American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Security and Global Studies
IRLS343
Name of Course
Credit Hours: 3
Length of Course: 8 Weeks
Prerequisite: NONE

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Instructor Information

Instructor:
Please contact your instructor through the Messages tab in the classroom.

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Course Description (Catalog)

Government and Security of Russia

Explores historic, cultural, economic, and geographic traits that characterize the Russian state and shape the domestic political processes and interstate relations. Critically compares the

politics, governments and orientations of post-Soviet states and other regional powers. Surveys contemporary regional issues such as ethnic conflict, nationalism and political-economic reforms, with a particular emphasis on security concerns.

Course Scope

As a 300-level course, this course provides a foundation of knowledge that the student will use in the International Relations program to be successful in higher level courses. The purpose and scope of this course is to provide the student with the educational concepts on which to build a deeper understanding of Intelligence.

Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

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CO 1: Explain the political transition period in Russia.

CO 2: Apply an understanding of the Russian political transition to the basic pillars of contemporary Russian politics.

CO 3: Evaluate the Russian media's role in influencing public policy

CO 4: Analyze the distribution of political power in the Russian political system.

CO 5: Deconstruct the structural aspects of the Russian economy.

Course Delivery Method

This course, delivered via distance learning, will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course resources and access to an online learning management system will be available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET and include all written assignments, examinations, and research papers submitted for grading. Weekly Forum questions (accomplished in groups in a Forum) require an initial response by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET, with all other required responses due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET. The assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

Course Resources

Required Course Textbooks (available through AMU's library):

2015 articles from CFR, Chatham House, and Brookings posted in weekly readings.

Pirani, Simon. Change in Putin's Russia: power, money and people. London: Pluto Press, 2010.
http://site.ebrary.com/lib/apus/Doc?id=10479612

Wegren, Stephen K., and Dale R. Herspring, eds., After Putin's Russia: past imperfect, future uncertain (Lanham, MD: Rowman and LIttlefield Publishers, 2010).

Various resources from the APUS Library are used. Please visit http://apus.libguides.com/er.php to locate the course eReserve

Each week in addition to the Required Reading, additional resources may be provided to offer you background information or further understanding the terminology as well as the material for the week. Each week you will be expected to read the Required Reading and review the additional resources.

Evaluation Procedures

Forum discussions – 40 percent

Each week, a discussion question is provided and posts should reflect an assimilation of the readings. Students are required to provide a substantive initial post by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET and respond to 2 or more classmates by Sunday 11:55 pm ET. Forum posts are graded on timeliness, relevance, knowledge of the weekly readings, and the quality of original ideas.

Progress assignment - 30 percent

A 3-4 page essay that requires a thesis and includes research and analysis.

Final assignment – 30 percent

This assignment is a take-home essay assignment. The use of required texts and readings from this course is mandatory.

Grade Instruments	Percentage
Forum Discussions (8)	40
Progress Assignment	30
Final Assignment	30
Total	100

8 – Week Course Outline

Week	Topic(s)	Course Objective(s)	Reading(s)	Assignment(s)

1	**The Transition**	**CO1, CO2**	MONAGHAN, ANDREW. 2013. "Putin's Russia: shaping a 'grand strategy'?." **Chapters 1 and 2 in Pirani**	Week One Forum Discussion
2	**Putin and Domestic Policies**	**CO4**	**Chapter 6 in Pirani** **Ieriano, Brando. and Ryan C. Maness. 2015. Putin's Strategy has weakened Russia.** **ussia under Putin and Beyond. The annual Russian Lecture 2015.** **Aleksashenko, Sergey . 2015. Stop Calling Russian Weak.**	Week Two Forum Discussion
3	**Putin and Domestic Institutions**	**CO4**	**Chapters 2 and 3 in Wegren** Gorenburg, Dmitry. 2013. "Civil Society in Russian Politics."	Week Three Forum Discussion
4	**Russian Media**		Dougherty, Jill.2015. How the Media Became One of Putin's Most Powerful Weapons	Week Four Forum Discussion

		CO 3	Ward, Marguerite. 2014. Russia Puts the Muzzle on Independent Media.	Progress Assignment
5	**Russia's Economy**	**CO4**	Hansons, Philip & Elizabeth Teague. 2013. Liberal Insiders and Economic Reform in Russia. Connolly, Richard. 2015. Troubled Times.	Week Five Forum Discussion
6	**Russian Social Policy**	**CO4, CO5**	**Chapter 7 in Wegren** Julian, Isabella. 2015. The Transformation of Russian Social Policy	Week Six Forum Discussion
7	**Russia's Foreign Policy**	**CO4**	**Chapter 10 in Wegren** Krickovic, Andrej and Yuval Weber. 2015. Why a new Cold War with Russia is inevitable. Chatham House. 2015. The Russian Challenge	Week Seven Forum Discussion
8	**Russia's Military**	**CO1, CO4**	Council of Foreign Relations. 2015. The Russian Military. http://www.cfr.org/russian-federation/russian-military/p33758	Week Eight Forum Discussion Final Assignment

Policies

Please see the Student Handbook to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

> Drop/Withdrawal Policy
> Plagiarism Policy
> Extension Process and Policy
> Disability Accommodations

Citation and Reference Style
Attention Please: Students will follow the Turabian/Chicago Style as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University.
See http://www.apus.edu/Online-Library/tutorials/chicago.htm.

Late Assignments
Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

Netiquette
Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and "flaming." Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper "Netiquette" must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the

rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add "emoticons" to help alert your readers: ;-), :), ☺

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Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to **librarian@apus.edu**.

- *Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:* The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors' publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- *Electronic Books:* You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- *Electronic Journals:* The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
- *Tutor*.com: AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutor.com connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert

tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.

Request a Library Guide for your course (http://apus.libguides.com/index.php)

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu.

Selected Bibliography