

**POLS 4500/POLS 5500: Russian Political Culture**  
**Political Science, Saint Louis University**  
**Tuesday 4:15-7:00pm**  
**Spring 2024**

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From [redacted] ?  
( [redacted] : [redacted] , 2005)

**Office hours:** Tuesday and Thursday 2:15-3:15, and by appointment. Also, feel free to drop by.

link:  
<https://slu.zoom.us/j/7172394449> (there is a waiting room set up, and you may need to wait a bit).

### **About this course**

Welcome! We often hear generalizations about what Russians think and value, like that Russians prefer order or a strong leader or that they have the wrong ideas to sustain democracy. But how do we know what ordinary Russians think? This question is especially hard to answer when we think about the past, where the record left behind is incomplete. But it is also difficult in the present in a country where people do not enjoy elemental political freedoms like freedom of speech or an uncensored press. In this course, we will



This class also fulfills the social science requirement of the College of Arts and Sciences core curriculum. Students will acquire conceptual tools and methodologies to analyze and understand their social world. With these tools, they will be able to act in their world more effectively and become forces for positive change. They will gain a better understanding of human diversity. Students will be able to think and write critically about human behavior and community. They will become aware of the various methodological approaches used by social scientists.

Participation. This is a seminar class, and that means that it is grounded in discussion by students, not lecturing by me. You should think about class as a time for exploration: for figuring out what the readings



pressures in your life, you may consider that risk acceptable. The risk-free strategy is to hand in work on time. (Note, this policy does not apply to in-class work or weekly reading reviews, where there is a penalty if your work is not on time.)

Civility. Sometimes we will discuss controversial issues in class, and you may disagree with things you hear in class. You are always welcome to disagree either with me or with other students, but you must do so in a respectful and informed manner, appropriate to an institution of higher learning.

Plagiarism. It is critical that all work that you hand in is your own work and correctly gives credit to other sources that you consult. Work that does not meet this standard will receive a grade of 0.

### **Tips for success**

Do all the reading and think about it. It is very difficult to fully engage with the topics we will be examining without doing the reading.

I always like to talk to you. If you are having trouble with the material or the way we use class time, let me know. Please come to my office hours or make an appointment for a better time to talk. We can try to identify the problem and explore new strategies that, hopefully, will lead to greater success for you. If there is something that you want to share with me anonymously, please put a note in my mailbox in McGannon 128.

I am happy to give you feedback on anything you are working on. For written assignments, I will read papers in any form (outlines, partial drafts, full drafts) *before* they are due, and I will give you oral feedback. Since my feedback will be oral, you will need to bring the work to me during office hours or another time we have scheduled.

You might find some of the phenomena discussed in this course and some of the readings about them

## Russian Political Culture

**January 30 Methodology and causality in the study of political culture**

ALL STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE THE READING REVIEW THIS WEEK.

*Comparative Politics: Rationality, Culture, and Structure*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, ed. By Mark Irving Lichbach and Alan S. Zuckerman (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009), pp. 134-161 (e-reserve). The library has this text as an online resource if you want to check the bibliography for additional sources.

Lisa Wedeen,  
*Review* 96, no. 4 (2002): 713-28 (e-reserve or JStore)

*American Political Science*

Graeme Gill, *Building an Authoritarian Polity: Russia in Post-Soviet Times* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2015), pp. 1-5 (e-reserve).

*Russian Politics and Law*, 45,  
no. 3 (May-June 2007): 31-61 (e-reserve or Academic Search Complete).

*Related Readings:*

Almond, Gabriel A. 1983. "Communism and Political Culture Theory." *Comparative Politics* 15 (January): 127-138.

Bates, Robert H., Rui J.P. de Figueiredo Jr., and Barry R. Weingast. 1998.  
*Politics & Society* 26, no. 2 (June): 221-256.

Brown, Archie, ed. 1984. *Political Culture and Communist Studies*. Armonk, NY: M. E. Sharpe, Inc.  
*Polity* 27: 559-585.

Chabal, Patrick, and Jean-Pascal Daloz. 2006. *Culture Troubles: Politics and the Interpretation of Meaning*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Culture Explain? *Comparative Politics* 11, no. 2 (January): 127-145.

Geertz, Clifford. 1973. *The Interpretation of Cultures*. New York: Basic Books.

Inglehart, Ronald, and Christian Welzel. 2005. *Modernization, Cultural Change, and Democracy: The Human Development Sequence*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Lane, Ruth. 1992. "Political Culture: Residual Category or General Theory?" *Comparative Political Studies* 25, no. 3 (October): 362-387.

Archie Brown, ed. *Political Culture and Communist Studies*, Armonk, NY: M. E. Sharpe, Inc.,  
Muller, Edward N., and Mitchell A. Seligson. 1994. "Civic Culture and Democracy: The Question of Causal Relationships." *American Political Science Review* 88, no. 3 (September): 635-652.

Norton, Anne. 2004. *Theses on Politics, Culture, and Method*. New Haven: Yale University Press.

Reisinger, William M. 1995. "The Renaissance of a Rubric: Political Culture as Concept and Theory." *International Journal of Public Opinion Research* 7, no. 4 (Winter 1995): 328-352.

*Democratization* 14, no. 3 (June): 407-424.

Wedeen, Lisa. 1999, 2015. *Ambiguities of Domination: Politics, Rhetoric, and Symbols in Contemporary Syria*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.

Welch, Stephen. 1987. "Review Article: Issues in the Study of Political Culture The Example of Communist Party States."

**PART 2: POPULAR RESPONSE TO SOVIET AUTOCRACY**

**February 6 *Revolution and Collectivization***

V. I. Lenin, Excerpts from *What is to be Done? Burning Questions of Our Moment* (New York: International Publishers, 1969), pp. 40-41, 78-80, 120-123 (e-reserve).

from Marxists.org,



February 13 *Citizen response to arbitrary autocracy and war*













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April 16 *Research papers*

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**University and College Policies and Available Support**

**Academic Integrity**

*Academic integrity is honest, truthful and responsible conduct in all academic endeavors.* The mission of

