PLCP3210. Russian Politics. Spring 2015

Mr. Lynch

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2-3:15pm, Moore Nursing Bldg., G010

Office hours: Tuesdays, 3:45-5:15pm; Thursdays, 12:30-1:45pm at 397 Gibson (So. Lawn).

This course offers an interpretation of Russian politics, in both historical and contemporary perspective. There will be three take-home essays due on February 17, March 24 and May 4. These assignments will be analytical essays conducted on an open-book, open-notes basis. Work will be evaluated according to the following criteria: ***degree of command of readings and lectures, respectively; incisive and coherent analytical faculty, as well as sound and original judgment.*** A grade of “A” denotes excellence on *all* counts. Please keep in mind that a grade of “B” denotes “good” performance. Each assignment will count equally, i.e., 1/3 each. In addition, students will have the option of submitting one extra-credit essay (to be determined).

**Books Ordered for Purchase**:

Richard Pipes, *Russia Under the Old Regime*

Martin Malia, *The Soviet Tragedy*

Lilia Shevtsova, *Russia: Lost in Transition. The Yeltsin & Putin Legacies*

Stephen White & Richard Sakwa, eds., *Developments in Russian Politics, 8* (2014).

All other readings are available on the course Collab site, indicated by “(C)”.

**Schedule of Classes**:

January 13. Introduction to the Class.

January 15. Environmental Factors Shaping Russian Political Development.

Read: Richard Pipes, *Russia under the Old Regime,* 1-26; Fiona Hill and Clifford Gaddy, *The Siberian Curse*, 26-56 (C); Allen Lynch, *How Russia is Not Ruled*, ch1, 18-46 (C).

January 20. The Concept of Patrimonialism in Russian & Comparative Perspective.

Read: *Pipes*, 27-83; George Vernadsky, The Mongol Impact on Russia (C).

January 22. The Anatomy of Russian Patrimonialism.

Read: Pipes, 84-140.

January 27. The Russian Political Accomplishment (Guest lecture by Prof. Yuri V. Urbanovich).

Read: Pipes, 141-90; Marshall Poe, *The Russian Moment in World History* (C).

January 29. The Russian Dilemma.

Read: Robert Wesson, *The Russian Dilemma* (C); Pipes, 191-248.

February 3. Toward the Russian Revolutions: A Classic Crisis of Political Development.

Read: Pipes, 249-318; Martin Malia, *The Soviet Tragedy*, 21-78.

February 5. The Russian Revolutions, 1905, 1917: Class & National Uprisings.

Read: Malia, 81-138; Richard Pipes, ch.11, *1917 & the Disintegration of Russia* (C); E.H. Carr, *Soviet Impact on the Western World* (C).

February 10. The Politics of the New Economic Policy, 1921-27.

Read: Malia, 139-226; Rolf Theen, *Lenin* (C).

February 12. Stalinism.

Read: Malia, 227-314; Aleksandr N. Yakovlev, *A Century of Violence in Soviet Russia* (C).

**First take-home assignment to be distributed.**

February 17. Nikita Khrushchev & Destalinization.

Read: Malia, 315-350; William Taubman, *Khrushchev,* ch. 11, 270-99 (C).

**First take-home assignment due in class (in paper).**

February 19. Why Gorbachev? Legacies of Stagnation, 1964-85.

Read: Malia, 351-401; Georgy Arbatov, *The System*, ch. 9 (C, in three parts).

February 24. Gorbachev’s Strategies & Results.

Read: Malia, 405-444; Allen C. Lynch, *Soviet and Chinese Reform Strategies: Deng & Gorbachev Compared (C).*

February 26. The Collapse of the Soviet Union (and of the Russian Empire, again).

Read: Malia, 445-490; Jack F. Matlock, Jr., *Autopsy of an Empire* (C).

March 3. The Post-Soviet “Transition”: Privatization or Piratization?

Read: Malia, 491-520; Marshall Goldman, *The Piratization of Russia* (C); Varese, *Is Sicily the Future of Russia?* (C).

March 5. Conceptual Issues of post-Communist “Transition.”

Read: Alexander J. Motyl, *Dilemmas of Independence* (C); Sarah Mendelsohn, *Democratic Assistance & Russia’s Transition* (C).

**March 10 & 12: No Class. Spring Break**.

March 17. The Russian 1990’s: Another “Time of Troubles.”

Read: Lilia Shevstova, *Russia: Lost in Transition*, 1-35; Joseph Stiglitz, *Globalization & its Discontents* (C); Tanya Frisby, *The Rise of Organized Crime in post-Communist Russia* (C).

March 19. Wars in Chechnya and Russian Politics.

Read: Shevtsova, 37-149; Anna Politkovskaya, *A Small Corner of Hell* (C).

March 24. From Yelstin to Putin.

Read: Shevtsova, 36-65.

**Second take-home assignment to be distributed.**

March 26. The Political Socialization of Vladimir Putin.

Read: Allen C. Lynch, *Vladimir Putin & Russian Statecraft*, 1-26 (C); Vladimir Shlapentokh, *Hobbes and Locke at Odds in Putin’s Russia* (C).

**Second take-home assignment due in class (in paper).**

March 31. The Anatomy of Putin’s Political Machine.

Read: Shevstova, 97-148; Stephen White and Richard Sakwa, eds., *Developments in Russian Politics, 8*, 19-59.

April 2. Society and the State.

Read: White & Sakwa, *Developments, 8*, 117-144, 192-210.

April 7. Is the Russian Federation a Federation?

Read: White & Sakwa, *Developments, 8,* 157-172, 145-156*.*

April 9*.* Public Opinion & Electoral Behavior.

Read: White & Sakwa, *Developments, 8,* 60-116.

April 14. Putin’s “Militocracy”.

Read: White & Sakwa, *Developments, 8,* 231-246*;* Olga Kryshtanovskaya, *Putin’s Militocracy* (C).

April 16. The Political Economy of Fossil Fuels.

Read: White and Sakwa, *Developments, 8,* 173-191*;* Richard Rose, *Popular Support for an Undemocratic Regime, 142-176* (C)*.*

April 21. Anti-Americanism in Russian Politics.

Read: White & Sakwa, *Developments, 8,* 211-230*;* Shevtsova, 220-268; William Zimmerman, *The Russian People & Foreign Policy* (C); Dmitri Trenin, *Russia Leaves the West* (C).

April 23. The Crisis of 2014-15.

Read: Thomas Ambrosio, *Insulating Russia from a Color Revolution* (C); and to be determined.

April 28. The Future.

Read: White and Sakwa, *Developments, 8,* 247-263*;* Richard Rose, *Presidential Succession: a Family Problem* (C).

**The final take-home assignment will be distributed. It is due at 397 Gibson in paper on May 4 at 12 noon.**