

Putin's Russia

FALL 2020

Special Topics
RUSN 3060 / POLI 3820

Prof. Yuri Leving

Lecture, discussion, film screenings: ASYNCHRONOUS (pre-recorded)

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Office Hours: by appointment via email.

Web: <http://www.dal.ca/faculty/arts/russian-studies.html>



Course Description

Vladimir Putin has confounded world leaders and defied their assumptions as they tried to figure him out, only to misjudge him time and again. “The Putin Mystique” (Anna Arutunyan’s term) will take us on a journey through the Russia of Vladimir Putin, named by Forbes magazine in 2013 as the most powerful man in the world. This is the man who, allegedly, three years later sealed fate of the US presidential elections. While looking at Putin’s rise to power, we will also seek during this course to go beneath politics and policy to look at how human beings experience state power within the cultural phenomena including visual arts, literature, cinema, TV, Internet, popular music, and photography.

The course (normally) includes lectures, discussions, and film screenings; due to COVID-19 the syllabus and delivery modes have been adjusted. Please, follow the Worksheets and listen to podcasts that are now being assigned to various topics made available on the cloud storage. (If there is no Worksheet attached, then this means that the module is pretty self-explanatory.)

Required readings:



Scholarly resources will be supplied as PDF files

Recommended readings:

Arutunyan, Anna. *The Putin Mystique: Inside Russia's Power Cult* (2014)



"The Russians hacked my homework."

- No, as a Russian Canadian myself, I won't believe you. So, please, do both of us a little favor: complete your readings.

Other literature required for discussions:

Video and Audio files = Materials to be provided by instructor as electronic files for viewing on your home devices.

Note on ASYNCHRONOUS nature of the course:

The course is arranged around *case studies* based on a particular topic.

I will supply an article/chapter along with a Worksheet to assist you with learning process in this ASYNCHRONOUS mode of delivery.

You will focus on reading assigned materials, listening to a specially recorded podcasts, viewing videos and answering questions in the supplied worksheets.

You are free to advance at your own pace. There will be a **Midterm** and **Final Paper** (fixed dates).

Should you have any questions or experience technical difficulties, do not hesitate to reach me out via email.

ATTENDANCE AND GRADING POLICIES

<p>1. Film Report</p> <p>To be completed after viewing the film “Student” (see Topic # 10). Can be submitted around the Midterm time.</p>	10%
<p>2. Midterm</p> <p>Take-home exam, distributed on 20 October, and to be returned within 24 hours (21 October). This will be a short essay addressing questions based on materials from the first half of the Fall 2020 course. There are 22 topics in total, so the Midterm will cover the first 11 from the list below.</p>	30%.
<p>3. Final Research Paper</p> <p>Final research paper (13 pages + bibliography) on the topic of your choice, approved by the instructor, incorporating materials from academic articles, course readings and viewings of clips. Email me your topic no later than 8 November 2020. This paper will be due on the last day of our course, 8 December 2020.</p>	50%.
<p>4. Attendance and Participation</p> <p>This course is <u>ASYNCHRONOUS</u>. If you want to keep up with the material, you need to do the readings, watch the video essays and listen to podcasts. As a result, you will be able to identify and understand the key arguments of the essays and topics covered in the course. 10 % will be automatically credited to you upon successful completion of the course in lieu of regular attendance.</p>	10 %

Conversion of numerical grades to Final Letter Grades follows the Dalhousie Common Grade Scale

A+ (90-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (65-69)	D (50-54)
A (85-89)	B (73-76)	C (60-64)	F (<50)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (55-59)	

Notice on Copyright

Due to the nature of the ASYNCHRONOUS delivery of this online course in the COVID-19 affected world, materials that you need in order to complete the course and satisfy its academic requirements were uploaded online.

Please, be advised that by taking the course you are agreeing for **strictly personal use of the downloaded files – be it films, video clips or e-books – for academic purposes only.**

IMPORTANT! Copying and/or sharing the files that you get access to in the framework of this course outside of your virtual classroom is absolutely prohibited.¹

SCHEDULE

Introduction:

Meet your instructor, Prof. Yuri Leving, and learn more about the Department of Russian Studies: <https://vimeo.com/452219999/4c17c93cdd>

Since I am not featured in the pre-recorded lectures and audio podcasts (although my voice does!), I thought it would be fair to briefly introduce myself and tell you about what I am doing at Dalhousie. To add a human touch, I have recorded this introduction in my home office. Because of COVID-19, unfortunately, I can't meet all of you in person, but feel free to tell me about yourself (of course, only if you wish) and send me emails any time.

Online education doesn't mean that I am not available – on the contrary, I am here for you and I want to enhance your learning experience.

To explore **topics 1-7** go here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13AXVg1uQnJDlKDI8tCaDfCRF9oeNtYR7?usp=sharing>

¹ By proceeding you are agreeing not to circulate any of the materials that were compiled for this course, including the lectures/modules/podcasts, which are considered the intellectual property of the instructor.

You will be asked to **delete the files** after viewing at the end of the semester.

If you have any concerns or questions, please let me know as soon as possible.

This course includes screening of the films that are protected by copyright. The public display of audio/visual materials on campus falls under the Copyright Act of Canada (More details here:

<https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/for-faculty/showing-films-on-campus.html>).

Topic 1. Putin's Russia: Introduction – From the Czar Yeltsin to the rise of Putin

Topic 2. Who are you, Mr. Putin?

Topic 3. Feminist Protest and Religion: *Pussy Riot*

Topic 4. Political Art in Putin's Russia (Pavlensky)

Topic 5. Music, Riot and Money (Shnurov)

Topic 6. Dictators and Protests in Belarus after the 2020 elections

Topic 7. Poisoning enemies of the State – Putin's Style

Topic 8. Art and Protest in Putin's Russia

Topic 9. Art on Trial – 2

Topic 10. Attack on Theater (Serebrennikov). Watch film *Student*.

Topic 11. Putin's Oil and the Russian Oligarchs

Topic 12. Sports, Corruption and Media Politics in the Sochi Olympics

Topic 13. Petrostate – Power, Money and People

Topic 14. The Red Web

Topic 15. The Red Web – 2

Topic 16. Protesting Putinism and Corruption

Topic 17. Russia's Foreign Policy – Canada and USA

Topic 18. Russia's Foreign Policy – Satellite States and the Middle East

Topic 19. Putin's Kleptocracy

Topic 20. Sex, Politics, and Putin

Topic 21. Sex, Politics, and Putin – 2

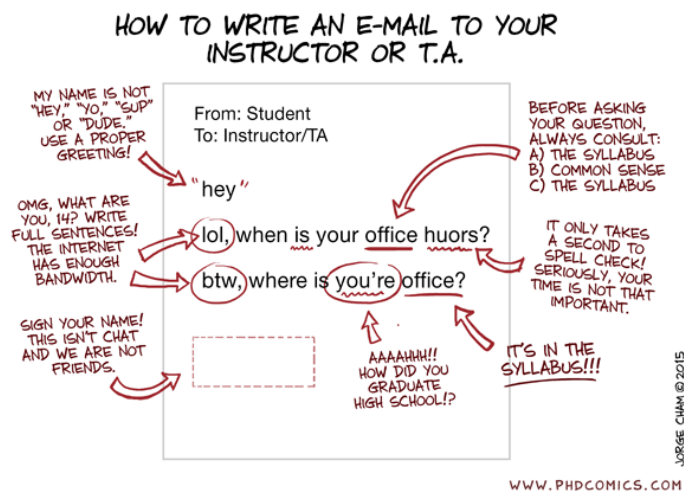
Topic 22. BONUS: Russian food

Classes end, fall term – 8 December 2020

Your paper is due!

Appendix I

Post Scriptum on Cyber Security – if you don't want KGB to hack your email account, follow these simple rules:



Appendix II

SECTION B: UNIVERSITY POLICIES, STATEMENTS, GUIDELINES and RESOURCES for SUPPORT

This course is governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the University Calendar and the Senate (follow the link to the current University Regulations – Academic Calendars).

University Statements

Academic Integrity http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html

At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect (The Center for Academic Integrity, Duke University, 1999). As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity.

Accessibility https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html

The Advising and Access Services Centre is Dalhousie's centre of expertise for student accessibility and accommodation. The advising team works with students who request accommodation as a

result of: a disability, religious obligation, or any barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Human Rights legislation (NS, NB, PEI, NFLD).

Student Code of Conduct

https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/student-life-policies/code-of-student-conduct.html

Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner—perhaps through a restorative justice process. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution.

Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect

Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and supported, which is why our Strategic Direction prioritizes fostering a culture of diversity and inclusiveness (Strategic Priority 5.2).

(read more: <http://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html>)

Recognition of Mi'kmaq Territory

Dalhousie University would like to acknowledge that the University is on Traditional Mi'kmaq Territory. The Elders in Residence program provides students with access to First Nations elders for guidance, counsel and support. Visit the office in the McCain Building (room 3037) or contact the programs at elders@dal.ca or 902-494-6803 (leave a message).

University Policies and Programs

Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates)

http://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html

University Grading Practices: Statement of Principles and Procedures

https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html

Scent-Free Program

<http://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html>

Learning and Support Resources

General Academic Support – Advising

https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html

(Halifax)

<https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/agricultural-campus/student-success-centre/academic-support.html>

(Truro)

Fair Dealing Guidelines

<https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/guidelines/fair-dealing-guidelines.html>

Dalhousie University Library <http://libraries.dal.ca>

Indigenous Students

https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/indigenous.html

Black Students

https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/communities/black-student-advising.html

International Students

https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/international-centre.html

Student Health Services

https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness.html

Counselling

https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/frequently-asked-questions-august-2017.html

Copyright Office

<https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office.html>

E-Learning website

<http://www.dal.ca/dept/elearning.html>

Dalhousie Student Advocacy Services

<http://dsu.ca/dsas>

Dalhousie Ombudsperson https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/where-to-get-help/ombudsperson.html

Writing Centre https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html

Faculty or Departmental Advising Support: Studying for Success

Program: http://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html