

Professor Rasma Karklins
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Office hours: Th. 3-4 pm

Political Science 235
UIC, Spring 2006

Politics and Government of Russia

The course will focus on the contemporary politics of Russia: institutions, processes, leaders, political culture, and issues.

The following **texts** are required and can be purchased at the Circle Center Bookstore:

Thomas F. Remington, *Politics in Russia*, 4th ed. 2006
Cameron Ross, ed., *Russian Politics under Putin*, 2004
Michael Waller, *Russian politics today*, 2005

Some additional readings will be distributed in class. It will help you to learn much better if you do the readings ahead of each class, as assigned.

The **grade** for the course will be determined according to the following distribution:

1. First exam 20 percent
2. Second exam..... 20 percent
3. Third exam..... 20 percent
4. Final exam 30 percent
5. Class participation..... 10 percent

Attendance policy: class attendance is mandatory; if you fail to attend more than three sessions, your course grade will be lowered by one letter grade. There will be no make-up exams. In case of illness or another serious reason why you cannot attend class or take a scheduled exam, you need to document the circumstance and discuss alternative arrangements with the instructor.

Weekly class topics and required reading assignments:

January 10 and 12: Introduction

Remington, pp. 1-26

January 17 and 18: Basic Characteristics of the Soviet Political System

Remington, pp. 31-47; Waller, pp. 1-13

January 24 and 26: Regime Change from USSR to RSFSR

Remington, pp. 47-52; Rasma Karklins, "Explaining Regime Change in the Soviet Union," *Europe-Asia Studies*, vol. 46, no. 1, 1994, pp. 29-45 (will be distributed in class).

January 31: In-Class Exam

February 2: The Yeltsin Years: Overview

Waller, pp.13-25; Ross, pp.17-33.

February 7 and 9: Putin as a Leader and The Russian Presidency

Ross, pp. 3-14; Remington, pp. 54-70, Waller, pp.25-47

February 14,16, and 21: Electoral and Parliamentary Politics

Remington pp.103-116 and 169-186; Waller pp.113-126 and 146-168;
Ross, pp. 39-74;

February 23: IN-Class Exam

February 28 and March 2: Political Participation

Remington, pp.86-102; Ross pp.76-91; Waller, pp.173-190.

March 7: Political Culture

Remington, pp.122-145;

March 9: Mass Media

Ross pp. 133-147

March 14 State Administration and Law

Waller pp.48-62 and 97-108; Remington, pp. 226-257.

March 16: In-Class Exam

March 20-24: Spring Break

March 28 and 30: Economic Change

Remington, pp.192-220; Ross pp.95-130; Waller pp.192-211.

April 4 and 6: The Military, Security Forces, and Chechnya

Waller pp.83-95; Ross pp. 255-266

April 11 and 13: Russian Policy Towards Its Neighbors

Ross pp.269-283; Waller pp.253-273.

April 18 and 20: Russian International Policy
Ross pp.223-251; Remington pp.263-274.

April 25 and 27: Quo Vadis Russia?
Readings to be distributed in class

Final Exam: TBA, Final Exam week May 1-5.

Note: Students with Disabilities who require accommodation should register with the Office for Disability Services: 312-413-2183.