

**AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
SPRING 2022**

COURSE: POLS 3190-06
(8 WEEKS ONLINE)

January 18 – March 9, 2022.
RUSSIAN POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

PROFESSOR: Dr. ANNA GREGG
PROFESSOR

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND
PUBLIC MANAGEMENT
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REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

Shirayev, E. (2020). *Russian Government and Politics*. (3rd Edition)
Bloomsbury Publishing. ISBN: 9781352007794

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course is designed to provide students with thorough understanding of Russian political system and processes, as well as the ideas and issues that have shaped contemporary politics in the Post-Soviet region. Among the other topics we will take a close look at the legacies of the Soviet state, ideological foundations of Russian socialism, current Russian political institutions, federalism, and ethnic cleavages. Even though students are expected to learn the fundamentals of political context of the post-Soviet region, the purpose of this course is not memorizing of factual details, but rather exercising critical thinking, practicing analytical skills, and applying the comparative method.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To introduce the students to the fundamental theories and concepts developed to explain political institutions and practices in post-Soviet Russia.
2. To raise students' awareness about relations between regional and domestic political actors of the post-Soviet region.
3. To improve students' understanding of the US-Russian relation and its implications for the global political environment.
4. To examine the historical political context of the post-Soviet state building in Russia and the post-Soviet region.
5. To analyze political, economic, and social ramifications of the dominant political cultures of Russia and the post-Soviet region using current examples.
6. To develop students' appreciation and interest in the discipline as well as a solid foundation for taking other Political Science courses.

GENERAL EDUCATION GOALS:

In addition to the objectives discussed above, the more general goals of this course are to provide students with the tools with which to develop their own potentials and abilities.

1. This course will help the development of the students' analytical thinking capabilities by comparing and contrasting conflicting theories of comparative politics.
2. The student's literacy and research skills will be enhanced through assigned readings, online discussions and examinations.
3. This course should be useful in increasing the students' awareness of the cultures and experiences of persons in multi-cultural societies as the application of different governing styles and priorities exerts a substantial impact upon various cultures of the world.
4. This course will prepare the students for more advanced studies in Political Science.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

It is very important that the students read the assigned materials prior to participating in the online discussions and taking online quizzes. Please keep in mind that your discussion posts are being graded based on your knowledge and understanding of the textbook material, as well as your analytical and critical thinking skills (see Discussion Grading Rubric in Getting Started Module).

GRADING / EVALUATION SYSTEM:

Your grade in this course will include **six online quizzes, six online discussions, and a final examination.**

A **Bonus Discussion** and a **Bonus Quiz** during the first week may add up to 5% each to your final grade, depending on the amount effort you put into it.

Please be aware that I do not offer any other extra credit assignments in this class.

1. **SIX ONLINE QUIZZES** will check your compliance with weekly reading assignments.
2. **SIX WEEKLY ONLINE DISCUSSIONS** plus the first week's Bonus Discussion (up to 5% towards your final grade).
3. **FINAL EXAM** will include two essays on topics selected from a list, which I will post on D2L one week before the due date.

GRADING SUMMARY:

Six Online Quizzes	30%
Six Online Discussions	30%
Final Exam	40%

Total	100%

DISABILITY POLICY

Any student who has a disability that may affect his/her academic performance is encouraged to make an appointment with their instructor to discuss this matter, or you may contact Disability Services; telephone 221-6230; tty 221-6278; fax 221-7102.

CAVEAT

Policies and procedures may change due to extenuating circumstances.

COVID-19 Syllabus Supplement – UPDATED January 10, 2022 for Spring '22

We should all continue to take steps to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Masks are recommended for all faculty, staff, and students while indoors. To help keep our university community safe, vaccination and boosters are strongly encouraged and readily available, including at APSU's Boyd Health Services. Contact them at (931) 221-7107.

Any student exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 should seek a test. If any student tests positive for COVID-19, or if an unvaccinated student is exposed to someone who has tested positive, that student is required to fill out the [COVID-19 Self-Reporting Form](#) and isolate for five days from the onset of symptoms. If fever-free without medication, and if other symptoms are improving, the student can return to normal activities on Day 6. The student is strongly encouraged to wear a mask through Day 10. To help prevent further spread, students who test positive should notify anyone with whom they were within six feet for more than fifteen minutes. Students missing class should email their instructors when possible. The COVID-19 vaccine, booster, and testing are still free and widely available through Boyd Health Services. Visit the [APSU Coronavirus Dashboard](#) webpage for more information.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS:

- Week 1 January 18 - 23**
Why and How to Study Russian Politics (Chapter 1)
Bonus Discussion and Bonus Quiz are due Sunday at 11:59 PM
- Week 2 January 24 – 30**
Russian Political History and Changes (Chapters 2 & 3)
Quiz #1 & Discussion #1 are due Sunday at 11:59 PM
- Week 3 January 31 - February 6**
Russian Political Institutions (Chapters 4, 5, and 6)
Quiz #2 & Discussion #2 are due Sunday at 11:59 PM
- Week 4 February 7 - 13**
Political Parties and Elections (Chapters 7 and 8)
Quiz #3 & Discussion #3 are due Sunday at 11:30 PM
- Week 5 February 14 - 20**
Political Communication and Mobilization (Chapter 9)
Quiz #4 & Discussion #4 are due Sunday at 11:30 PM
- Week 6 February 21 – 27**
Russian Foreign Policy and Security (Chapters 10, 11, and 12)
Quiz #5 & Discussion #5 are due Sunday at 11:30 PM
- Week 7 February 28 - March 6**
Russian Economic and Social Policies (Chapters 13, 14, 15)
Quiz #6 & Discussion #6 are due Sunday at 11:30 PM
- Week 8 (March 7 - 9) FINAL EXAMINATION (2 ESSAY FORMAT)**
The Final Exam is due March 9th at 11:59 PM.