Contemporary Issues in U.S.-Russian Relations

Tuesday/Thursday, 10:30-11:45am

Professor Chris Miller

*Updated: February 2, 2021*

This course is jointly taught with students at MGIMO University in Moscow. On Tuesdays, the course will meet only with Fletcher students and will discussed topics in Russian foreign policy. On Thursdays, the course will meet collectively with MGIMO students and will be co-led by Professor Maxim Suchkov of MGIMO. On Thursdays Fletcher and MGIMO students will jointly discuss U.S. and Russian perspectives on contentious issues and will prepare joint presentations with policy proposals to the U.S. and Russian governments.

In accordance with federal and state law, Tufts University provides reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. If you believe you require an accommodation, e-mail [accessiblity@tufts.edu](mailto:accessiblity@tufts.edu) or [Catherine.Flynn@tufts.edu](mailto:Catherine.Flynn@tufts.edu)

**Course Application**

Given space constraints participation is by application only. The deadline is Friday, Dec 18 at noon. Please email Professor Miller with any questions.

**Assignments**

+ One 7-minute class presentation on a Tuesday (date TBD with Prof Miller) on an important current or historic figure in Russian foreign policy making, explaining the decisions that this individual is/was involved in and the factors that drove their decision making. Presentation topics must be agreed-upon with Professor Miller

+ One 1,500-word memo to Russian President Vladimir Putin advising him on a foreign policy dilemma and proposing realistic solutions that take into account his political preferences. Due April 25.

+ One jointly produced written report (roughly 1500 words), powerpoint, and oral presentation on a major issue in U.S.-Russian relations, collectively produced by Fletcher and MGIMO students. Students will be divided into groups by Professor Miller and Professor Suchkov.

+ Active and informed participation in class discussion

**Study trip**

Pending the status of the pandemic, students may participate in a study trip to Moscow, funded by the Fletcher School’s Russia and Eurasia Program, in late April/early May

**Grading**

Class participation – 30%

Individual class presentation – 20%

Memo to Vladimir Putin – 25%

Group project – 25%

Schedule

**Tuesday, Jan 19 Introduction and The Serbian Intervention of 1876**

Readings:

Note: please read these documents in order

* Rostislav Fadeev, *Opinion on the Eastern Question*, ch. 9 (PDF on Google Books)
* Selected documents on the Serbian crisis
* David MacKenzie, *The Lion of Tashkent: The Career of General M. G. Cherniaev*, ch. 8-10.
* Michael Boro Petrovich, *The Emergence of Russian Panslavism, 1856-1870*, ch. 9.

**Thursday, January 21 Current Trends in Russian Foreign Policy**

Readings:

* The foreign policy concept of the Russian federation: <http://www.mid.ru/en/foreign_policy/official_documents/-/asset_publisher/CptICkB6BZ29/content/id/2542248>
* Mankoff, *Russian Foreign Policy*, ch. 1-2.

**Tuesday, January 26 The Security Services in Russian Foreign Policy**

Readings:

* https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1780961057/ref=dbs\_a\_def\_rwt\_bibl\_vppi\_i2
* https://www.ecfr.eu/page/-/ECFR\_169\_-\_INSIDE\_RUSSIAS\_INTELLIGENCE\_SERVICES\_(WEB\_AND\_PRINT)\_2.pdf
* https://www.nato.int/docu/review/2017/also-in-2017/russian-intelligence-political-war-security/EN/index.htm
* https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2017/01/fsb-kgb-putin/513272/
* Soldatov and Borogan, *The New Nobility: The Restoration of Russia’s Security State and the Enduring Legacy of the KGB*, ch. 1-11, 16-end

**Thursday, January 28 Oligarchs and Business Interests in Russian Foreign Policy**

Readings:

* Weber chapter on ‘Petropolitics’ in Routledge Handbook on Russian Foreign Policy
* Mikhail Zygar, *All the Kremlin’s Men,* ch 7-8, 11
* Chris Miller, *Putinomics: Power and Money in Resurgent Russia*, ch. 1-3.
* https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/publications/research/2017-05-02-eurasian-economic-union-dragneva-wolczuk.pdf
* https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/29/business/energy-environment/russia-venezula-oil-rosneft.html

**Tuesday, February 2 Guest Speaker: Arik Toler**

**Thursday, February 4 Freelancers in Russian Foreign Policy**

Readings:

* https://www.ft.com/content/84481538-1103-11e4-94f3-00144feabdc0
* https://warontherocks.com/2018/07/the-puzzle-of-russian-behavior-in-deir-al-zour/
* https://meduza.io/en/feature/2016/06/13/evgeny-prigozhin-s-right-to-be-forgotten
* Zygar, ch. 19.

**Tuesday, February 9 Ideologies: The Orthodox Church and ‘Eurasianists’**

Readings:

* http://www.transatlanticacademy.org/sites/default/files/publications/Curanovic\_GuardiansTraditionalValues\_Feb15\_web.pdf
* Zygar, ch. 14
* Charles Clover, *Black Wind, White Snow*, ch. 11-15
* Snyder, *Road to Unfreedom*, p. 133-150
* Andrew and Mitrokhin, *The Sword and the Shield*, ch. 28.

**Thursday, February 11 Discussion with MGIMO: Introductions**

*Readings to come*

**Tuesday, February 16 No class – Monday class schedule**

**Thursday, February 18 No class – DC career trek**

**Tuesday, February 23 The Military and Russian Foreign Policy**

Readings:

* Routledge Handbook of Russian Foreign Policy, ch. 10.
* McDermott, “Does Russia Have a Gerasimov Doctrine?”
* Zygar, ch. 17

**Thursday, February 25 Discussion with MGIMO: Arms Control and Strategic Stability**

**Tuesday, March 2 Guest Speaker**

**Thursday, March 4 Discussion with MGIMO: Arms Control Presentations**

**Tuesday, March 9 Case Study: The Annexation of Crimea**

Readings:

* Daniel Triesman, “Crimea: Anatomy of a Decision”
* Andreas Umland, “The Glazyev Tapes”, https://www.ecfr.eu/article/commentary\_the\_glazyev\_tapes\_getting\_to\_the\_root\_of\_the\_conflict\_in\_7165
* Shaun Walker, “Ukraine’s EU Trade Deal will be Catastrophic, says Russia,” <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2013/sep/22/ukraine-european-union-trade-russia>

**Thursday, March 11 Discussion with MGIMO: Euro-Atlantic Security Discussion**

**Tuesday, March 16** **Case Study: The 2016 Montenegro Coup**

Readings:

* Bechev, *Rival Power,* ch. 1-2, skim 6-8.
* https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/aug/12/ex-cia-officer-faces-arrest-over-alleged-montenegro-coup-plot
* https://www.fpri.org/article/2018/07/hanging-by-a-thread-russias-strategy-of-destabilization-in-montenegro/
* https://www.fpri.org/article/2018/04/the-2016-coup-attempt-in-montenegro-is-russias-balkans-footprint-expanding/

**Thursday March 18 Discussion with MGIMO: Euro-Atlantic Security Presentations**

**Tuesday, March 23 Guest speaker**

**Thursday, March 25 No Class (Spring Break)**

**Tuesday, March 30 Case Study: Russia-Israel Relations**

Readings:

* <https://www.economist.com/business/2015/09/17/welcome-to-the-promised-land>
* https://www.fpri.org/article/2018/06/moscow-on-the-mediterranean-russia-and-israels-relationship/

**Thursday, April 1 Discussion with MGIMO: Middle East Discussion**

**Tuesday, April 6 Case Study: The Litvenenko Poisoning**

Readings:

* http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20160613090818/https://www.litvinenkoinquiry.org/files/2015/07/MPS-Closing-Statement.pdf
* <https://www.buzzfeed.com/heidiblake/from-russia-with-blood-14-suspected-hits-on-british-soil?utm_term=.lcVWAYKDq#.itkwBED79>
* <http://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1361-6498/aa58a7/meta>
* Steven Lee Meyers, *The New Tsar,* ch 17.
* Andrew and Mitrokhin, *The Sword and the Shield*, ch. 22

**Thursday, April 8 With MGIMO: Middle East Presentations**

**Tuesday, April 13 Guest speaker**

**Thursday, April 15 Discussion with MIGMO: Domestic Political Interference**

**Tuesday, April 20 Guest Speaker**

**Thursday, April 22 Presentations on Domestic Political Interference**

**Tuesday, April 27 Course Wrap Up**