

# ***Politics and Culture of Russia***

## **POLS/INTS/MFL 492/592**

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This course is designed to augment and underpin the Faculty Led Program to Russia. In order to make the time in Russia more meaningful, the following topics will be covered:

1. The politics and policies of the Communist era;
2. The politics and policies of the post-Soviet period;
3. The role of authors and composers in recent Russian history; and,
4. The common customs and life of contemporary Russia.

### **Class Schedule:**

Date	Time	Topic/Excursion/Contact Hours
03/14/18	1800	Introduction to the Course 2 contact hours
03/28/18	1800	Study Abroad Orientation 2 contact hours
04/11/18	1800	Czarist Russia and the Revolution Soviet Politics and the Collapse of the USSR 3 contact hours
04/25/18	1800	Russian Politics and Russian Foreign Policy 3 contact hours
05/02/18	1800	Russian Culture, Customs, and Phrases 3 contact hours
05/22/18	0800	Kremlin, the Arbat, 1812 Museum 6 contact hours
05/23/18	0800	River Cruise, Tretyakov Galleria 5 contact hours
05/24/18	0800	Excursion to Vladimir 4 contact hours
05/25/18	0800	Gorky Park, Moscow City 4 contact hours
05/26/18	1100	Train to St. Petersburg 1 contact hour
05/27/18	0800	Hermitage, Baltic Cruise

		4 contact hours
05/28/18	0800	Cathedrals, Churches, and the Orthodox Church, Smolny Institute, 5 contact hours
05/29/18	0800	Excursion to Peterhof 3 contact hours
05/30/18	0800	Peter & Paul Fortress 4 contact hours

### Reading:

1. *Russian History: A Very Short Introduction*, by Geoffrey Hosking;
2. *Understanding Russian Politics*, by Stephen White;
3. *Hadji Murad*, by Leo Tolstoy; and
4. Selected articles.

Additionally, students are encouraged to read a good daily newspaper or a good weekly news magazine (I recommend *The Economist*), watch news programs on PBS or the major networks (though network coverage of international events is rather abysmal), and listen to or check the websites of NPR and BBC. Utilizing the media will help you monitor events occurring in the country and government covered in this course.

### Assignments:

1. Daily journal; and,
2. Fifteen-page research paper.

### Grading:

The final grade will be based on a research paper and an extensive journal that incorporates readings, lectures, and observations, along with participation in the trip itself—discussion, questions, etc.

<i>Course Grading:</i>	Journal:	40%
	Paper:	40%
	Participation:	20%

<i>Grade Distribution:</i>	A 91-100%	Superior, outstanding work
	B 81-90%	Excellent, high quality work
	C 71-80%	Average, satisfactory work
	D 60-70%	Below average, passing work
	F below 60%	

### Goals and Objectives:

- 1 To understand the nature and impact of the Soviet system;
- 2 To understand the political and economic situation in contemporary Russia; and,
- 3 To understand the culture and attitudes of modern Russia and its people.

## College, University, Regents, and Legislature Policies:

### CLASS MANAGEMENT- Course Syllabi

Instructors are fully responsible for the operation, management and conduct of their classes within the limits of policy as determined by the faculty. The following policy was adopted by the University Senate on June 6, 1984, as amended on June 6, 2001:

*Students are to receive, from the instructor, at the beginning of each course a written statement of course policy and requirements. This statement will include criteria for grading, attendance requirements, final examination date and student responsibilities related thereto, and any other special assignments, e.g., term paper or projects. The statement shall also include the office hours of the instructor which are regularly maintained during the academic term. A statement of course policy and requirements will be filed by each instructor with his/her department chair.*

In an effort to improve student success, the following action was taken at the March 14, 2001 University Senate meeting:

*It is the policy of the University Senate that all faculty members, at a minimum, take attendance in their introductory (100-200 level) courses.*

Federal agencies require the University to track students who cease to attend one or more of their classes, and failure to track them may incur institutional fiscal liability. Please be sure your course management practices permit you to determine the last date of attendance for students who stop attending.

In addition to the policies approved by the University Senate, faculty must include the statements below in all course syllabi. The first statement is now required by the Board of Regents. Statements 2 and 3 are University of South Dakota requirements.

1. *Freedom in learning. Students are responsible for learning the content of any course of study in which they are enrolled. Under Board of Regents and University policy, student academic performance shall be evaluated solely on an academic basis and students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study. Students who believe that an academic evaluation is unrelated to academic standards but is related instead to judgment of their personal opinion or conduct should contact the dean of the college which offers the class to initiate a review of the evaluation.*
2. *If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Director of the Office of Disability Services, (Service Center 199; 677-6389) as early as possible in the semester.*
3. *No credit can be given for a dishonest assignment. At the discretion of the instructor, a student caught engaging in any form of academic dishonesty may be:*
  - a. *Given a zero for that assignment.*
  - b. *Allowed to rewrite and resubmit the assignment for credit.*
  - c. *Assigned a reduced grade for the course.*
  - d. *Dropped from the course.*
  - e. *Failed in the course.*

### **USD College of Arts and Sciences Policy on Academic Dishonesty**

The College of Arts and Sciences considers plagiarism, cheating, and other forms of academic dishonesty inimical to the objectives of higher education. The College supports the imposition of penalties on students who engage in academic dishonesty, as defined in the "Conduct" section of the University of South Dakota Student Handbook.

No credit can be given for a dishonest assignment. At the discretion of the instructor, a student caught engaging in any form of academic dishonesty may be:

- a. Given a zero for that assignment.
- b. Allowed to rewrite and resubmit the assignment for credit.
- c. Assigned a reduced grade for the course.
- d. Dropped from the course.
- e. Failed in the course.

-- Adopted by vote of the faculty  
April 12, 2005