GOV 336M: Government and Politics of Russia, Fall 2012

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This course will introduce students to the history of political development in Russia from 1917 to the present. The course will be divided into two parts: 1) an overview of the Soviet period, which ended with the introduction of radical reform under Mikhail Gorbachev and the subsequent disintegration of the Soviet Union; and 2) a discussion of the multiple challenges of state-building, democratization, and radical market reform facing the new post-Soviet Russian state. During the 1990s many thought that Russia was on a route toward democratic consolidation, market reform, and integration with the West. However, with the ascendance of Vladimir Putin as president, Russia has experienced a reemergence of authoritarianism, state control of the economy, and confrontation with the United States. As the 21st century begins, the country appears to be on a very precarious course away from communism but toward an uncertain future. This course will seek to shed light on one of the most dramatic and important political, economic, and social transformations in recent history.

Prerequisite: upper-division standing and six hours of lower-division coursework in Government.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

The written requirements of the course will consist of two midterm take-home essays and two midterm exams. There will be no final exam. Please note the due date of all papers and tests. Make-up exams will be granted only for medical emergencies with a doctor's note. Late assignments will be severely penalized. Those unable to meet the requirements of the class on the dates set should not take the course. Academic dishonesty is taken very seriously and will be dealt with according to University rules. All written work is to be done individually.

Grades will be assigned as follows:

First Take-Home Essay	25%
First Midterm Exam	20%
Second Take-Home Essay	25%
Second Midterm Exam	20%
Participation (based on in-class quizzes)	10%

REQUIRED READING:

M. S. Fish, *Democracy Derailed in Russia*.
D. Triesman, *The Return.*

These books have been ordered at University Coop. Readings marked by an asterisk are available on Blackboard.

Grading Policy Percentage:

I will be using the new +/- grading scale. Letter grades for the course will be based on the following scale.

A	93-100%
A-	90-92%
B+	87-89%
B	83-86%
B-	80-82%
C+	77-79%
C	73-76%
C-	70-72%
D	60-69%
F	Below 60%

Accommodations

The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259, 471-6441 TTY.

Academic Integrity

Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/ or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. For further information please visit the Student Judicial Services Web site: http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs. Refer to the Dean of Students Student Judicial Services website or call 471-2841 for the official university policies and procedures on scholastic dishonesty.

Religious Holidays

A student who misses classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day should inform the instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible, so that arrangements can be made to complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.

LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

Students should complete the readings in preparation for the lectures on that issue. The reading load averages 75-100 pages per week. Students should also keep track of current events in Russia by following a major national newspaper such as the *New York Times* or *Washington Post*. Current news items related to issues in class will be posted on Blackboard and should be treated as required course readings. Please arrive to class on time.

<u>The Soviet Union and Its Collapse:</u>

Week 1 (Aug. 29-31): Introduction: Marxism and the Soviet Experiment

*D. Kellner, "The Obsolescence of Marxism?" in *Whither Communism*, pp. 6-30.
***Film: *CNN Cold War Series: The Wall Comes Down.* Shown during class on August 31st.**

Week 2 (Sept. 3-7): Lenin and the Soviet Experiment

*M. Malia, *The Soviet Tragedy*, Introduction.
**** No class on Labor Day, Sept. 3rd ****

Week 3 (Sept. 10-14): Stalin and Post-Stalin Reform

*R. Suny, *The Soviet Experiment*, Chs. 9-11 and Chs. 17-19.

Week 4 (Sept. 17-21): Gorbachev's Reforms

Treisman, *The Return*, Ch. 1.
*J. Hough, *Democratization and Revolution in the USSR*, Ch. 8.

Week 5 (Sept. 24-28): The Collapse of the Soviet Union

Treisman, *The Return*, Ch. 5.
*M. Malia, *The Soviet Tragedy*, Ch. 13.
*A. Dallin, "Causes of the Collapse of the USSR," *Post-Soviet Affairs* (1992), pp. 279-302.
*J. Hough, *Democratization and Revolution in the USSR*, Ch. 15.

<u>Russia's Postcommunist Experience:</u>

Week 6 (Oct. 1-5): Yeltsin's Russia I: The First Republic and Chaotic Democracy

**** First Take-Home Essay due in class, Oct. 5th ****

Treisman, *The Return*, Ch. 2
*McFaul, *Russia's Unfinished Revolution*, Chs. 4-5.

Week 7 (Oct. 8-12): Yeltsin's Russia II: The Second Republic and Seeds of Authoritarianism

Treisman, *The Return*, Ch. 6.
McFaul, *Russia's Unfinished Revolution*, Ch. 6-7.

Week 8 (Oct. 15-19): Putin's Russia: The Consolidation of Competitive Authoritarianism

Triesman, *The Return*, Chs. 3 and 4.
Fish, *Democracy Derailed*, Chs. 1-3.

Week 9 (Oct. 22-26): Review and First Midterm Exam

**** First Midterm exam taken in class, October 26th ****

<u>Causes and Implications of Russia's Failed Democratization:</u>

Week 10 (Oct. 29-Nov. 2): Public Opinion and Political Culture

Treisman, *The Return*, Ch. 7.
Fish, *Democracy Derailed*, Ch. 4.
*T. Colton and M. McFaul, "Are Russians Undemocratic?" Working Paper #20, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (2001), pp. 1-24.
*R. Rose and N. Munro, and W. Mishler, "Resigned Acceptance of an Incomplete Democracy: Russia's Political Equilibrium," *Post-Soviet Affairs*, Vol. 20 (2004), pp. 195-218.
*R. Pipes, "Flight from Freedom: What Russians Think and Want," *Foreign Affairs* (2004): 9-15.

Week 11 (Nov. 5-9): Economic Reform and the Resource Curse

Barany and Moser, Ch. 4.
Fish, *Democracy Derailed*, Ch. 5-6.
*J. Hellman, "Winners Take All: The Politics of Partial Reform in Postcommunist Transitions," *World Politics*, Vol. 50 (January 1998), pp. 203-234.

Week 12 (Nov. 12-16): Institutions

Barany and Moser, Ch. 2.
Fish, *Democracy Derailed*, Ch. 7.

Week 13 (Nov. 19-23): Chechnya and Russian Center-Periphery Relations

**** Second Take-Home Essay due in class, Nov. 21st ****

Treisman, *The Return*, Ch. 8.
*R. Moser, "Ethnic Federalism, Electoral Systems, and the Representation of Ethnic Minorities: Evidence from Russia," in Oleh Protsyk and Benedikt Harzl (eds.) *Managing Ethnic Diversity in Russia* (London: Routledge, forthcoming).

Week 14 (Nov. 26-30): American Foreign Policy and Russia

Treisman, *The Return*, Ch. 9.
*J. Lloyd, "Who Lost Russia," *New York Times Magazine*, August 15, 1999.
*Y. Tymoshenko, "Containing Russia," *Foreign Affairs* (May/June 2007), pp. 69-82.
*D. Trenin, "Russia Reborn," *Foreign Affairs* (Nov/Dec 2009), pp. 64-78.

Week 15 (Dec. 3-7): Conclusions and Second Midterm Exam

**** Second Midterm Exam taken in class, Dec. 7th ****

Treisman, *The Return*, Ch. 10.
Fish, *Democracy Derailed*, Ch. 9.