

Political Science 3626

Russian Foreign Policy

Spring 2013

Course Info

Instructor: Steven Wilson

Place: McBryde 231

Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:00AM - 9:15AM

Office Hours: 9:30AM-11:00AM Tuesdays and Thursdays in 506 Major Williams Hall

Contact Info: Email: slw42@vt.edu Phone: 540-231-1854

Objectives: This course explores Russian foreign policy in the contemporary world, with an eye ever on the deep historical context that informs the relationships between nations, and the unique Russian position as a bridge between the West and the East.

Textbooks

The course has three required text books, which will be supplemented by a selection of additional readings which will be available electronically throughout the semester. The three required texts are:

Robert Donaldson & Joseph Nogee. *The Foreign Policy of Russia*

Anne Applebaum. *Iron Curtain: The Crushing of Eastern Europe, 1944-1956*

Christopher Andrew & Vasili Mitrokhin. *The World Was Going Our Way*

Assignments & Grading

Reading will be assigned for each class. Students should come to class having read the assigned material and being ready to discuss it. Lectures will be designed to supplement the material covered in the readings, and both will be reflected on the exams. Please come to office hours (or schedule a meeting with me if you have a conflict) if you have any trouble understanding the material, or if you have any questions about the course at all as the

semester progresses.

The course will have two exams (a midterm and a final), three papers (two during the semester, one final one), a presentation (on the final paper), and a quiz. The proportion each of these is worth to the final grade is listed below:

Map Quiz (5%) (Thursday, January 31st)
First Paper (15%) (Tuesday, February 26th)
Midterm (15%) (Thursday, February 28th)
Second Paper (15%) (Tuesday, April 9th)
Presentation (10%) (In class, April 23, 25, 30, and May 2)
Final Paper (20%) (Due at the start of the final class: Tuesday, May 5th)
Final Exam (20%) (Friday, May 10th 7:45AM-9:45AM)

In addition, everyone will be required to give a single ten minute presentation to the class on their final paper topic. These presentations will take place during the last two weeks of the semester. Specific time slots will be scheduled later in the semester.

During some classes, students will be given a few minutes to jot down notes that are turned in. These notes will be returned for use during the midterm and final exam. This encourages thinking about the material throughout the semester, and gives a tangible incentive for keeping up attendance.

Papers

The main work for the semester will be three papers. The first two are required to be 1500 words long each. The final paper must be at least 3000 words. For the first paper, write about something related to Anne Applebaum's book. For the second, write on a topic related to Andrew & Mitrokin. The final paper can be a topic of your choice relating to the course.

When grading papers, if you write less than the minimum length, you will be graded out of the percent of the assignment that you did. For example, if for the 3000 word final paper you only turn in a 2000 word paper, I will grade you out of 67%.

Course Schedule

The schedule for the semester is listed below, and specific readings will be assigned as the semester progresses.

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: The Tsarist Period

Week 3: After the Revolution

Week 4: The Occupation of Europe

Week 5: The Cold War

Week 6: Midterm

Week 7: The Former Empire

Week 8: Latin America & Africa

Week 9: The Muslim World

Week 10: The East

Week 11: The West

Week 12: The Future

Week 13: Presentations

Week 14: Presentations

Week 15: Wrapping Up