Introduction

From Russia’s recent contentious claims to the North Pole and the development of the “father of all bombs” to aiding the Iranian nuclear program and actively opposing American missile-shield plans, it seems that Russia is reasserting its power on the international stage behind Time magazine’s “Person of the Year,” Vladimir Putin. With a resurgence of economic power, Russia’s foreign policy has grown increasingly antagonistic toward the United States—much at odds with the more affable Russian relations under Mikhail Gorbachev and Boris Yeltsin. Does a resurgence of Russian power necessitate a return to the tensions of the Cold War era, or has the new age of globalization, integration, and terrorism prevented such a return to the politics of the past?

The goal of this class is to understand current Russian foreign policy in historical perspective, by understanding the legacies of Soviet power and established patterns of Soviet foreign policy. Furthermore, this course will examine the wide variety of current foreign-policy challenges in the post-Soviet space: from economic integration with an encroaching European Union and pipeline politics to capitalize on the vast resource wealth of Eurasia, to anti-terror policies and the unique identity, demography, and security challenges of Russian hegemony in the “near abroad.”

Assignments and Grading

Grading will be based upon participation in class as well as three in-class assignments: one geography quiz, one mid-term examination (the form of which will be announced later), and a final examination or research project.

The grade breakdown is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Geography quiz</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam/project</td>
<td>45%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Grading Scale:

- 100—97%: A+
- 96.9—93%: A
- 92.9—90%: A-
- 89.9—87%: B+
- 86.9—83%: B
- 82.9—80%: B-
- 79.9—77%: C+
- 76.9—73%: C
- 72.9—70%: C-
- 69.9—67%: D+
- 66.9—63%: D
- 62.9—60%: D-
- Below 60%: F
**Class Participation (10%)**

Due to the nature of the materials to be covered, most classes will begin with a brief lecture to establish the foundation for subsequent class discussions. Attendance in class is necessary, as is involvement in the discussions. Of course, missing a class does not exempt you from the materials covered on that day. You may want to exchange e-mail addresses with some of your classmates to get notes and other materials you might have missed. Just showing up to class will not ensure that you receive a satisfactory class participation grade. You will be expected to come to class having read all of the assigned readings for that day, and had time to think critically about them. Ensuring that everyone is familiar with the arguments put forth in the various readings is the minimum condition for developing an effective classroom environment. Attendance will not be tabulated daily, however if I don’t know who you are by the end of the semester—do not expect a passing class participation grade.

**Geography Quiz: (10%)**

On Tuesday, January 29, 2008, there will be a brief, in-class quiz on the basic geography of the post-Soviet region. This quiz will comprise 10% of the course grade.

**Mid-Term Exam (35%)**

Lecture and discussion materials, as well as topics covered in the assigned readings—whether addressed directly in lecture—are all fair game for exam questions. The mid-term exam will take place during class on Thursday, February 28, 2008.

Note: Make-up exams will only be granted under extreme circumstances, resulting either from 1) genuine family emergencies, 2) travel associated with university obligations (academic or athletic), or 3) severe illness or injury. If you are traveling due to university obligations, you must inform us at least two weeks prior to the event. If you are genuinely ill or injured, you will need proper documentation from your physician. These regulations will be rigorously enforced!!!

**Questions on Exams**

Invariably throughout the semester, students have questions about the grade they received on a particular assignment that goes beyond the given comments on the paper or exam. If you feel that you did not deserve the grade you received on a given assignment, I am certainly open to discussing the matter. However, I will insist upon the following:

1) A 24-hour “cooling off” period. Please do not approach me with questions about “why did I receive this grade” within 24-hours of having your assignment returned to you. This will allow you time to re-read the comments, and understand whatever shortcomings may be in question.

2) Come to office hours. I will not discuss individual grades during, before or after either discussion section or lecture. Questions about grades will only be considered in face-to-face discussions. In the end, it is exceedingly rare that a grade will be altered—but if you can persuade me that the evaluation was in error, I am not opposed to re-evaluating the grade.

**Final Exam/Research Paper (45%)**

For the final assignment, students have a choice between two options. The first (default) option is to take the final exam, which will be similar in form to the midterm exam, and will be held during the final exam period, 1:30pm—4:30pm, Saturday, May 3, 2008. The second option is to write a research paper of about 15-18 pages, concerning some ongoing issue, struggle, or topic of
concern in Russian foreign policy under my advisement. This option requires additional outside research—for which the “recommended readings” for each week should serve as some guidance—but may be ultimately more rewarding for students who wish to further their interests in a particular aspect of post-Soviet politics.

**Deadlines for Research Paper Option**

The research paper will be due on the same time as the final exam: 1:30pm—4:30pm, Saturday, May 3, 2008, however, to ensure that you are making progress in your research, it is necessary to establish additional deadlines. First, if you chose the research paper, you must submit to me—either in hard-copy form or via e-mail—a statement of your preliminary research topic and thesis question, by Tuesday, March 11, 2008. Vague topic declarations such as “I want to study arms control” are not specific enough—a concrete topic question is required, and can be worked-out in conjunction with the professor. Usually addressing topics with “how” or “why” questions can help. Supplementing such questions with some notion of how your research question “matters”—in terms of furthering our understanding of post-Soviet politics or how it may guide approaches to similar incidents in the future—is also a plus.

Second, if your research question has been approved, you will need to submit a brief bibliography and conceptual outline of your paper by no later than Thursday, March 27, 2008. This should help keep you on schedule, and prevent the sudden appearance of last-minute (and usually highly dubious) research papers. Finally, I cannot stress this enough: if you miss either of these deadlines, it will be assumed that you are no longer engaged in the research paper project, and will be defaulted into taking the final exam.

**Late Assignment Policy:**

Written assignments turned-in after the due date and time indicated will be penalized one full letter grade (ten points) for each full day that it is late. Therefore, an otherwise “100” quality paper turned-in one day late would become at best a “90” two days late would be at best an “80,” etc.

**Periodicals and Resources:**

There are many useful resources that can be used to stay current with political developments in Russia and Eurasia. The *New York Times* and the British magazine *The Economist* generally have very good coverage of international politics. More specific to Eurasia, the following English-language sources are even more useful:

1) The Moscow Times (www.moscowtimes.ru)
2) Johnson’s Russia List (www.cdi.org/russia/johnson/)
3) Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (www.rferl.org)
4) Russia Today (www.russiatoday.com)
5) Eurasia Daily Monitor (www.jamestown.org/edm/)

**Policy on Academic Integrity:**

Breaches of the University of Illinois Student Code, especially Article 1, Part 4 concerning breaches of Academic Integrity (such as cheating on exams and plagiarism) are serious business. Not only are such activities contrary to your entire purpose in attending college and official university policy, I also consider such breaches a personal affront to me as both an instructor and a competent human being—so consider this your prior warning: blatant breaches of academic integrity are discovered, I will prosecute them to the fullest extent.

Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the Student Code, available online at: http://www.admin.uiuc.edu/policy/code/.
The Penalties for Infractions of Academic Integrity (§ 1-403) are steep, and you should be aware of them: at a minimum, you will flunk the assignment or test, and likely, the entire class. Moreover, you may be brought before an ethics review tribunal, where it will be recommended that you be suspended not only from UIUC, but the entire University of Illinois system. Note will be made of your transgressions in your university file—which will be made known to any other college that you may look to enroll in. Needless to say, most universities would be reluctant to accept a known cheater or plagiarizer to their institutions, and many employers would be reluctant to hire someone with such marks in their file. So, long story short: don’t waste my time, don’t waste your time—just don’t do it. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have on this issue so that they can be easily resolved before the assignments are completed!

Readings
The following required readings are available for purchase at the Illini Union Bookstore and the other bookstores about campus:
All remaining materials will be included in a course reading packet that will be available on electronic reserves through the library or the course website.

Course Website
This syllabus, along with relevant class announcements, review materials, reading assignments, and other information will be available on the course website, located at http://compass.uiuc.edu.

Assigned Readings and Organization of the Course:

**Week 1: Introduction, Pre-Revolutionary Russian Foreign Policy**
**Tuesday, January 15**
**Thursday, January 17**
- Handout: Vladimir Putin as Time Magazine’s “Person of the Year, 2007”

**Suggested readings:**
Week 2: Origin and Development of the Cold War

Tuesday, January 22

Thursday, January 24


**Suggested readings:**

Week 3: The Gorbachev Era

Tuesday, January 29—In-Class Geography Quiz

Thursday, January 31


**Suggested Readings:**


Week 4: Redefining Russian Foreign Policy in the Post-Soviet Era

Tuesday, February 5

Thursday, February 7


Suggested Readings:


Week 5: Domestic Sources of Foreign Policy

Tuesday, February 12

Thursday, February 14


Suggested Readings:

- Kanet, Roger E., and Susanne M. Birgerson, “The Domestic-Foreign Policy Linkage in


**Week 6: Russia and the West under Yeltsin**

**Tuesday, February 19**

**Thursday, February 21**


  
  http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0966-8136%28200101%2953%3C7%3ATRORFP%3E2.0.CO%3B2-6

**Suggested Reading:**


Week 7: Russia and the “Near Abroad” under Yeltsin

Tuesday, February 26

Thursday, February 28—Midterm Examination


Suggested Reading:

Week 8: Vladimir Putin and the Rise of an Energy Superpower

Tuesday, March 4

Thursday, March 6


Suggested Readings:
Week 9: US-Russian Relations Under Putin

Tuesday, March 11
Thursday, March 13


Suggested Readings:


● Dmitri Trenin, “Russia Leaves the West,” Foreign Affairs, Vol. 85, No. 4 (July/August 2006), pp. 87-96.

Week 10: NO CLASS—SPRING BREAK!!!

Tuesday, March 18
Thursday, March 20

Week 11: Russia and Europe under Putin

Tuesday, March 25
Thursday, March 27


Suggested Readings:

Week 12: Russia, Asia and the “Non-West” under Putin

Tuesday, April 1

Thursday, April 3


**Suggested Readings:**


http://irap.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/reprint/6/2/189?ijkey=YFZgsJLo50rlSfy&keytype=ref

Week 13: Russia, the Western NIS and Caucasus under Putin

Tuesday, April 8

Thursday, April 10


**Suggested Readings:**

Week 14: Russia and Central Asia under Putin

Tuesday, April 15

Thursday, April 17


Suggested Readings:

Week 15: Unconventional Security Challenges: Environmental & Health Issues

Tuesday, April 22

Thursday, April 24


**Suggested Readings:**

- Roginko, Alexei, “Domestic Implementation of Baltic Sea Pollution Commitments in Russia and the Baltic States,” in: Victor, David G., Kal Raustiala and Eugene B. Skolnikoff (eds.), *The Implementation and Effectiveness of International

Week 16: Moving Forward: Concluding Thoughts and Review

Tuesday, April 29

• Tsygankov, Andrei P., Russia’s Foreign Policy, 2006: Chapter 6, “Lessons from Studying Russia,” pp. 167-188.

Suggested Readings:

• Dmitri Trenin, Getting Russia Right, 2007: Introduction, Chapters 1-4 and Conclusion, pp. 1-114.
• Alexei Arbatov, “Is a New Cold War Imminent?” Russia in Global Affairs, Vol. 5, No. 3 (July-September, 2007), pp. 84-98.

Final Exam:

1:30pm—4:30pm, Saturday, May 3, 2008.