

**Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies
School of International Studies, JNU**

Course	:	Ph.D
Course Title	:	Politics and Society in Russia
Course Type	:	Core
Course Teacher	:	Prof. Sanjay Kumar Pandey, Prof. Archana Upadhyay Dr. Amitabh Singh
Credits	:	Four
Course Code	:	SE 601
Semester	:	Monsoon Semester
Contact Hour	:	Four per week

Course Objective:

Russia, a country straddling Europe and Asia, has been a unique civilization with its own historical-cultural experience. Spanning 11 time zones and having variety of environments and landforms, it is home to more than 100 nationalities. Its imperial and Soviet-Communist past have had a definitive influence on its present-day society and politics. Since the Soviet dissolution, it has followed its model of politics. The course aims to introduce Ph.D. level researchers to the distinct features of Russian society and politics.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

- to create an understanding of Russia's distinct civilization, present-day politics, and geopolitical importance,
- to highlight Russia's significant natural and scientific resources, and military prowess, which makes it one of the most influential global players,
- to equip the researchers to carry out an in-depth inquiry into different aspects of Russia's politics, society, and foreign policy,
- to develop an Indian perspective, beyond the cliched stereotypes, about this very important country.

Evaluation Methods

Class performance, Assignments, Seminars, Mid-session examination (50%) End Semester Exam (50%)

Course Contents:

Part I: Historical Background

- Society and Politics in the Tsarist/ Imperial period
- Socio-Political Transformation after the Revolution of 1917
- Soviet Political System: CPSU, Federal System
- Changes and Challenges: Lenin to Gorbachev
- Systemic Crisis and Soviet Disintegration

Part II: Political System and Processes in Russian Federation

- Constitutional Development and Institutional Structure
- Executive: President and Government
- Legislature: Duma and Federation Council
- Judiciary: Constitutional Court and Supreme Court
- Political Parties and Electoral Politics
- Federal Structure, Nationalism, Regionalism
- Nature of Democracy: Problems and Prospects

Part III: Society in Post Soviet Russia

- Social Structure and Social Movements
- Gender, Religion and Minorities
- Popular Culture and value systems

Essential Readings:

Gorbachev, Mikhail (1987), *Perestroika: New Thinking for Our Country and the World*, HarperCollins.

Gorbachev, Mikhail (2015), *The New Russia*, Polity, 2015.

Hutcheson, Derek S. (2018), *Parliamentary Elections in Russia: A Quarter-Century of Multiparty Politics*, OUP.

Remington, Thomas (2017), *Politics in Russia*, Routledge.

Sakwa, Richard (2021), *Russian Politics and Society*, Routledge.

White, Stephen (2012), *Understanding Russian Politics*, Cambridge University Press.

Suggested Readings:

1. Barnes, Andrew (2014), “Three in One: Unpacking the “Collapse” of the Soviet Union”, *Problems of Post-Communism*, 61(5), pp. 3-13
2. Bellis, P. *Marxism in the USSR*, Macmillan, 1979
3. Carr. E.H. *The Bolshevik Revolution*, Vol. 1 and 2, London, 1992
4. Charokopos, Michael & Athanasios Dagoumas (2018) “State Capitalism in Time: Russian Natural Gas at the Service of Foreign Policy”, *Europe-Asia Studies*, (70)3, pp. 441-461
5. Cheney, A.M., *The Making of New Russia*, Har Anand, 2001
6. Deutscher, I. *The Unfinished Revolution*, Oxford, 1967
7. Dobb, M. *Soviet Economic Development Since 1917*, London 1945
8. Ellman, Michael (2002) “Was the Collapse of the USSR Entirely Unforeseen?”, *Perspectives on Political Science*, 31(3), pp. 132-135
9. Ellman, Michael and Vladimir Kontorovich (1998), “The USSR in the Mid-1980s: Rulers’ Perceptions”, in *The Destruction of the Soviet Economic System: An Insider's History*, London, Routledge, pp. 74-85.
10. Frye, Timothy (2021), “Hitting Them with Carrots: The Role of Repression”, in Weak Strongman, *The Limits of Power in Putin’s Russia*, Princeton, Princeton University Press, pp. 107-131
11. Frye, Timothy (2021), “The Surprising Importance of Russia’s Manipulated Elections”, in *Weak Strongman. The Limits of Power in Putin’s Russia*. Princeton, Princeton University Press, pp. 66-84
12. Gel'man, Vladimir (2008), “Leviathan’s Return: The Policy of Recentralization in Contemporary Russia” in Cameron Ross, Adrian Campbell (eds.) *Federalism and Local Politics in Russia*, London, Routledge, pp. 1-24
13. Hough, Jerry F.(1990), *How the Soviet Union is Governed*, Harvard University Press.

14. Kynev, Alexander (2015), “Combating the Opposition: United Russia’s Electoral and Party Reforms 2012–13”, in Cameron Ross (ed.), *Systemic and Non-Systemic Opposition in the Russian Federation: Civil Society Awakens?*, London, Routledge, pp. 139-152.
15. Ledeneva, Alena (2012), “Informality and Informal Politics”, in Graeme Gill and James Young (eds.) *Routledge Handbook of Russian Politics and Society*, Routledge, pp. 375-385
16. Lewis, David (2020) “Democracy and the People”, in *Russia’s New Authoritarianism: Putin and the Politics of Order*, Edinburgh University Press, pp. 81-99
17. Mark, A. Cichok (2003), *Russian and Eurasian Politics, A Comparative Approach*, Longman, Pearson Education.
18. Mccauley, Martin (2007), “1917: days of hope and days of despair”, in *The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union*, London, Routledge, pp. 24-45
19. Medvedev, Sergei (2019), *The Return of the Russian Leviathan*, Polity.
20. Methodology and Empirical Theory in Sovietology, Boulder, Co., Westview Press, 1993.
21. Ostrovsky, Arkady (2015), *The Invention of Russia: The Journey from Gorbachev’s Freedom to Putin’s War*, London: Atlantic Books.
22. Politkovskaya, Anna (2004), *Putin’s Russia: The Definitive Account of Putin’s Rise to Power*, Harvill Press.
23. Robinson, Neil (2011), “Russian Patrimonial Capitalism and the International Financial Crisis”, *Journal of Communist Studies and Transition Politics*, (27) 3-4, pp. 434-455.
24. Smith, Gordon B. How Soviet Union is governed. [TB]
25. Walker, Shaun (2018), *The Long Hangover: Putin’s New Russia and the Ghosts of the Past*, Oxford University Press.
26. White, Stephen, *Gorbachev and After*, Cambridge, 1992.
27. Zaslavskaya, V. and G. Lapidus. *From Union to Commonwealth*, Cambridge, 1992.