

## RUSSIAN POLITICS AND SOCIETY

The lectures and tutorials in this course enable students to examine the workings of the Russian political system; the functioning of its main institutions; and to assess policies at federal and regional level.

The course starts with the debates on whether Russia is a “normal country” and whether it is a democracy with reference to the success of the post-communist reforms and Russia’s communist past and legacies—the factors affecting almost every theme in the course: from elections and political parties to the media and civil society.

The course also covers some key problem areas, each addressed in policies to a varying degree: corruption, military power, big business, demography.

### PRELIMINARY READING

Ruchard Sakwa, *Russian Politics and Society*. Forth Edition. Routledge 2008.

*Contemporary Russian Politics: A Reader*, ed. by Archie Brown. Oxford University Press, 2001.

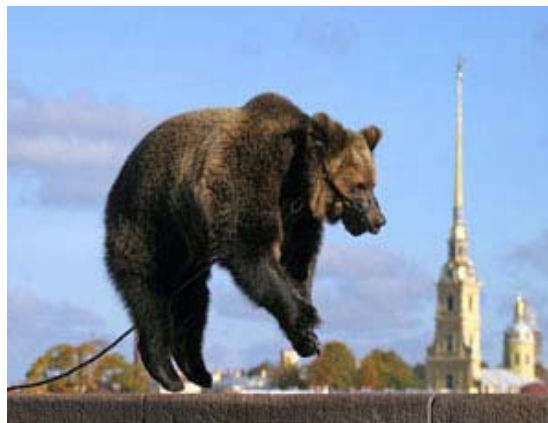
*The Dynamics of Russian Politics: Putin’s Reform of Federal-Regional Relations*, ed. by Peter Reddaway and Robert W. Orttung. Volumes I and II. New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2005.

*Russian Politics under Putin*, ed. By Cameron Ross. Manchester University Press, 2004.

*Putin’s Russia: Past Imperfect, Future Uncertain*, ed by Dale R. Herspring. Revised ed. Rowman and Littlefield, 2004.

Edwin Bacon, *Contemporary Russia*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2005

Alena Ledeneva, *How Russia Really Works: The Informal Practices that Shaped Post-Soviet Politics and Economy*. Cornell University Press, 2006.



**Title: Russian Politics and Society**  
**Course Code: SESS2103**  
**Course-unit value: 1.0cu**

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**Availability: Full Year**

**Open to: students who have successfully passed the Introduction to Politics prerequisite course**

**Course leader: Professor Alena Ledeneva**

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**Aims: TO ENABLE STUDENTS:**

1. to examine the workings of the Russian political system
2. to analyse functioning of its main institutions
3. to assess policies at federal and regional level

**Objectives: By the end of the course, you will have acquired:**

1. **Up-to-date knowledge of current affairs in Russia**
  2. **Analytical and critical skills in assessing policies at federal level**
  3. **Some knowledge of Russia's regions**
  4. **Writing concisely on the subject and presenting without reading**
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**Teaching & Learning Methods:**

**Number of Hours:**

*Lectures*

*20*

*Tutorials*

*20*

**Assessment:**

***Coursework:***

Each student prepares news reports, two presentations and one essay per term (2,000 words each)

Essay deadlines:

First tutorial after the reading week in term 1

First tutorial after the reading week in term 2

***Examination:***

**100% unseen written examination, 3 hours (3 questions)**

**AFFILIATE STUDENTS:**

**First Semester only:**

*2 essays amounting to 8,000 words (2 copies of each to be submitted to the students' office)*

**Second Semester only:**

*2 essays amounting to 8,000 words (2 copies of each to be submitted to the students' office)*