This course examines political, economic and social developments that took place in the countries that were once part of the Soviet Union, since the collapse of communism in 1991. The collapse has led to the emergence newly independent states (NIS), most of which currently form the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Since 1991, most of these newly independent states went through political, economic and social transformation yet in varying degrees. This period since 1991 might be a very short amount of time to judge the success or the failure of this grand transformation, however, the main aim for this course is to analyze this variation in the post-soviet space. As the class schedule below shows, the main focus of the course will be on Russia, but we will also spend time comparing and contrasting the recent developments in the post-Soviet space, dealing with issues such as the Soviet legacy, the state of the political and economic transitions and themes that dominate post-Soviet politics across the post-Soviet space.

Reading Materials:
Reserve Readings:
There will be book chapters and articles. These will be left with the copier shop on the ground floor of the FEASS building. Needless to say, all readings are required readings.

Assignments and Grading:
1. Midterm: 40% (in class) => November 9th
2. Quiz: 5% each, 15% total => October 12th, December 7th, December 28th
   • There will be three quizzes. They will account for 5% of your overall grade each. This means if you take all three of the quizzes you might have an extra, 5 points added to your overall grade. This also means there will be NO MAKE-UP FOR ANY OF THESE QUIZZES as the third quiz is a make up for those who missed the first or the second one. So, if you want extra points you take three of the quizzes. If you miss one, you take the other two. If you miss both quizzes that means you also missed the chance for the make up quiz.
3. Final: 50% (in-class) To be announced by the Deans’ Office in early December.

TOTAL: 105% (if you take all three quizzes.)

If You Want to Get an ‘A’ in this course......
YOU.................................
(1) should not skip any classes,
(2) should do the reading assignments regularly,
(3) **should take notes** while doing the readings (this will save you enormous amount of time when you are studying for the exams)

(4) **should think critically and comparatively** while doing the readings and listening to the lectures.

**Make-up, Grading and Academic Dishonesty Policy:**

**MAKE UP:** Since, unfortunately, medical reporting system in Turkey is openly misused (or abused, to be more correct), **I reserve the right to decide who deserves the right to take the make-up exam on a case by case basis. That means, a doctors report does not automatically qualify you for a make up exam.**

Apart from the medical excuses, excuses like “‘I have another exam/paper due the same day,’ ‘our family pet just passed away,’ ‘I broke up/quarreled with the girlfriend/boyfriend/spouse,’ ‘the alarm clock did not go off so couldn’t make it to the exam,’ etc.,” **will not be** accepted as emergencies that entitle the student for a make-up.

**GRADING:** At the end of the semester, before asking **me** why you got the grade that you got, please, do ask **yourself** how your performance was for this course. Below is what Bilkent University administration asks from the instructors to keep in mind while evaluating students’ performance.

- **A+:** Truly OUTSTANDING performance. [An indication of having achieved a full grasp and an exceptional analysis and synthesis of the material combined with a display of superb analytical and writing performance. This grade is left to the discretion of the instructor and only 1 student per class with a size larger than 25 can have it.]
- **A:** Excellent [Superb performance in assignments, full attendance, and the indication of the having done all the assigned readings.]
- **A-:** Very good.
- **B+:** Good.
- **B:** Somewhat good.
- **B-:** More than adequate.
- **C+, C:** Varying degrees of acceptable/adequate performance during the course.
- **C-, D+, D:** These grades imply less than adequate performance but they will enable the student to pass the course.
- **F:** Less than minimally acceptable performance during the course.
- **FX:** Failure as a result of not fulfilling either one or all of the assignment requirements of the course.

**ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:** Academic dishonesty is not tolerated and punished in accordance with the university regulations. Regulations regarding academic dishonesty can be found at [http://www.provost.bilkent.edu.tr/procedures/DisipKopya.htm](http://www.provost.bilkent.edu.tr/procedures/DisipKopya.htm)

**A note on Attendance and Grade-Beggars:**

I don’t take attendance. I believe that you are all grown ups and know that every action has a consequence. This means that if you don’t show up for classes you will likely not to succeed in this course, and since you are grown ups, I assume that you are fully cognizant of this fact. So if you think you will be missing more than two classes and won’t be able to make up for it properly please don’t take this course. And, please, please, please, after the final exam, don’t come up to me asking for a grade that you really didn’t deserve. **I give my students more than enough chances to get good grades. If you can’t make good use of these opportunities this is absolutely your fault, not mine.**
Making Use of the Extra Class Hour: As you all know, we have an extra hour allocated for this class, which is Friday 14:40. We are going to make use of this Friday 14:40 hour several times during the semester. Below you can find the list and the dates of extra class and no class.

September 24: Extra Class  
October 1: No Class  
October 29: No Class: Republic Day Holiday  
November 5: Extra Class  
November 12: No Class  
November 16 and 19: No Class: Kurban Bayramı  
December 24: Extra Class  
December 31: No Class

Class Schedule:
Week 1: September 17: Introduction to the Course

Part I: The USSR and Its Aftermath
  • Thomas Remington, “The Soviet System and Its Demise,” in Politics in Russia, pp.30-51. [September 24th- 2 hours]

Part II: The Challenges of Dual Transition:
  • Thomas Remington, “Parliamentary Politics in Russia,” in Developments in Russian Politics 7, pp. 43-60.
  [No class on October 1st]

Week 4: October 5 and 8: From Planned Economy to Market Economy

Week 5: October 12 and 15: Semipresidentialism and the Role of (or the lack thereof) Political Parties
  • Quiz #1 (October 12nd)
  • Henry E. Hale, “Russia’s Political Pries and their Substitutes,” in Developments in Russian Politics 7, pp. 81-97.

Week 6: October 19 and 22: Economy and Society
  • Philip Hanson, “Managing the Economy,” in Developments in Russian Politics 7, pp. 188-203.

Week 7: October 26: Rule of Law and the Quality of Democracy
  • Gordon B. Smith, “Legal Reform and the Dilemma of Rule of Law,” in Developments in Russian Politics 7, pp.135-146.
  • Stephen White, “Classifying Russia’s Politics,” in Developments in Russian Politics 7, pp.263-281/

[October 29: No Class: Republic Day Holiday]
Week 8: November 2 and 5: Issues of Federalism
- Cameron Ross, “Reforming the Federation,” in *Developments in Russian Politics* 7, pp. 152-170.

[November 5th = 2 hr class]

Week 9: **November 9: MIDTERM EXAM**

[No class on November 12th]

Week 10: November 16 and 19: NO CLASS: Kurban Bayramı

**PART II: Current Political, Economic and Social Situation in the Post-Soviet Space**

Week 11: November 23 and 26: Caucasus and Central Asia I: War and Instability

Week 12: November 30 and December 3: Caucasus and Central Asia II: Authoritarianism: Variations on the Theme

Week 13: December 7 and 10: Post-Soviet Space: Democracy Promotion?
- **Quiz #2** (December 7th)

**PART III-The International Relations of the Post-Soviet Space**

Week 14: December 14 and 17: Turkey, Russia and the FSU and Issues of Energy

Week 15 and 16: December 21 and 24 and 28: Russia and the World
[December 24-2hour class]
- Margot Light, “Foreign Policy,” in *Developments in Russian Politics* 7, pp. 221-240.
- Edwin Bacon, *Contemporary Russia*, Ch. 8, Russia and the World, pp. 195-216.

**Week 16: December 28:**

- *Quiz # 3* (December 28th)
- The international relations of the post-Soviet space continued.
- Wrap up, final thoughts and conclusions.

[December 31 No class]

*FINAL EXAM=> TBD by the Dean’s Office*