PO8052: Russian Politics under Putin
Syllabus
Hilary Term 2019
Wednesday 12pm-2:00pm

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Module Description

After over 70 years of Soviet communist rule, in the 1990s the Russian Federation found itself struggling with political disintegration, chaotic democracy, and caustic legacies of a planned economy. This course explores the evolution of Russian politics under Vladimir Putin—from the transition from Yeltsin to the “vertical of power” in Putin’s third term in office. This module covers topics including how the Putin regime has involved corruption in Russia, “petropolitics,” electoral fraud, and new social movements.

Assessment

Participation (20%)

Response Papers (20%)

Final essay (60%)

CLASS SCHEDULE

1. From Yeltsin to Putin 3.0: Personalism, ‘The Vertical of Power,’ and Competing Centers of Power
   - Peter Rutland, “Putin’s Path to Power.” Post-Soviet Affairs, 2000, 16, 4.

Recommended reading:
2. Electoral Authoritarianism in Russia


Recommended reading:


3. Russia’s Political Economy

- Sergei Guriev and Aleh Tsyvinskin, "Challenges Facing the Russian Economy after the Crisis" in Anders Åslund, Sergei Guriev, and Andrew C. Kuchins (eds.) *Russia After the Global Crisis* Peterson Institute

Recommended reading:

- Sergei Cheloukhine and Joseph King “Corruption networks as a sphere of investment activities in modern Russia” Communist and Post-Communist Studies.
- Clifford Gaddy and Barry Ickes, Russia’s Virtual Economy (Brookings Institution Press, 2002)

4. State and Society: Discontent, Civil Society, and Stagnation

- Current events readings TBA

Recommended reading:
- Regina Smyth, “Beyond United Russia,” PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo no.302, September 2013

5. Spheres of Influence and Russia’s International Presence

- Andrei Tsygankov. 2015. Vladimir Putin's last stand: the sources of Russia's Ukraine policy, Post-Soviet Affairs, 31:4, 279-303

Recommended reading:
- Maria Popova, “Why the Orange Revolution Was Short and Peaceful and Euromaidan Long and Violent,” Problems of Post-Communism, Vol. 61, no. 6 (November-December 2014), pp. 64-70
– Dmitri Trenin. 2010. "Russian Foreign Policy: Modernization or Marginalization?" in Anders Åslund, Sergei Guriev, and Andrew C. Kuchins (eds.) *Russia After the Global Crisis* Peterson Institute
– Fyodor Lukyanov. 2016. “Putin's Foreign Policy: the Quest to Restore Russia's Rightful Place” *Foreign Affairs*