on the relationships between three sets of interactions: between Russia and other post-Soviet states; Russia and external actors; and other post-Soviet states and external actors. The course will explore the evolution of political and security relations and institutions in the post-Soviet space in interaction with broader global and Eurasian security developments. The course is structured thematically and addresses: Russian and Eurasian security contexts; regional security organizations; regional conflicts and international interventions, including the Ukraine crisis; Islamist extremism; energy security; China and the Far East; and arms control and missile defense.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be able to investigate and interpret a diverse set of security contexts, interests, and policies in post-Soviet Eurasia; analyze the interrelationships among regional, subregional, and international security issues in Eurasia; apply the analysis and materials learned to assess future trajectories for security relations in the region; prepare oral briefings and field discussion on contemporary issues of Eurasian security; and produce policy-relevant analysis through two kinds of written products.

Requirements:

Op-Ed (1,200-1,500 words, Times New Roman, 12 pt., double-spaced): 20%
   Due: March 6 (Friday, by email), at the latest
Panel Presentation: 20%
   Scheduled on April 15 and April 22
Final Paper (20 pages, Times New Roman, 12 pt., double-spaced): 50%
   Due: May 8, by email
Participation: 10%

There are three assignments for this course. The first assignment is an approximately 1,200-1,500 word Opinion Piece. This paper should center around an argument that you wish to put forth (i.e., you are not an “advisor to the president of Turkmenistan”). The paper may address a policy recommendation (or recommendations); a sustained critique
of an existing policy (implying the necessity to change policy without fully elaborating on an alternative); or implications of different policy choices. Your intended audience should be one that you might conceivably target in your professional life. This may be your own government, an international organization, or public opinion. If your Opinion Piece makes recommendations, do not just state the recommendations; be sure to explain to your intended audience why they should support them. The Opinion Piece does not require citations, but it must include a bibliography of sources used.

The second assignment is an oral (individual) presentation based on your Opinion Piece. After receiving instructor feedback on your Opinion Piece, you will present a revised version as part of a panel of 3-4 students grouped roughly by topic. No PowerPoint allowed. Presentations will be 10 minutes each and will be followed by up to 20-30 minutes of discussion. Your grade will depend on substance, organization, and preparedness in fielding questions directly relevant to your topic.

The major writing assignment is an approximately 20 page research paper. The final paper may be on the same topic as your Opinion Piece and you may reuse some text, if the content is necessary and a natural fit for the flow of your paper. The paper should address a specific problem or issue; include concise background context; and draw on a diversity of sources (including media sources). The issue may be contemporary or historical, but the paper must tightly cohere and not be a general survey of a topic; when thinking about what to write, you should consider tackling part of a topic. The final paper may contain policy recommendations, but it does not have to. As part of your grade, you must submit a brief proposal (a paragraph) in advance, and I encourage you to also submit a preliminary bibliography.

The course will include lecture and discussion. Class participation counts for 10% of your grade.

University Resources and Policies:

University Policy on Religious Holidays:
1. Students should notify faculty during the first week of the semester of their intention to be absent from class on their day(s) of religious observance;
2. Faculty should extend to these students the courtesy of absence without penalty on such occasions, including permission to make up examinations;
3. Faculty who intend to observe a religious holiday should arrange at the beginning of the semester to reschedule missed classes or to make other provisions for their course-related activities

Academic Integrity: Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information. For the remainder of the code, see:
http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html

Support for Students Outside the Classroom
DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS)
Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in the Marvin Center, Suite 242, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information please refer to:
http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/
The University Counseling Center (UCC) offers 24/7 assistance and referral to address students' personal, social, career, and study skills problems. Services for students include:

- crisis and emergency mental health consultations
- confidential assessment, counselling services (individual and small group), and referrals
- [http://gwired.gwu.edu/counsel/CounselingServices/AcademicSupportServices](http://gwired.gwu.edu/counsel/CounselingServices/AcademicSupportServices)

**Security**

In the case of an emergency, if at all possible, the class should shelter in place. If the building that the class is in is affected, follow the evacuation procedures for the building. After evacuation, seek shelter at a predetermined rendezvous location.
Readings:

The readings will be available primarily via university-accessible databases, with links on Blackboard. I also encourage you to keep current on regional security news.

Schedule:

1. Jan. 14: Overview


Jan. 21: Russia’s Security Context


Jan. 28: Eurasian Security Contexts


4-5. **Feb. 4, 11 Regional Security Architectures**

**Feb. 4: European Security**


**Feb. 11: Eurasian Organizations**


6-8. Feb. 18, 25, March 4 Conflict and Intervention

February 18: Regional Conflicts


Cory Welt, “Turkish-Armenian Normalization and the Karabakh Conflict,” *Perceptions: Journal of International Affairs* 18, no. 1 (Spring 2013): 207-221.

February 25: International Interventions


March 4: The Ukraine Crisis and After


March 6 (Friday): OP-ED DUE, by email

March 11: NO CLASS (SPRING BREAK)
9. March 18 The Islamist Threat


10. March 25 Energy Security


11. April 1 China and the Far East


12. April 8 Arms Control and Missile Defense

James M. Goldgeier and Michael McFaul, “Controlling the Nukes” and “No Deals,” *Power and Purpose: U.S. Policy Toward Russia After the Cold War*, 41-58, 287-299, 303.


13. April 15 Presentations: Panel I and II

14. Apr. 22 Presentations: Panel III and IV

Final Papers Due: May 8, by e-mail