

Political Changes in Post-Soviet Russia

March-April 2019

Sciences Po Bordeaux

Professor Vladimir Gel'man (vgelman@eu.spb.ru)

The course is focused on political changes in post-Soviet Russia within the context of regime dynamics and state building. Starting with the Soviet system and collapse of the Soviet Union as a point of departure, the course traces making and unmaking of major political institutions and practices in Russia by examining the impact of various legacies of the past and the role of domestic and international political and economic actors. Students will gain an understanding of the challenges facing post-Soviet Russia, and an analytical perspective on sources of its stability and instability.

The course will include eight ninety-minutes classes (each as a combination of lectures and discussion sessions), and the last class will take longer and include students' presentations (up to 7 minutes-long) addressed to one of the key questions of the subjects of previous topics (the list will be distributed later on).

Students are expected to submit their final papers by the 26 April 2019 (50% of the grade), and actively participate in class discussions and presentations (50% of the grade). Students free to choose topics of their final papers (related to the subjects of this class) upon agreement with professor. Evaluation and grading will take into account quality of analysis and clarity of written argumentation as well as the use of evidence.

Thematic breakdown of classes

Topics 1 and 2. From Communist Rule to Electoral Authoritarianism: Twenty-Five Years of Post-Soviet Political Regime Dynamics

Topic 3. Post-Soviet Political Institutions (I): Presidents, Parliaments, and Governments

Topics 4. Post-Soviet Political Institutions (II): State-building, Decentralization to Recentralization

Topic 5. Mass Participation and Political Behavior: Voting, Protests, and Repressions

Topic 6. The Politics of Bad Governance: Policy-Making, Unrule of Law, and Interest Groups

Topic 7. In Search of Lost Greatness: Russia at the International Arena

Topic 8. Prospects for Russian Politics: Continuity and Changes in Domestic and Comparative Perspectives (October 18)

Readings

Books for the entire course

V.Gel'man, Authoritarian Russia: Analyzing Post-Soviet Regime Changes (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2015)

S.White, R.Sakwa, H.Hale (eds.) Developments in Russian Politics 8 (Duke University Press, 2014).

Topics 1-2.

V.Gel'man, Authoritarian Russia: Analyzing Post-Soviet Regime Changes, chapters 1 and 2

H.Hale, Regime Cycles: Democracy, Autocracy, and Revolution in Post-Soviet Eurasia, World Politics, 2005, vol.58, No.1.

Topic 3.

S.White, R.Sakwa, H.Hale (eds.) Developments in Russian Politics 8, chapters 2 (Willerton), 3 (Remington).

Topic 4.

G.Golosov, The Regional Roots of Electoral Authoritarianism in Russia, Europe-Asia Studies, 2011, vol.63, No.4.

G.Sharafutdinova, Subnational Governance in Russia: How Putin Changed the Contract with His Agents. Publius, 2010, vol.40, N4.

Topic 5.

S.White, R.Sakwa, H.Hale (eds.) Developments in Russian Politics 8, chapters 6 (McAllister), 7 (Robertson).

S.Greene, Citizenship and the Social Contract in Post-Soviet Russia, Demokratizatsiya: The Journal of Post-Soviet Democratization, 2012, vol.20, No.2

Topic 6.

E.Paneyakh. Faking Performance Together: Performance Evaluation in Russian Enforcement Agencies. Post-Soviet Affairs, 2014, vol.30, No.2-3.

B.Taylor, The Police Reform in Russia: Policy Process in a Hybrid Regime, Post-Soviet Affairs, 2014, vol.30, No.2-3.

Topic 7.

Readings will be provided before the beginning of the class, by March 2019

Topic 8.

V.Gel'man, Authoritarian Russia: Analyzing Post-Soviet Regime Changes, chapter 6

Wither Russia? Twenty-Five Years after the Collapse of Communism. Comparative Politics, 2018, vol.50, N3.