

**POLS 3455: Russian Foreign Policy in the Post-Soviet Era
(Fall 2015, CRN 17475)**

MWTh, 10:30-11:35 am
Ryder Hall 128
Dr. Ryan Maness
Northeastern University

Course Objectives: This course is about the ebbs and flows of the Russian foreign policy regime. Although the main focus of the course will be on post-Soviet Russia (1992-present), we will begin the course with a historical overview of the Russian state from the Kievan Rus to the pinnacle of superpower status as the Soviet Union. The remainder of the course is given to analysis of post-Soviet foreign policy. We look at the Yeltsin era and the legacy left and then into rise of Vladimir Putin as the mainstay of Russian power for the past 15 years. We will look at the new sources of power of post-Soviet Russia (energy, cyber, maritime), Russian foreign policy through the constructivist lens (norms and identity issues), and then follow up with Russian relations with the rest of the world (including the U.S., Europe, post-Soviet space, the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa and Latin America). Though the “what, where and when” of post-Soviet foreign policy may predominate at times, understanding the “why” is our underlying goal. That is, while knowledge of specific foreign policy developments is essential, so is viewing these developments in the context of international relations theory—economic vs. ideological analyses, foreign or domestic influences, the roles of individuals and institutions, and the impact of nationalism and the politics of identity, among others.

Course Format: This class is a lecture/discussion format. The instructor will lecture most of the time each week but significant time will be made available for discussion. It is important that we share the news of Russia’s foreign policy as this is not only a historical but a real-time course. We will discuss the assigned topics, the goings-on in the world pertaining to Russia, or the videos that will be presented in class. A significant percentage of your grade is based on your participation, so it is important that you show up to class or office hours and stay abreast of contemporary Russian foreign affairs.

Instructors’ Office Hours and Contact Info

Dr. Maness’s Office: 914 Renaissance Park
Phone: 773-655-4885 (Try email first)
Office Hours: 12-1pm, MWTh, or by appointment
Email: r.maness@neu.edu,
Webpage: www.drryanmaness.wix.com/irprof

Required Books

Gvosdev, Nikolas K. and Christopher Marsh. 2014. *Russian Foreign Policy: Interests, Vectors, and Sectors*. CQ Press. ISBN: 9781452234847, Hereafter Gvosdev.

Tsygankov, Andrei P. 2013. *Russia’s Foreign Policy: Change and Continuity in National Identity, 3rd Edition*. Rowman and Littlefield. ISBN: 9781442220010, Hereafter Tsygankov.

Shoemaker, M. Wesley. 2014. *Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States, The World Today Series 2014-2015, 45th Edition*. Stryker-Post. ISBN: 9781475812251, Hereafter Shoemaker.

Maness, Ryan C. and Brandon Valeriano. 2015. *Russia's Coercive Diplomacy: Energy, Cyber and Maritime Policy as New Sources of Power*. Palgrave Macmillan. ISBN: 9781137479433. Hereafter Maness. PDF is provided by instructor on Blackboard or the book available for purchase.

Additional Readings will be posted on Blackboard. We will also be watching several in-class videos.

Course Requirements

Grading Scale

A 94% and above, A- 90-93%, B 84-89% , B- 80-83%, C 74-79%, C- 70-73%, D 64-69%, D- 60-63%, F 59% and below

Midterm 25%

Final 25%

Research Policy Paper 20%

Media Journal 20%

Attendance/Participation 10%

Exams: There will be two non-cumulative exams, a midterm and a final, each worth 25 percent. These exams will cover the concepts covered in lecture, discussions, contemporary events, and the videos. Each exam will have a multiple choice, short answer, and essay section.

Research-Policy Papers: These may explore any current topic—trade relations, energy politics, military and alliance issues, ideology or nationalism—so long as it is framed as an issue with policy implications and then analyzed in the form of a memorandum with clear recommendations to a national leader (U.S., European, Russian, Polish, Georgian, etc.) This requires significant outside research and a bibliography of at least 15 sources—books, chapters, articles, web-based sources. Topics are chosen in consultation with the instructor. Your paper will be 7-10 pages, 12 point font, double spaced. **A one page paper proposal is due on Sunday, November 1. The paper is due on December 11 on Blackboard Turnitin.**

Media Journal: You are required to submit two weekly media journals where you will summarize and give a brief contextual analysis of news stories from the week in question. I suggest you bookmark *The Moscow Times*, which is available in English online and will have daily stories pertaining to Russian foreign affairs. Please submit journal entries that pertain only to Russia foreign policy and not any domestic stories. You may use any news source that you like but it must involve Russia and must be international in nature. Journal entries are due each week on **Sunday at 11:59 pm. There are no make-ups for missing the deadline, and these journal entries are worth 20 percent of your final grade.**

See also the websites of: Radio Free Europe-Radio Liberty (www.rferl.org); The Program on New Approaches to Russian Security (www.ponarseurasia.org) The Center for Defense

Information (www.cdi.org/russia/johnson/); Transitions On-Line (www.tol.cz); Eurasianet (www.eurasianet.org); and finally, The Eurasia Daily Monitor (<http://www.jamestown.org/programs/edm/>). Many of these contain links to additional sources, and some also include subscription instructions that enable you to receive daily or weekly bulletins of useful material.

Attendance/Participation: I do take attendance in this class. If you miss significant amounts of days you will be penalized severely, because missing class is not only disrespectful to the instructor and fellow classmates, it will make you fall behind and miss key concepts, and each class you miss increases the probability that you will receive a poor grade for the course. This class can move at a fast pace for some and anything you do not understand can be better explained with me in my office.

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE POLICY ON ACADEMIC HONESTY FOR UNDERGRADUATES

“The Department of Political Science takes very seriously the issue of academic honesty. Any student who cheats on an exam or in the preparation and writing of a course assignment at minimum will fail the assignment in question, and may fail the course. Further, the Department can recommend that the student be put on academic probation (as outlined in the University’s Code of Conduct). Individual faculty, with the support of the Department, can impose harsher penalties as they deem necessary.

Cheating includes plagiarism, which is defined broadly as taking ideas, concepts or actual words of another person or author and passing them off as your own work. This includes, but is not limited to “cut and paste” construction of a paper, buying a term paper, pulling a paper off of the Internet, or using materials without acknowledging the source. A paper written by you (or anyone else) for another course is not acceptable for fulfilling the paper requirements of this course.”

Course Schedule

September

W 9: Introductions, Go over syllabus

Th 10: A history of Russian foreign policy: Kievan Rus to 1917. Read Shoemaker pp. viii-32, Tsygankov Ch. 1.

M 14: The Soviet Union, Read Shoemaker pp. 33-76, Tsygankov Ch. 2, Gvosdev Ch. 1.

W 16: The Soviet Union, Cont.

Th 17: The Yeltsin years, an uneasy transition. Read Shoemaker pp. 77-86, Tsygankov Ch. 3-4.

M 21: The rise of Putin and contemporary Russia. Read Maness Ch. 1-2, Shoemaker pp. 86-98, Tsygankov Ch. 5.

W 23: The Russian Foreign Policy Apparatus. Read Gvosdev Ch. 2, Shoemaker pp. 99-132.

Th 24: Russian Energy Power. Read Maness Ch. 5-6.

M 28: Russian Energy Power, Cont. Read:

Kropatcheva, Elena, "He who has the pipeline has the tune?" *Energy Policy* 66 (2014): 1-10. **On Blackboard.**

Kuzemko, Caroline. 2014. "Ideas, power and change: explaining EU-Russia energy relations." **On Blackboard.**

W 30: Russian Cyber Power, Read Maness Ch. 4, Gvosdev, "The Bear Goes Digital." **On Blackboard.**

October

Th 1: Russian Cyber Power, Cont. Read:

Thomas, Timothy. 2014. "Russia's Information Warfare Strategy: Can the Nation Cope in Future Conflicts?" *Journal of Slavic Military Studies* 27: 101-130. **On Blackboard**

Karatgozianni, Athina. 2010. "Blame it on the Russians: Tracking the Portrayal of Russian Hackers during Cyber Conflict Incidents." *Digital Icons: Studies in Russian, Eurasian, and Central European New Media*, 4: 127-150. **On Blackboard**

M 5: Russia and the United States, Read Maness Ch. 3, Tsygankov, Ch. 6, Gvosdev Ch. 3

W 7: Russia and the U.S., Cont. Read:

Katz, Mark N. 2014. "Can Russian-US relations improve?" *Strategic Studies Quarterly*, Summer 2014: 129-141. **On Blackboard.**

Th 8: Russia and China, Read Gvosdev Ch. 4

M 12: **Columbus Day, No Class**

W 14: Russia and China, Read:

Weitz, Richard. 2008. *China-Russia Security Relations: Strategic Parallelism without Partnership or Passion?* Pp. 1-51, 117-128. **On Blackboard.**

Th 15: Russia and Post-Soviet Space, Read Shoemaker 133-145, Gvosdev Ch. 5

M 19: **Midterm Examination in Class**, Up to China

W 21: Russia and Post-Soviet Space, Western Republics, Read Shoemaker pp. 146-202

Th 22: Russia and Post-Soviet Space, Western Republics, Read:

Mearsheimer, John J. 2014. "Why the Ukraine Crisis is the West's Fault." *Foreign Affairs*, **On Blackboard.**

Stilitski, Vitali and Arkady Moshes. 2007. *Political Trends in the New Eastern Europe: Ukraine and Belarus*, pp. 1-16. **On Blackboard.**

Thomas, Andrew R. 2015. "Is Moldova Next for Putin's Russia?" **On Blackboard.**

M 26: Russia and Post-Soviet Space, Caucasus Region, Read Shoemaker pp. 203-247

W 28: Russia and Post-Soviet Space, Caucasus Region, Read:
Nation, R. Graig. 2007. *Russia, the United States, and the Caucasus*. Entire. **On Blackboard.**

Th 29: Russia and Post-Soviet Space, Central Asia, Read Shoemaker pp. 248-311.

November

Sun 1: Paper Proposals Due on Blackboard by 11:59pm.

M 2: Russia and Post-Soviet Space, Central Asia, Read:
Wishnick, Elizabeth. 2009. *Russia, China, and the United States in Central Asia*. Entire. **On Blackboard.**

W 4: Russia and Eastern Europe, Read Gvosdev Ch. 6

Th 5: Russia and Eastern Europe, Read:
Taras, Raymond. 2014. "Russia Resurgent, Russophile in Decline? Polish Perceptions of Relations with the Russian Federation." *Europe-Asia Studies* 66 (5): 710-734. **On Blackboard.**

Kay, Chloe. 2014. "Contemporary Russian-Serbian Relations." **On Blackboard.**

M 9: Russia and Western Europe, Read Gvosdev Ch. 7

W 11: Veteran's Day, No Class

Th 12: Russia and Western Europe, Read:
Gromyko, Alexey. 2015. "Russia-EU Relations at a Crossroads." **On Blackboard.**

Shubert, et. al. 2014. "Two futures: EU-Russia relations in the context of Ukraine." **On Blackboard.**

M 16: Russia and the Middle East, Read Gvosdev Ch. 8

W 18: Russia and the Middle East, Read:
Allison, Roy. 2013. "Russia and Syria: Explaining Alignment with a Regime and Crisis" *International Affairs*, 89 (4): 795-823. **On Blackboard.**

Flanagan, Stephen J. 2013. "The Turkey-Russia-Iran Nexus: Eurasian Power Dynamics." *The Washington Quarterly*, 36 (1): 163-178. **On Blackboard.**

Th 19: Russia and South Asia, Read Gvodsev Ch. 9

M 23: Russia and South Asia, Read:
Singh, Surendra. 2013. "Political and Strategic Dimensions of India Russia Relations." **On Blackboard.**

Hussain, Nazir. 2012. "Pak-Russia Relations." *Journal of Political Studies*, 19 (1): 79-89. **On Blackboard.**

W 25: **Thanksgiving Break, No Class**

Th 26: **Thanksgiving Break, No Class**

M 30: Russia and Latin America/Africa, Read Gvosdev Ch. 10

Fidan, Hakan and Bulent Aras. 2010. "The Return of Russia-Africa Relations." **On Blackboard.**

Blank, Stephen and Younkoo Kim. 2015. "Russia and Latin America: The New Frontier for Geopolitics, Arms Sales, and Energy." *Problems of Post-Communism*, 62 (3): 159-173. **On Blackboard.**

December

W 2: Russia in the Arctic, Read Maness Ch. 7

Th 3: Russia in the Arctic, Read:
Baev, Pavel. 2013. "Sovereignty is the Key to Russia's Arctic Policy." *Strategic Aanalysis*, 37 (4): 489-493. **On Blackboard.**

M 7: Russia's Search for a New Direction, Read Tsygankov Ch. 7

W 9: Conclusions, Read Maness Ch. 8, Tsygankov Ch. 8, Gvosdev Ch. 11

Th 10: **No Class, Project Work and Instructor Office Hours**

F 11: **Final Projects Due on Blackboard Turnitin**

M-F 14-18: Final TBA