

**Title: Political Economy of Russia**

**Credits: 3**  
**Course #: BUS/ECO/POL 342**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

The course provides an introduction to the government, politics and economics of Russia since the collapse of the USSR in 1992. It focuses on the changes of the last 22 years and the attempts to create a democratic political system and an economy based on free markets in Russia.

This course combines an Economics and Political science approach to examine the development of Russia in XXI century. We'll analyze political, economic, and foreign policy revolutions that shook the country after the collapse of the Soviet Union and evolution of modern Russia and CIS. Through the lens of the Russian experience, we'll examine key concepts in comparative politics, such as revolution, regime change, market formation, nationalism, transition and state building.

**COURSE OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of the course students will:

- Have better understanding of general political, economic and social environment in modern Russia and CIS;
- Acquire keen knowledge of the political problems of Russian Capitalism;
- Learn fundamentals of political, economic and social analysis;
- Improve the skills of self facilitated academic research of political and economic realities.

**TOPICS**

**Command Economy**

- Background to the Russian Economy
- Establishment of Central Planning
- Command-Administrative Economy
- Soviet International Commerce
- Reform and Perestroika
- Transition to a Market Economy

**Building a Market**

- Eastern European Example
- Aid and the International Economic Institutions
- Crime and Corruption
- Privatization
- Labor and Management
- Agriculture

**Russia and the World Market**

- Monetary and Fiscal Policy
- Convertibility and Currency
- High Technology and Western Export Controls
- Defense Spending, Conversion, and Arms Trade
- Energy and the Environment
- The Economy and the Last Election

**READINGS**

*The Constitution of Russian Federation, 1993*  
<http://www.constitution.ru/en/10003000-01.htm>

*Policy Priorities of the Government of the Russian Federation to 2018*, 2013  
<http://government.ru/en/info/761>

*Federal Law on the Federal Budget for 2014 and the Planning Period of 2015 and 2016*, 2013  
<http://government.ru/en/info/8980>

L. Shevtsova, *Russia XXI: The Logic of Suicide and Rebirth*. 2013  
<http://www.carnegie.ru/2013/01/31/russia-xxi-logic-of-suicide-and-rebirth/fb54#>

I. Bond, *Europe and Russia: Continental divide?*, 2014  
<http://www.cer.org.uk/insights/europe-and-russia-continental-divide>

L. Shevtsova, *The Russian Matrix: the Art of Metamorphosis*., 2013  
<http://www.carnegie.ru/2013/11/30/russian-matrix-art-of-metamorphosis/gv68>

D. Trenin, *Russia: Pivoting to Asia or Just to China*, 2014  
<http://carnegie.ru/eurasiaoutlook/?fa=55062>

A. Malashenko, *As the Olympics come to an End, so does the Post-Soviet Space*., 2014  
<http://carnegie.ru/eurasiaoutlook/?fa=54670>

S. Norris, *Despite Crimea, Western-Russian Cooperation in the Arctic Should, Continue*, 2014  
<http://carnegie.ru/eurasiaoutlook/?fa=55121>

B. Coppieters, *Scotland and Crimea: Debating the Costs and Benefits of Secession*., 2014  
<http://carnegie.ru/eurasiaoutlook/?fa=54868>

T. De Waal, *Crimea and Karabakh*, 2014  
<http://carnegie.ru/eurasiaoutlook/?fa=55100>

J. Feldschreiber, *Russian-U.S. space partnership stays on track*., 2014  
[http://rbth.com/science\\_and\\_tech/2014/04/01/russian-us\\_space\\_partnership\\_stays\\_on\\_track\\_35561.html](http://rbth.com/science_and_tech/2014/04/01/russian-us_space_partnership_stays_on_track_35561.html)

## ADDITIONAL READING

Neil Robinson, *Political Economy of Russia*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers 2013  
<http://www.amazon.com/Political-Economy-Russia-Neil-Robinson/dp/1442210753>

- Russia in Global Affairs, [www.eng.globalaffairs.ru](http://www.eng.globalaffairs.ru)
- The Moscow Times, [www.themoscowtimes.com](http://www.themoscowtimes.com)
- Russia Profile Magazine, [www.russiaprofile.org](http://www.russiaprofile.org)
- Voice of Russia Radio, [www.voiceofrussia.com/Russia/](http://www.voiceofrussia.com/Russia/)
- Russia today global TV, [www.rt.com/politics](http://www.rt.com/politics)

## REQUIREMENTS

Attendance at lectures and discussion sections is **mandatory**. The lectures will present new material, as well as setting the readings in context. There will be a **midterm paper** (10 standard pages) and a **final paper** (20 standard pages). Both will require knowledge of the material presented in readings and lectures and the ability to identify theories, assess evidence, and present convincing arguments. The **midterm** will count for 35% and the **final** for 45% of the course grade. Participation in discussion will count for 20%