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## **POSC 3631 China and Russia in Comparative Perspective**

**Spring 2018**

**Tuesday/Friday, 10:00 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.**

**Faber Hall 668**

Instructor: Olena Nikolayenko

E-mail: [onikolayenko@fordham.edu](mailto:onikolayenko@fordham.edu)

Office Location: Faber Hall, Rm. 677

Office Hours: Thursday, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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### **Course Overview**

China and Russia are currently powerful players in the international arena. They tend to cooperate with each other to safeguard their national interests and challenge US position in world politics. The Russian government, for example, defied international law by annexing the Crimea and providing military backing for insurgents in eastern Ukraine. Moreover, the former FBI Director Robert Mueller was appointed as the Special Counsel to lead an investigation into Russia's interference in the 2016 presidential elections in the United States. There is also a danger of US-China trade war, given President Donald Trump's threats to impose steep import tariffs. Meanwhile, incumbent governments in China and Russia face a litany of domestic policy challenges, including rampant corruption and socioeconomic inequality. Incumbents in both countries seek to foster economic development in a repressive political environment. Since the introduction of free market reforms in the late 1970s, Chinese economy has been growing at an average annual rate of ten percent. The Communist Party of China, however, strives to sustain economic growth without dismantling a one-party political system and losing social control over the population. Similarly, the Russian government stifles the development of civil society to secure the durability of the authoritarian regime. This course is designed to provide a broad overview of political, socioeconomic, and cultural developments in contemporary China and Russia.

### **Course Objectives**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- describe recent political and socioeconomic changes in China and Russia;
- evaluate the relationship between capitalism and autocracy;
- develop analytical skills by writing a policy brief on an assigned topic.

## Course Requirements

Participation	– 10 percent
Current Events Analysis	– 10 percent
Quiz	– 15 percent
Midterm Exam	– 30 percent
Policy Brief	– 25 percent
Presentation of Policy Research	– 10 percent

### *Participation*

Evaluation of student participation will be based on a meaningful contribution to classroom discussions. Students are expected to complete the assigned readings prior to the class and actively participate in a classroom discussion of the material.

### *Current Events Analysis*

Starting January 29, each class will begin with a student-led discussion of current events. The student will be responsible for selecting a news story pertinent to Chinese or Russian politics and facilitating a discussion on the topic. In addition, the student is expected to submit a one-page (single-spaced, 12-point font, Times New Roman) analysis of the selected current event. In the written analysis, you need to briefly summarize the news item, explain why you think this current event is important, and discuss how it is related to the class material. Please do not exceed the one-page limit. Attach a copy of the news article and clearly identify the news source.

### *Midterm Exam*

There will be a midterm exam consisting of multiple choice questions and short answer questions. The exam will cover the course material, including assigned readings, lectures, and classroom discussions.

### *Quiz*

A quiz made up of ten multiple-choice questions will be administered in class to test the students' knowledge of the material covered in the second half of the class.

### *Policy Brief*

At the end of the course, students will be expected to write a ten-page policy brief addressing a public policy issue in either China or Russia. The purpose of the policy brief is to convince policymakers to revise the way a policy issue is handled and adopt an alternative course of action. Each student will choose a policy issue that aligns with his or her own interests. The policy brief will be due at the beginning of the class on May 3.

### *Presentation*

Prior to the submission of the policy brief, each student will make a ten-minute presentation in class. In the presentation, the student will be expected to briefly describe the policy issue, summarize the policy background, and outline a set of policy recommendations.

## Important Dates

February 22	Midterm Exam
April 23/26/30	Student Presentations
May 3	Policy Brief due

## Late Penalty

Students are responsible for completing the assignments on time. Students are responsible to facilitate a discussion of current events and make an oral presentation of their policy research on the assigned dates. A hard copy of the policy brief is due at the beginning of the last class on May 3. Papers handed in after the class will be considered late. The late penalty is ten percent of the assignment's grade per each day of lateness.

## Academic Integrity

Failure to properly acknowledge the intellectual contribution of others constitutes plagiarism and is a very serious academic offence. Please consult the *Fordham University Undergraduate Policy on Academic Integrity* to get familiar with the standards of academic integrity.

## Required Readings

There is no general "textbook" for this course. The assigned course readings are available via the Blackboard. Students are responsible for downloading the assigned readings from the course web site and reading them prior to the class.

## Useful Web Sites

To gain a deeper understanding of political and economic processes in contemporary China and Russia, students are strongly encouraged to follow current events in these countries. Below is a list of web site links that you may find useful in keeping track of regional developments.

<http://www.chinadaily.com.cn>

*China Daily* is a major English-language newspaper, representing views of the Chinese government.

<http://www.chinaview.cn>

*China View* is an online publication launched by the state-owned press agency Xinhua News Agency.

<http://chinadigitaltimes.net>

*China Digital Times* is an independent bilingual media organization that brings uncensored news and online voices from China to the world.

<http://www.themoscowtimes.com>

Originally founded by a Dutch publisher, *Moscow Times* is an English-language newspaper published in Moscow, Russia.

<https://www.rt.com/>

*RT (Russia Today)* is a Russian TV channel that provides English-language news coverage from the perspective of the Russian government.

<http://www.rferl.org/section/Russia/161.html>

*Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* provides extensive coverage of the post-communist region from the Western perspective.

Maps of the region are available in the online map collection of the University of Texas: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps>.

### **Class Schedule and Reading Assignments**

#### **Jan 18. Introduction**

#### **Jan 22. The 1917 Revolutions and the Rise of the Soviet Union**

Mason, David. 2011. "The Russian Revolution and Communism." In *A Concise History of Modern Europe: Liberty, Equality, Solidarity*, 2nd ed. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, pp. 115–130

Craveri, Marta and Anne-Marie Losonczy. 2014. "Growing up in the Gulag: Later Accounts of Deportation to the USSR." Fondation Maison des sciences de l'homme, France. Working Paper, <https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/halshs-00952886>

#### **Jan 25. Gorbachev's Perestroika**

Rice, Condoleezza. 2017. "Russia and the Weight of History." In *Democracy: Stories from the Long Road to Freedom*. New York: Twelve Press, pp. 68–98

Fish, Stephen. 2005. "The Hazards of Half-measures: Perestroika and the Failure of Post-Soviet Democratization." *Demokratizatsiya: The Journal of Post-Soviet Democratization* 13 (2): 241–254

#### **Jan 29. Chinese Road to Socialism**

DeFronzo, James. 2014. "Revolution in China." In *Revolutions and Revolutionary Movements*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, pp. 79–106

Dikötter, Frank. 2010. "Mao's Great Leap to Famine." *New York Times* December 10, <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/12/16/opinion/16iht-eddikotter16.html>

### **Feb 1. The End of History?**

Minxin, Pei. 1992. "Societal Takeover in China and the USSR." *Journal of Democracy* 3 (1): 108–118

Levitsky, Steven and Lucan Way. 2002. "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism." *Journal of Democracy* 13(2): 51–65

### **Feb 5. Party Politics in Contemporary China**

Zhao, Suisheng. 2016. "Xi Jinping's Maoist Revival." *Journal of Democracy* 27(3): 83–97

Landry, Pierre, Deborah Davis, and Shiru Wang. 2010. "Elections in Rural China: Competition Without Parties." *Comparative Political Studies* 43(6): 763–790

### **Feb 8. Elections in Russia**

White, Stephen. 2011. "Elections Russian-Style." *Europe-Asia Studies* 63(4): 531–556

Kolsenkov, Andrei. 2017. "The Burden of Predictability: Russia's 2018 Presidential Election." Moscow, Russia: Carnegie Moscow Center

### **Feb 12. Economic Development in China**

Zhu, Xiaodong. 2012. "Understanding China's Growth: Past, Present, and Future." *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 26(4): 103–124

Swanson, Amy. 2017. "China's Economic Miracle Has an Ugly Underbelly." *Washington Post* May 1.

### **Feb 15. Economic Development in Russia**

Djankov, Simeon. 2015. "Russia's Economy under Putin: From Crony Capitalism to State Capitalism." *Policy Brief No. 15-18*. Washington, DC: Peterson Institute for International Economics

McFaul, Michael and Kathryn Stoner-Weiss. 2008. "The Myth of the Authoritarian Model: How Putin's Crackdown Holds Russia Back." *Foreign Affairs* 87(1): 68–84

### **Feb 20. Corruption**

Anti-Corruption Foundation. 2017. "Don't Call Him *Dimon*," March 2, <https://fbk.info/english/english/post/304/>

U.S. Helsinki Commission. 2017. "Corruption in Russia: An Overview," <https://www.csce.gov/international-impact/publications/corruption-russia-overview>

Yang, Dali. 2017. "Dirty Deeds: Will Corruption Doom China?" *Foreign Affairs*, <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/reviews/review-essay/2017-06-13/dirty-deeds>

## **Feb 22. MID-TERM EXAM**

### **Feb 26. Civil Society and the Mass Media**

Han, Rongbin. 2015. "Defending the Authoritarian Regime Online: China's "Voluntary Fifty-cent Army." *China Quarterly* 224: 1006–1025

Kara-Murza, Vladimir. 2017. "The Kremlin Emboldened: Putin Is Not Russia." *Journal of Democracy* 28(4): 110–116

### **March 1. Contemporary Youth**

Sima, Yangzi and Peter Pugsley. "The Rise of A 'Me Culture' in Postsocialist China: Youth, Individualism and Identity Creation in the Blogosphere." *International Communication Gazette* 72(3): 287–306

Dzieciolowski, Zygmunt. 2008. "The Future's Ours: Russia's Youth Activists." *Open Democracy*, [https://www.opendemocracy.net/article/the\\_future\\_s\\_ours\\_russia\\_s\\_youth\\_activists](https://www.opendemocracy.net/article/the_future_s_ours_russia_s_youth_activists)

Higgins, Andrew. 2017. "Russians, Heeding Navalny's Call, Mark Putin's Birthday with Protest." *New York Times* October 7, <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/07/world/europe/russia-vladimir-putin-alexsei-navalny-protests.html>

### **March 5. Gender and Population Policies**

Fong, Vanessa. 2002. "China's One-Child Policy and the Empowerment of Urban Daughters." *American Anthropologist* 104(4): 1098–1109

Eberstadt, Nicholas. 2011. "Dying Bear – Russia's Demographic Disaster." *Foreign Affairs* 90(6): 95–108

### **March 8. International Women's Day/No class**

### **March 12. Russia and the World**

Mankoff, Jeffrey. 2014. "Russia's Latest Land Grab: How Putin Won Crimea and Lost Ukraine." *Foreign Affairs* 93(3): 60–68

Hvenmark, Carl Nilsson. 2016. *Revisiting the Minsk II Agreement: The Art and Statecraft of Russian-brokered Cease-fires*. Washington, DC: Center for Strategic and International Studies

**March 15. US-Russia Relations**

Legvold, Robert. 2014. "The New Cold War: What Moscow and Washington Can Learn from the Previous One." *Foreign Affairs* 93 (July/August): 74–84

Fried, Daniel and Brian O'Toole. 2017. *The New Russia Sanctions Law: What It Does and How to Make It Work*. Washington, DC: Atlantic Council

**March 19. Writing a Policy Brief**

**April 5. China and the World**

Johnson, Christopher. 2016. "President Xi Jinping's 'Belt and Road' Initiative: A Practical Assessment of the Chinese Communist Party's Roadmap for China's Global Resurgence." Washington, DC: Center for Strategic and International Studies

**April 9. US-Sino Relations**

Bown, Chad. 2016. "Should the United States Recognize China as a Market Economy?" *Policy Brief No. 16-24*. Washington, DC: Peterson Institute for International Economics

Ikenberry, John. 2008. "The Rise of China and the Future of the West: Can the Liberal System Survive?" *Foreign Affairs* 87(1): 23–37

**Apr 12. Sino-Russian Relations**

Gabuev, Alexander. 2016. "Friends with Benefits? Russian-Chinese Relations after the Ukraine Crisis." Moscow, Russia: Carnegie Moscow Center

**Apr 16. Writing Lab**

*Please bring a draft of your policy brief for peer evaluation.*

**April 23. Student Presentations**

**April 26. Student Presentations**

**April 30. Student Presentations**

**May 3. Wrap-Up Discussion**

*Note: The policy brief is due at the beginning of the class.*

*Please bring a laptop for a web-based course evaluation.*