

## **POL207 Contemporary Russia Summer I 2019**

### **I. COURSE INFORMATION**

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Instructor: Dr Morris Mottale  
Instructor's Email: [mmottale@fus.edu](mailto:mmottale@fus.edu)  
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 11-12.  
Class location: MV5  
Class meeting times: Monday-Thursday 8:30-11:00

### **II. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

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Since the end of World War II Russia has passed through and endured a series of seismic changes. Once the heart of the expansive Soviet empire, the Russian Republic that emerged in the 1990s after the breakup of the Soviet Union was beset by economic collapse, social decay and a new era of political corruption under Boris Yeltsin. Since 2000 and the rise to power of Vladimir Putin, the Russia of the 21st century is endeavoring to restore its influence in world affairs while using its vast natural resources to revitalize its sputtering economy. This course will examine the different phases through which Russia has passed since World War II, surveying the salient political, social and economic events that have shaped Russian domestic life as well as Russia's changing relationship with other nations and regions, including the US, China and the Middle East.

### **III. RATIONALE**

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To prepare students for gaining an insight into the evolution of post-Soviet politics in Russia today.

### **IV. COURSE GOALS**

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To introduce students to the discipline of comparative politics by focusing on Russia as a model for political analysis.

### **V. SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES**

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By the end of the course students are expected to have gained an insight into Russian politics through exams, projects, and research presentations.

### **VI. REQUIRED TEXTS AND MATERIALS**

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Stephen F. Cohen, War With Russia? From Putin & Ukraine to Trump and Russiagate, Hot Books.

Additional readings will be assigned from scholarly journals, newspapers and magazines as lectures proceed.

### **VII. ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW**

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Midterm exam	30%
Research paper	30%
Final presentation and participation	40%

Attendance is **mandatory!**

### **VIII. HOW TO DO WELL IN THIS COURSE (POLICIES / REQUIREMENTS)**

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Students are expected to discuss their papers and readings personally with instructor.

### **IX. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: STATEMENT ON CHEATING AND PLAGIARISM**

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A student whose actions are deemed by the University to be out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives or the spirit of good conduct as fostered by the University and Swiss community, may be placed on Disciplinary Probation or become subject to dismissal from the University. Cheating is a dishonest action out of sympathy with the ideals, objectives and spirit of the University. Furthermore, cheating reflects negatively on one's personal integrity and is unjust to those students who have studied.

See the Academic Catalog for full statement (page 199):

[https://www.fus.edu/images/pdf/FUS\\_ACADEMIC\\_CATALOG\\_2018\\_2020\\_web.pdf](https://www.fus.edu/images/pdf/FUS_ACADEMIC_CATALOG_2018_2020_web.pdf)

### **X. COURSE SCHEDULE**

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Week 1

Russian imperial heritage

Week 2

Russian revolution and the formation of the Soviet Union

Week 3

The collapse of the Soviet Union and the rise of Putin

Week 4

Russia today: culture, politics, and security.