

## **Course syllabus developed with funding from:**

- Indiana University's Inner Asian & Uralic National Resource Center;
- Indiana University's Russian & East European Institute;
- Ohio State University's Center for Slavic and East European Studies;
- University of California, Berkeley's Institute for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies;
- University of Pittsburgh's Center for Russian & East European Studies;
- University of Washington's Ellison Center for Russian, East European, & Central Asian Studies

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, CHATTANOOGA  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC SERVICE  
COURSE SYLLABUS

[Russia and Eurasia - 48014 - POLS 3430 - 0](#)

**Fall 2017**

5:30 pm - 8:00 pm T Brock Hall 401 Aug 21, 2017 - Dec 12, 2017

**TITLE:** Special Topics: Russia and Eurasia

**CREDIT:** 3

**FACULTY:**

Professor: Dr. Irina Khmelko

Mailbox: 210 Pfieffer Hall; Dept 6356; 615  
McCallie Ave, Chattanooga, TN 37403

Office: Pfieffer 208

E-mail: [Irina-Khmelko@UTC.edu](mailto:Irina-Khmelko@UTC.edu)

Office Hours: Tuesday, 10:00-12:00pm

Tuesday, 4:00-5:00pm

or by appointment (office hours sometimes get canceled for meetings, etc.; emailing ahead and making appointments are always good ideas)

**Course Catalog Description**

The study of the governmental structures, processes, and ideologies of different regions of the world, comparing their political, economic, and social policies. This course will offer a regional focus on Russian and Eurasian region (also known as Former Soviet Countries - FSC).

**Course Student Learning Outcomes:**

Develop an understanding of governments and politics in Russia and Eurasia. Build on established knowledge and skills to deconstruct common assumptions about governments of Russia and Eurasia. Develop reflection skills for professional growth

and development. Become comfortable with critical issues in government of Russia and Eurasia.

At the conclusion of this course, you will have a greater understanding of:

- ◁ the governments of Russia and Eurasia
- ◁ the actors who influence politics in Russia and Eurasia
- ◁ specific problems relevant to contemporary politics in Russia and Eurasia
- ◁ compare and contrast governments of Russia and Eurasia

## **EVALUATION/ASSESSMENT:**

### **Grading**

*You can receive total of 1,000 points*

Midterm:	320 (32%)
Final Exam:	360 (36%)
Paper:	250 (25%)
Questions for discussions:	20 (2%)
Attendance and participation:	30 (3%)
Country report:	20 (2%)

A portion of the cumulative class grade will be reported to students prior to the midpoint of the total grading period as a percentage of the total points that a student could have made prior to that date. The grading scale is provided below to help students with calculating their final and midpoint grades.

### **Paper and Presentations:**

**(additional rubrics for research papers will be posted on Black Board with more details on how papers will be graded):**

A (90 – 100%) = Excellent; all expectations met or exceeded; explicitly demonstrates thorough understanding of subjects, theories, concepts, and cases; chooses appropriate theories from appropriate readings for each case; applies theory to practice skillfully; no substantive shortcomings or only minor shortcomings; presentations are well organized, help other students learn course content, and add value above existing course content;

writing is well organized and adheres to rules of grammar, spelling, and syntax with no or very few exceptions

B (80 – 89%) = Good; most or all expectations are met; explicitly or implicitly demonstrates good, if not thorough, understanding of literature; only minor substantive shortcomings; presentations are well organized and help other students learn course content; writing is generally well organized and mostly adheres to rules of grammar, spelling, and syntax

C (70 – 79%) = Satisfactory; directions are followed, most expectations are met but with at least one significant shortcoming; despite any shortcomings, demonstrates basic level of understanding, but may miss some important points; presentations demonstrate understanding of the content but do little to help other students learn the content; writing is organized well enough and with enough technical accuracy to be understandable

D (60 – 69%) = Passing, but less than satisfactory; directions only partially followed; more than one significant shortcoming; deficiencies indicate only the most rudimentary level of understanding; presentations demonstrate poor preparation and do not contribute to other students' learning; and/or writing is difficult to understand

F (0 – 59%) = Failing; not completed or directions not followed; deficiencies indicate lack of understanding; presentations waste class time; and/or incoherent writing

**Attendance and Participation:** Much of the learning takes place during in-class discussion, and much of this learning is not anticipated or easily assessed. To reflect the importance of the learning that takes place in class, students will be graded on their participation in each session roughly following the scale below, but, in the end, subjectively based on the instructor's professional judgment:

A (90-100%) = Contributes to discussions, contributions reflect good understanding of reading assignments, contributions are insightful and advance the discussion, does not dominate discussion, contributions do not rely solely on personal opinion, shows respect to classmates, uses discussion to make progress toward course learning goals, contributes to other students' progress toward learning goals, actively listens

B (80-89%) = Between A and C

C (70-79%) = Contributes to discussions, contributions reflect basic understanding of reading assignments or are based mostly on personal opinion, shows respect to classmates, actively listens, does not dominate discussion, uses discussion to make progress toward learning goals

D (60-69%) = Between C and F

F (below 60%) = Assumes a passive role in class discussions, contributes almost nothing to discussions, contributions reflect no understanding of reading assignments, dominates discussion

0 % = Absent, disrespectful, contributions detract from other students' learning, occupied with text messaging, asleep, contributes nothing to discussions

No attempt will be made to distinguish between “excused” and “unexcused” absences—in both cases, in class learning does not take place. To accommodate unavoidable absences, the two lowest participation grades will not count towards your final grade.

**Grading Scale:**

A	90 – 100%	(900-1000 points)
B	80 – 89.9%	(800-899 points)
C	70 – 79.9%	(700-799 points)
D	60 – 69.9%	(600-699 points)
F	0 – 59.9%	(0-599 points)

**Rational**

*Assigned readings and lectures by the instructor* will provide students with information regional development in Russian and Eurasian region.

*In-class discussions and group exercises* will allow you to apply theoretical knowledge received from assigned readings to dealing with practical issues. These activities will help you to identify main issues, and develop basic skills in theory application to the practice of Post-Communist development in the region.

*Midterms and Final Exams* will test your knowledge of the material from the assigned readings and test your progress towards reaching learning outcomes.

*Paper* will allow students to demonstrate knowledge of material from the assigned readings, lectures, and suggested readings and apply concepts to the analysis of practical issues.

*Questions for discussion* will be used to facilitate in class discussions and allow students take initiative and offer issues of interest to them to class attention. Each student will be expected to choose a couple of topics and prepare at least 5 questions for discussion in the class for each of the class sessions when the topic is discussed. Students must post the

discussion questions on Blackboard at least 24 hours before class. Questions should reflect the thesis or arguments made in the reading, the evidence that are provided, or any other critical points that suggest evaluation and discussion.

Both course *attendance and participation* in class discussions are required and absences will be noted. Therefore, attendance is critical and be monitored every week by the instructor.

In addition, please be prepared to participate in class discussions. This means, of course, reading what is assigned for each class session. You will be tested on your knowledge of readings.

Each student will prepare a *report on one of the countries in the region (it must be one of the countries covered in our text book)*. Students can discuss any aspect of Post-Communist development in the country of their choosing (this is a political science class, and therefore, students need to concentrate on Post-Communist politics, which may include any part of the government in that country, civil society, and social movements). Students will need to do library research on this country, find additional information on this country (information in addition to that found in the readings provided for this class), and then report what learn about the organization to the class. You can use video materials of your choice. Students need to include the following two web sites in their research for maximum credit:

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/research>

<https://www.usaid.gov/reports-and-data>

The research can be limited to these two web site. The presentation needs to be 15-20 minutes. Using Power Point presentations is desirable for maximum credit for this assignment.

### **Blackboard:**

Blackboard may be accessed at <http://utconline.utc.edu>. Some of the useful links there are:

**Announcements** The announcements page is the point of entry for the site. Here, the instructor will post announcements as needed throughout the course. UTC may also occasionally post announcements here as well. Students need to check announcements regularly.

**Syllabus** This page includes this syllabus—the official guide to the course!

**Grades**—where students can check their grades.

**Help** links students to information about how to use Blackboard.

### **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK/RESOURCES:**

No book to buy is required for this class.

Readings will be provided on the Blackboard for students' convenience.

### **Course and Institutional Policies**

#### **Late/Missing Work Policy:**

Make-ups will only be given for those students who become ill or have a death in the immediate family. You will need to provide a medical excuse (scan and e-mail it to me) or a document to support your claim. If you do not have one, you will receive 0 points. I want to be accommodating, but need to be fair to all students, especially to those who make an effort to come to work hard and regularly.

### **ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT**

If you are a student with a disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) and think that you might need special assistance or a special accommodation in this class or any other class, call the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 425-4006 or come by the office, 102 Frist Hall.

### **COUNSELING CENTER STATEMENT**

If you find that personal problems, career indecision, study and time management difficulties, etc. are adversely impacting your successful progress at UTC, please contact the Counseling and Career Planning Center at 425-4438.

### **HONOR CODE PLEDGE (from the [UTC Student Handbook](#))**

I pledge that I will neither give nor receive unauthorized aid on any test or assignment. I understand that plagiarism constitutes a serious instance of unauthorized aid. I further pledge that I exert every effort to insure that the Honor Code is upheld by others and the I will actively support the establishment and continuance of a campus-wide climate of honor and integrity.

**Student Conduct Policy:** UTC's Academic Integrity Policy is stated in the [Student Handbook](#).

## Academic Code of Conduct

In this course there are ONLY individual assignments. It is important that your individual assignments be completed with your thoughts and work alone. To that end, please read and adhere to the following regarding academic dishonesty. The instructor cannot and will not tolerate academic dishonesty. If you are in doubt about whether or not a practice is ethical, contact the instructor for clarification.

### **What is cheating?**

- Supplying or using work or answers that are not your own.
- Providing or accepting assistance with completing assignments or examinations.
- Faking data or results.
- Interfering in any way with someone else's work.
- Stealing an examination, assignment or solution from a source other than your own.

### **What is plagiarism?**

- Copying a paper or any other digital items from a source without proper acknowledgment. NOTE: Please use APA Style for formatting **ALL** references and resources. **You should cite everything that you use that you did not create yourself.** Since this course requires you to create teaching materials using technology, you must also cite images, graphics, audio, video resources, etc. that you use that you did not create yourself.
- Buying a paper from a research service or term paper mill.
- Turning in another student's work with or without that student's knowledge.
- Copying materials from a source text, supplying proper documentation, but leaving out quotation marks.
- Paraphrasing materials from a source text without appropriate documentation.
- Turning in a paper from a term paper website.

**Course Learning Evaluation:** Course evaluations are an important part of our efforts to continuously improve the learning experience at UTC. Toward the end of the semester, you will receive a link to evaluations and are expected to complete them. We value your feedback and appreciate you taking time to complete the anonymous evaluations.

**Course Calendar/Schedule:** See Course Schedule posted on Black Board.



