Course Description

More than two decades after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia has been searching for its own identity in a changing world. In light of Russia’s revival and NATO’s eastward expansion into the former Soviet states, Russia’s foreign policy has shifted from a defensive position to a more assertive direction, as indicated by the war with Georgia in August 2008 and the annexation of Crimea in 2014. The course aims to explore the continuity and change of Russia’s foreign policy under Vladimir Putin. Students are introduced to contending perspectives on the main issues of Russian foreign policy from theoretical and area points of view.

Course Requirements and Grading

☼ Class participation (25%): Students are expected to attend regularly, to read the assigned readings, and to actively participate in class discussions.

☼ Presentations (25%): Each seminar participant is required to give three oral presentations. The first two are to present reviews of the assigned readings of the weekly topic, and the final one is to present the research proposal of the final paper.

☼ Final paper (50%): Each student is required to write a research paper (5,000-8,000 words) related to the topics covered in the course. The final paper will be due on July 4, 2016.
Websites & Multimedia, Periodicals, Further reading

Websites & Online Multimedia:
- Russia in Global Affairs, http://eng.globalaffairs.ru
- PONARS Eurasia (New Approaches to Research and Security in Eurasia), http://www.ponarseurasia.org
- Valdai Discussion Club, http://valdaiclub.com
- Russia Direct, http://www.russia-direct.org
- Carnegie Moscow Center, http://carnegie.ru
- Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS), http://csis.org/multimedia

Periodicals: International Security; International Affairs; European Security; Foreign Affairs; Journal of International Affairs; Problems of Post-Communism; Europe-Asia Studies; Post-Soviet Affairs; Communist and Post-Communist Studies; East European Politics; East European Politics and Societies and Cultures; Международная жизнь (International Affairs); Pro et Contra; Проблемы Дальнего Востока; Мировая экономика и международные отношения; ПОЛИС (Политические исследования).


**Schedule and Reading Assignments**

Week 1 (Feb. 25): Introduction

Week 2 (March 3): Tsarist and Soviet Foreign Policy

Week 3 (March 10): The Sources and Making of Russian Foreign Policy
- Nikolas K. Gvosdev and Christopher Marsh, *Russian Foreign Policy: Interests,

Week 4 (March 17): IR Theory and Russian Foreign Policy

Week 5 (March 24): Russia’s Grand Strategy
- Andrei P. Tsygankov, “Assessing Cultural and Regime-Based Explanations of Russia’s Foreign Policy: ‘Authoritarian at Heart and Expansionist by Habit?’” Europe-Asia Studies, Vol. 64, No. 4 (June 2012), pp. 695-713.

Week 6 (March 31): The Social Construction of Russia’s Resurgence

Week 7 (April 7): Soft Power and Russian Foreign Policy

Week 8 (April 14): Informal Politics, Nationalism and Russian Foreign Policy
Week 9 (April 21): Conflict and Cooperation in the Former Soviet Union I

Week 10 (April 28): Conflict and Cooperation in the Former Soviet Union II

Week 11 (May 5): Russia and the EU/NATO

Week 12 (May 12): Russia and the United States

Week 13 (May 19): Athletic Contests

Week 14 (May 26): Russia and China
Week 15 (June 2): Russia and Asia

Week 16 (June 9): Dragon Boat Festival (Holiday)

Week 17 (June 16): Russia and Latin America, the Middle East and Africa