PSCI 353: POLITICS IN RUSSIA
Fall 2014
EV2, Rm. 2002, Th 8:30-11:20

Instructor: John (Ivan) Jaworsky
Email Address: jjaworsk@uwaterloo.ca
Office Location: Hagey Hall 307
Office Hours: Tues. 1:30-3:00; Thurs. 1:30-3:00

Contact Policy: Please note that I am frequently available outside of my regular office hours. Feel free to drop by if my door is open, or send me an email message to set up an appointment. If you have course-related inquiries, feel free to send emails and I will try to respond as soon as possible. However, if you have a question that requires more than a brief (2-3 sentence) response, you should come by to see me.

Teaching Assistants:
This course does not have a TA.

Course Description: A comparative examination of political processes, institutions, and reforms in Russia, with a focus on the successes and failures of democratization.

Pre-Requisites: One of PSCI 101, 110, 150. One of PSCI 244, 250, 252, 255, 259, 260, 264 strongly recommended.

Course Objectives:
This is a comparative politics course. Students will learn about the meaning and significance of political processes and institutions, and the successes and failures of the
process of democratization, by focusing on post-Soviet Russia. At the same time, students will gain interesting and useful insights concerning politics in an important and fascinating country undergoing very rapid and turbulent changes since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

University Regulations:

Academic Integrity:

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, Student Discipline http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, Student Petitions http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70. In addition, consult Student Grievances http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes for the Faculty of Arts’ grievance processes.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, Student Appeals http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72.

Academic Integrity website (Arts): Academic Integrity http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad.academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): Academic Integrity Office http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/
Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

Note for students with disabilities: The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.

Text:

Ben Judah, Fragile Empire: How Russia Fell In and Out of Love With Vladimir Putin, Yale University Press, 2013. (Required)

Other course materials will be available as E-readings (see the required readings list below), and can be accessed directly from the internet, or through the library's course reserve system (available from the library's home page) or by using the library's PRIMO system. If you have any problems accessing these materials, check with me, or with a librarian. Students will also be provided with information concerning internet resources relevant to the course (e.g., resources useful in preparing your course essays). Throughout the semester, the instructor may use the Learn system to provide students with brief items supplementing the course materials listed below. If you are not informed otherwise, you are responsible for reading all of these supplementary materials.

The course will be run as a lecture course; however, students are encouraged to ask questions and raise matters relevant to the course in class. Students are also encouraged to consult with the instructor during regular office hours. The course will be administered using UW’s Learn online course system, and all non-lecture information relevant to the course will be provided to students using this system.

Course Requirements, Expectations, and Standards:

Assignments:

Assignment #1:
Students are required to write one course essay, worth 40% of the final mark. The essay topic must be approved by the instructor (additional information about the essay will be provided separately), and students must sign up for a topic before Oct. 16. Students are encouraged to consult with the instructor as they work on the essay. The deadline for the submission of the essay is the last class of the semester (Thursday Nov. 27).
Tests & Examinations:

Test #1:
There will be a compulsory mid-term exam, worth 20% of the final mark, held on Thursday Oct. 30.

Final Examination:
This course will have a compulsory end-of-term exam, held during the regular exam period, worth 40% of the final course mark. Please note: Student travel plans are not an acceptable reason for granting an alternative examination time.

Late Policy:
The course essay is due on Thursday November 27. Late essays will receive a 3% grade reduction per day, unless they are submitted with appropriate medical documentation. See the Verification of Illness form at: https://uwaterloo.ca/health-services/sites/ca.health-services/files/uploads/files/VIF-online.pdf

If you are submitting a late essay, hand it in person to me, or leave a hard copy in the instructor’s dropbox (3rd floor, Hagey Hall) and send an electronic copy, on the same day, to the instructor’s LEARN dropbox.

Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction to the Course

Note: There are no readings for Week 1 of this course.

Week 2: Historical-Political Legacies, and Their Significance

Reading 1: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/1112551.stm
Reading 2: http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/worldwars/coldwar/soviet_end_01.shtml
Reading 3: https://www.opendemocracy.net/article/email/the-embrace-of-stalinism

Note: Readings 1 and 2 provide you with some very cursory historical background material. Those who have taken Russian/Soviet history courses may wish to skip these readings.

**Week 3: Post-Soviet Russia: Yeltsin and the rise of Putin**


**Weeks 4-5: The Executive Branch: The "Vertical of Power"

Reading 1: Ben Judah, *Fragile Empire*, Chapters 3-5, 7.


Reading 5: Read the items in *Russian Analytical Digest* No. 117 (19 September 2012), available at: http://www.isn.ethz.ch/Digital-Library/Publications/Detail/?ots591=0c54e3b3-1e9c-be1e-2c24-a6a8c7060233&lng=en&id=153143


**Week 6: The Legislative Branch, Political Parties, and the Electoral Process**


Reading 3: https://www.opendemocracy.net/od-russia/dmitri-travin/does-putin-need-his-parliament

Reading 4: https://www.opendemocracy.net/od-russia/mikhail-loginov/down-boy

**Week 7: Opposition Forces and Civil Society**

Reading 1: Ben Judah, *Fragile Empire*, Chapters 8-9


**Week 8: The Legal System and Corruption**

Reading 1: Ledeneva, Can Russia Modernise? Chapter 5.


Week 9-10: The Economy, Society, and the Media


Reading 3: Read pp. 2-8 of *Russian Analytical Digest* No. 113 (15 May 2012), available at: http://www.isn.ethz.ch/Digital-Library/Publications/Detail/?ots591=0c54e3b3-1e9c-be1e-2c24-a6a8c7060233&lng=en&id=142464


Week 11: Russia's Regions and Regional Politics


Week 12


Reading 2: Andrew Wood, "Putin’s Legacy", Chatham House Programme Paper (2014); available at the following URL:

Reading 3: Read the items in Russian Analytical Digest No. 138 (8 November 2013), available at: http://www.isn.ethz.ch/Digital-Library/Publications/Detail/?ots591=0c54e3b3-1e9c-be1e-2c24-a6a8c7060233&lng=en&id=173434