Instructor Information

Instructor: John (Ivan) Jaworsky
Office: HH 307
Office Phone: 519-888-4567, x36566
Office Hours: 11:30-1:30, Tuesdays
Email: jjaworsk@uwaterloo.ca

I normally have more extensive office hours, but because of family constraints I have to cut back on the time I spend on campus this semester. In addition to the office hours noted above, which I understand may not be convenient to all students, feel free to drop by if you see that my door is open, or send me an email message to set up an appointment at some other time. I will do my best to accommodate you if you need to see me. If you have a course-related inquiry, you can also send me an email message and I will try to respond as quickly as possible. However, if you have a question that requires more than a brief (2-3 sentence) response, it is best to come to my office to meet with me.

Course Description

A comparative examination of political processes, institutions, and reforms in Russia, with a focus on the dilemmas of democratization and growing authoritarian trends.

Course Goals

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 a specific country -- post-Soviet Russia (formal name -- the Russian Federation). At the same time, students will gain interesting and useful insights concerning politics in an important and fascinating country that has undergone very rapid and turbulent changes since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Required Text

There is no course text. The course readings (mostly periodical articles or website materials) will be available as e-texts, accessible through the library’s course reserves system, and are listed under the
schedule below. Throughout the semester, the instructor may use the Learn system to provide students with a few brief items supplementing the course materials listed below. If you are not informed otherwise, you are responsible for reading all of these supplementary materials.

Course Requirements and Assessment

Information on course requirements and assessments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Date of Evaluation (if known)</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-Term Exam</td>
<td>November 7</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essay</td>
<td>November 28</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>To Be Announced</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
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Notes on the various class assessments

Mid-Term Exam

There will be a compulsory mid-term exam, worth 20% of the final mark, held during the regular class on Tuesday Nov. 7. The exam will consist of a series of short-answer questions testing your knowledge of the course material and all readings assigned prior to Nov. 7.

Course Essay

Students are required to write one major course essay, worth 40% of the final course mark. The essay topic must be approved by the instructor (additional information about the essay topics will be provided separately), and students must sign up for a topic before Oct. 10. Students are encouraged to consult with the instructor, throughout the semester, as they work on the essay. The deadline for the submission of the essay is the date of the last class of the semester (Tuesday Nov. 28).

Full references must be provided for the sources you use in writing the essay. Any referencing system that is commonly used in the social sciences is fine with me, as long as you are consistent in using this system. You must submit both a hard (paper) copy of the essay and an electronic copy, both submitted to the course instructor on November 28.

Final Exam

There will be a compulsory end-of-semester course exam (2.5 hours), held during the regular final exam
period, worth 40% of the final course mark. Please note that student travel plans are *not* an acceptable reason for requesting an alternative examination time.

**Course Outline**

Notes on readings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Readings Due</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>September 12</td>
<td><strong>Introduction to course</strong></td>
<td>No readings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2    | September 19 | **The Significance of Historical-Political Legacies** | bbc.co.uk: "Timeline: Soviet Union";
                                |                              | bbc.co.uk: "Reform, Coup and Collapse: The End of the Soviet State";
                                |                              | Andrieu, "An Unfinished Business";
                                |                              | Galeotti, "Education in Putin's Russia";
                                |                              | Lipman, "Putin's Nation-Building Project" |
| 3    | September 26 | **Post-Soviet Russia: Yeltsin and the rise of Putin** | Gill, "The Basis of Putin's Power";
                                |                              | Hale, "Russian Patronal Politics Beyond Putin" |
| 4-5  | October 3, 12| **The Executive Branch, the "Vertical of Power", and Political Parties** | Horvath, "Putin's ‘Preventive Counter-Revolution’";
                                |                              | Robinson, "Russian Neo-Patrimonialism...";
                                |                              | Taylor, "The Code of Putinism";
                                |                              | White, “Re-conceptualising Russian party politics” |
| 6    | October 17   | **The Legislative Branch and the Electoral Process** | White, "Elections Russian-Style";
                                |                              | Kolesnikov, "The Burden of Predictability";
                                |                              | Kynev, "How the Electoral Policy..." |
| 7    | October 24   | **Opposition Forces and Civil Society**      | Gel'man, "The Politics of Fear"
                                |                              | Gessen, "Alexey Navalny's Very Strange Form of Freedom";
<pre><code>                            |                              | Aronson et al., &quot;BeyondBolotnaya: The Future of Russia's Civil Society&quot; |
</code></pre>
<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 8-9  | October 31, Nov. 7 | **The Legal System and Corruption** | Popova, "Putin-Style 'Rule of Law' & the Prospects for Change";  
Partlett, "Putin's Artful Jurisprudence";  
Novikova, "It's a deeply personal matter': An interview with Vadim Prokhorov, Boris Nemtsov’s lawyer"  
Holmes, "Corruption in Post-Soviet Russia,";  
Kramer, "High-Level Corruption in Russia";  
Galeotti, "The Panama Papers show how corruption really works in Russia" |
| 10-11 | November 14, 21 | **The Economy, Society, and the Media** | Hanson, "The State of the Russian Economy";  
Wood, "How the Soviet Inheritance Holds Back Russia's Development";  
RAD No. 197: Media;  
Dougherty, "How the Media Became One of Putin's Most Powerful Weapons";  
Yablokov, "Don't Let the Facts Spoil a Good Story" |
| 12   | November 28 | **Concluding Thoughts** | Polyakov, "'Conservatism' in Russia: Political Tool or Historical Choice?";  
Underwood, "Legislating Morality";  
TBA |

**Late Work**

The course essay is due on Monday November 28. Late essays will receive a 3% grade reduction per day, unless they are submitted with appropriate medical documentation. See more information about accommodation for illness see: https://ucalendar.ualberta.ca/page/Regulations-Accommodations and https://uwaterloo.ca/health-services/student-medical-clinic/services/verification-illness
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 email address.

**Information on Plagiarism Detection**

Turnitin will not be used in this course. Students should be aware, however, that the course instructor has an excellent record of detecting student plagiarism.

**Electronic Device Policy**

I, and many students, find it distracting when laptops are used in class. Students who need to use laptops in class on a regular basis should sit in the back row of the seminar room.

**Attendance Policy**

I do not keep attendance. However, students who wish to do well in the course are strongly advised to attend the maximum number of classes.

**Academic Integrity**

*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. See the [UWaterloo Academic Integrity webpage](https://www.uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity) and the [Arts Academic Integrity webpage](https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/academic-integrity) for more information.

*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](https://uwaterloo.ca/students/services/academic-integrity/policies). For typical penalties check [Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties](https://uwaterloo.ca/students/services/academic-integrity/guidelines).
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. When in doubt, please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Appeals: A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72 - Student Appeals.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Note for students with disabilities: The AccessAbility Services office, located on the first floor of the Needles Hall extension (1401), 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.