Graduate Council Report  
March 1, 2007

A611 BUSH 686 Russia in International Politics (3-0) Credit 3. Examines changes with Russia and its role in international politics since 1991, emphasizing the period of Vladimir Putin’s presidency. Will explore Putin’s approach to political, economic and social challenges facing Russia. This master’s level course is intended for individuals preparing for professional careers in the conduct of international affairs. Prerequisite(s): n/a

A612 MATH 615 Introduction to Classical Analysis (3-0) Credit 3. Set-theoretic preliminaries; Cantor-Schröder-Bernstein Theorem; review of sequences; limit inferior and limit superior; infinite products; metric spaces; convergence of functions; Dini’s Theorem, Weierstrass Approximation Theorem; Monotone functions; bounded variation; Helly’s Selection Theorem; Riemann-Stieltjes integration; Fourier series; Fejer’s Theorem; Parseval’s Identify, Bernstein’s Theorem on absolutely convergent Fourier series. Prerequisite(s): Math 409 or equivalent.
Texas A&M University
Departmental Request for a New Course
Undergraduate • Graduate • Professional

Submit original form and 2 copies. Attach a course syllabus to each.

1. This request is submitted by the Department of Bush School

2. Course prefix, number and complete title: BUSH 686, Russia in International Politics

3. Course description (not more than 50 words): Examines changes within Russia and its role in international politics since 1991, emphasizing the period of Vladimir Putin's presidency. Will explore Putin's approach to political, economic and social challenges facing Russia. This master's level course is intended for individuals preparing for professional careers in the conduct of international affairs.

4. Prerequisite(s): n/a

5. Is this a variable credit course? □ Yes □ No. If yes, from ___ to ___.

6. Is this a repeatable course? □ Yes □ No. If yes, this course may be taken ____ times. Will the course be repeated within the same semester/term? □ Yes □ No

7. Has this course been taught as a 489/689? □ Yes □ No. If yes, how many times? ___. Indicate the number of students enrolled for each academic period it was taught: Fall 2006 8, Fall 2006 10

8. This course will be:
   a. required for students enrolled in the following degree program(s) (e.g., B.A. in history)
   n/a
   b. an elective for students enrolled in the following degree program(s) (e.g., M.S., Ph.D. in geography)
   n/a

9. If other departments are teaching or are responsible for related subject matter, the course must be coordinated with these departments. Attach approval letters.

10. Prefix: BUSH
    Course #: 686
    Title (exclude punctuation): Russia in International Politics
    Lect. Lab SCH Subject Matter Content Code Admin. Unit Acad. Year FICE Code
    0 3 0 0 3 45.100 .000 11364 03-09 0 0 3 6 3 2

   Do not complete shaded area.

   Approval recommended by:
   Head of Department: __________ Date: __________
   Chair, College Review Committee: __________ Date: __________
   Dean of College: __________ Date: __________

   Submitted to Coordinating Board by:
   Director, Graduate Studies Support Services: __________ Date: __________
   Effective Date: __________
Russia in International Politics  
Bush School 689  
Fall 2006 (Thursdays, 2:00-4:50 Room 1041)  

Ambassador and Senior Lecturer Larry C. Napper  
Office 1091  
Telephone 979-845-6897; e-mail: lnapper@bushschool.tamu.edu  
Office Hours: Wednesdays 9-12  

Seminar Description and Purpose  

This seminar examines changes within Russia and in Russia’s role in international politics since 1991, with emphasis on the period of Vladimir Putin’s presidency. The seminar will explore Putin’s approach to political, economic, and social challenges facing Russia, as well as the war in Chechnya and terrorism within Russia. The seminar will also examine Russia’s role in contemporary international politics since 1991, especially its critical relationship with the United States. Seminar participants will consider “lessons learned” in Russia’s transition from communism, and United States policy toward Russia since 1991, and their relevance for other regions and nations in transition. In addition, the seminar will assess whether Russia ought to be considered a “failing state”, and, if so, the possible importance for the U.S. of state failure in Russia. Finally, the seminar will consider the nature and importance of leadership in transition societies.  

Course Requirements:  

In order to stress practice as well as theory, seminar participants will participate in a written and oral simulation, as well as seminar discussion of the reading. Active participation is central to the seminar and represents a major component of the course grade. Participation grades will be primarily determined by the energy and quality of the seminar participant’s leadership in seminar discussion and contribution to the simulation. Assignments submitted late without the advance permission of the instructor will be assessed a 1.0 penalty, equivalent to a letter grade.  

Book Review: Seminar participants will prepare a book review (3-5 pages) evaluating the conduct of U.S.-Russian negotiations at Presidential level. Participants may choose to review a contemporary account of summitry during the presidency of George H.W. Bush (At The Highest Levels) or the presidency of Bill Clinton (The Russia Hand). Book reviews are due at week seven of the seminar (October 13). The book review will count 20% of the course grade.  

Leadership of Seminar Discussion: Each student will lead one hour of the seminar discussion once during the semester. During the first half hour the student will make a twenty minute (timed) presentation on one of the “indicators of instability” from the Foreign Policy “Failed States Index”, as it applies to Russia. At the end of the seminar, the student should submit to the instructor a written version of this presentation in the form of a full text, detailed speaking notes, or a power point presentation. The “Failed
States Index” and data on the indicators that make up the index may be found in the July/August 2005 issue of the journal Foreign Policy (see www.foreignpolicy.com). Do you agree with the rating assigned to Russia? Why? How important is that indicator to possible state failure in Russia? Does it matter to the United States? The final ten minutes of the first half hour should be reserved for Q&A from the seminar.

During the second half hour the student will make a twenty minute (timed) presentation on the “lessons learned” from Russia’s transition for U.S. policy toward the former Soviet Union and other regions or nations currently in transition. In order to help stimulate discussion a “food for thought” article or book segment will be assigned in addition to each week’s reading on Russia. At the end of the seminar, the student should submit to the instructor a written version of this presentation in the form of a full text, detailed speaking notes, or a power point presentation. The last ten minutes of this half hour should be reserved for Q&A.

Leadership of the seminar discussion will count 20% of the course grade.

**Summit Preparation:** During the second half of the seminar, participants will prepare a simulated U.S.-Russia summit between Presidents Bush and Putin. The seminar will be divided into “Team USA”, which will prepare President Bush and “Team Russia”, which will prepare President Putin for the summit. Each seminar participant will select a particular issue and prepare a two-page action memo to the President on handling the issue at the summit. Each participant will then brief the President on the issue in preparation for the summit. The action memo (due week 11, November 10) and briefing of the President (in class week 13, December 1) will count 20% of the course grade.

**Summit Simulation:** During the summit simulation (in class week 13, December 1), participants from each team will present their side’s view of each issue and seek to provide their “Presidents” with options for constructive outcomes. The Presidents will react to the presentations and may ask questions or direct follow-up work. Participation in the summit simulation will count 20% of the course grade.

**Research Paper:** For the seminar final assignment, each participant will select a topic in Russia’s contemporary internal affairs or foreign policy and prepare a paper (7-10 pages) examining the debate among Russians about the topic. This paper will be based on research in primary Russian sources. Russian language ability is not required. Seminar participants should reach agreement with the instructor about the topic for the research paper by week four of the seminar (September 22). The final paper will count 20% of the course grade. The research paper is due week 14, December 6, redefined day.

**Grades**

Grades on written papers and simulations will be assessed on a rising scale from 1-7 points. The average point total for the entire seminar will be used to calculate final grades as follows:
Average point total of 6.25 or higher | A
Average point total of 5.75 or higher | B
Average point total of 5.25 or higher | C
Average point total of 4.25 or higher  | D
Average point total less than 4.25    | F

**Academic Honesty:** Students who engage in plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including failure in the course and possible dismissal from the university. Please consult the latest issue of the Texas A&M Student Rules, especially the section on Scholastic Dishonesty.

**Americans with Disability Act (ADA):** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation for their disabilities. If you believe that you have a disability requiring accommodation, please contact the Department of Student Life, Services for Students with Disabilities, in Room 126, Koldus Building (phone 845-1637)

**Reading:** The seminar will draw upon a variety of sources, including the following:


[www.amcham.ru](http://www.amcham.ru)  The American Chamber of Commerce in Russia website.
www.cdi.org/russia/johnson: Current articles on Russian affairs in English and English translation.

www.mid.ru: The official website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia.

Course Schedule

Week 1 (September 1) – Introduction to the Seminar

Unit One: Russia’s Internal Politics and Its Place in World Affairs

Week 2 (September 8) – Leadership in a “Time of Troubles”

- Lynch, How Russia is Not Ruled, pp. 128-159.
- Shevtsova, Putin’s Russia, pp. 44-68.
- George W. Breslauer, “Evaluating Gorbachev and Yeltsin as Leaders” in Brown and Shevtsova, Gorbachev, Yeltsin, and Putin, pp. 45-64.

Week 3 (September 15) – Putin’s Russia

- Lynch, How Russia is Not Ruled, pp. 159-165.
- Shevtsova, Putin’s Russia, pp. 69-133.

Week 4 (September 22) – Can Russia Rebound?

- Shevtsova, Putin’s Russia, pp.396-407.
- “Dire Demographic Trends Cast a Shadow on Russia’s Future,” RAND Policy Brief (Available online at www.rand.org/publicationsRB/RB5054)
- Food for Thought: Lynch, How Russia is Not Ruled, pp. 208-238.

* Research Paper Topic Agreed with Instructor

Week 5 (September 29) - Prospects for Freedom and Justice

- Shevtsova, *Putin's Russia*, 134-186 and 322-351.

**Week 6 (October 6) – Does Russia Matter in International Politics?**

- Lynch, *How Russia is Not Ruled*, pp. 239-255

**Unit Two: Russia’s Transformation and American Foreign Policy**

**Week 7 (October 13) – Stability or Regime Change?**

- Shevtsova, *Putin’s Russia*, pp. 221-258.
- Goldgeier and McFaul, *Power and Purpose*, pp. 18-40 and pp. 120-156.

* Book Review Due

**Week 8 (October 20) – Strategic Competition or Partnership?**

Week 9 (October 27) – Can Outside Support for Reform Work?

- Shevtsova, Putin’s Russia, pp. 294-321.
- Goldgeier and McFaul, Power and Purpose, pp. 59-86 and 87-119.

Week 10 (November 3) – Things Fall Apart – NATO, Kosovo, and Economic Collapse

- Goldgeier and McFaul, Power and Purpose, pp. 183-266.

Week 11 (November 10) – Chechnya (Again) and No Deals

- Goldgeier and McFaul, Power and Purpose, pp. 267-304.

*Two-Page Action Memo Due


- Goldgeier and McFaul, Power and Purpose, pp. 305-329
- Shevtsova, Putin’s Russia, pp. 352-395.

Week 13 (December 1) – U.S.-Russia Summit Simulation


Week 14 (December 6) – Redefined Day

*Final Assignment Research Paper Due