

**Class Overview**

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| **General Class Information***All fields must be completed and posted in UVaCollab and World Viewable in SIS no later than two weeks prior to registration.* |
| **Subject Area &****Catalog Number** | ISLS 3211 | **Class Title** | RUSSIAN POLITICS |
| **Credit Type** | **[x] Undergraduate****[ ] Graduate** | **[x]  Credit****[ ]  Noncredit** | **Delivery Method** | **[x] P (In-Person)****[ ] CI (Classroom/Internet)****[ ] WB (Web-Based)** |
| **Re-licensure** **Re-certification Points** |       | **Approval Date***(For internal use only)* |       |

1. **Class Description (Use the SIS 400 characters from catalog description)**

RUSSIA HAS UNDERGONE TREMENDOUS CHANGES OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES AND REMAINS IN A STATE OF FLUX. THIS COURSE IS DESIGNED TO EXPLORE SOME OF THIS COUNTRY’S MAJOR POLITICAL THEMES OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY AND THE ONGOING DEVELOPMENTS OF THE TWENTY FIRST: THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION, STALINISM, THE NATURE OF THE SOVIET POLITICAL SYSTEM, GORBACHEV’S PERESTROIKA, NATIONALISM, THE SOVIET COLLAPSE, AND RUSSIA’S RATHER TENTATIVE STEPS TOWARDS CAPITALISM AND DEMOCRACY. MUCH OF THE COURSE WILL BE DEVOTED TO THE DRAMATIC EVENTS SINCE THE FALL OF THE USSR. WE WILL ATTEMPT TO MAKE SENSE OF THESE EVENTS THROUGH AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE HISTORY, CULTURE, AND POLITICS ON WHICH THEY BUILD. WE WILL LOOK AT RUSSIA AS RUSSIANS SAW AND SEE THEIR COUNTRY.

1. **Learning Outcomes**

MY SPECIFIC GOAL IS TO DEVELOP THE STUDENTS’ ABILITY TO SEE INTERNATIONAL ISSUES THROUGH THE EYES OF DIFFERENT NATIONS. THEREFORE, I MAKE MY COURSES MULTIDISCIPLINARY - DRAWING UPON CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SEVERAL DIFFERENT ACADEMIC AREAS INCLUDING POLITICS, ECONOMICS, HISTORY, SOCIOLOGY, AND CULTURE.

1. **Assessment Components**

Presentations, news reviews, discussions, debates, quizzes, analytical essays.

1. **Required Text (include ISBN, specific edition)**

RONALD SUNY, THE SOVIET EXPERIMENT: RUSSIA, THE USSR, AND THE SUCCESSOR STATES, OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS, 2010

RICHARD PIPES, THREE “WHYS” OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION, VINTAGE BOOKS, 1997

(ONE MORE BOOK WILL BE ASSIGNED)

1. **Required Additional Resources and Technical Components**

FULL SET OF A/V EQUIPMENT. WE WILL WATCH QUITE A NUMBER OF VIDEO DOCUMENTARIES WHICH CORRELATE WITH TOPICS TO BE COVERED IN THE COURSE.

1. **Other Class Expectations (for Classroom/Internet and Web-Based classes, specify any live (synchronous) meetings dates, times, delivery mode)**