

PoliSci 213 | PoliSci 313 | REES 213
U.S. – Russia Relations After the Cold War

Term: Spring 2017

Units: 2

Instructor: Michael McFaul, mcfaul@stanford.edu

Time: Wednesdays 1:30 PM - 3:20 PM, bi-weekly

Location: 300-303

Course Description

A quarter century ago, the Soviet Union collapsed and the Cold War ended. At the time, Russian leaders aspired to build democratic and market institutions at home. They also wanted to “join the West.” American presidents – Democrat and Republican – encouraged these domestic and international changes. Today, U.S.-Russia relations are once again confrontational, reminiscent of relations during the Cold War. This course seeks to analyze shifts in U.S.-Russia relations, with special attention given to the U.S.-Russia relationship during Obama’s presidency. The main text for this course will be a new book in draft by Professor McFaul, as well as accompanying academic articles.

Office Hours

By appointment only, schedule with Anna Coll (acoll@stanford.edu)

Assignments

Students will come prepared to discuss, debate, and critique *Reset*. It is expected that students will do additional research to support their arguments in classroom discussion. Students will write a 5-10 page book review of “*Reset*”, due on June 9th, 11:59 pm.

Evaluation

50%: class participation. 50%: final paper

Course Materials

Reset manuscript (will be provided)

COURSE SCHEDULE

April 12: Introduction

Michael McFaul, Stephen Sestanovich, and John Mearsheimer, “Faulty Powers: Who Started the Ukraine Crisis?” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 93, No. 6 (November/ December 2014): pp. 167-178.

Michael McFaul and Kathryn Stoner, “Who Lost Russia (This Time)? Vladimir Putin,” *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol. 38, No. 2 (Summer 2015): pp. 167-187.

“Sergey Lavrov: The Interview, ” *The National Interest*. March 29, 2017
<http://nationalinterest.org/feature/sergey-lavrov-the-interview-19940>

April 26: Gorbachev, Yeltsin, Putin

Chapter 1: Gorbachev’s Reforms, Reagan’s Idealism, and The First Reset

Chapter 2: Yeltsin’s (Unfinished) Revolution

Chapter 3: Putin’s Thermidor

May 10: “Reset”

Chapter 4: “Change We Believe In”

Chapter 5: Theory of the Reset

Chapter 6: “Closing Out Accounts” at the Moscow Summit

Chapter 7: Negotiator in Chief and the New START Treaty

Chapter 8: Denying Iran the Bomb

May 17: The Harder Issues

Chapter 10: European & Eurasian Security

Chapter 11: Burgers & Spies

Chapter 13: Missile Defense Cooperation ... Almost

Chapter 14: Arab Spring, Libya, and the Beginning of the End of the Reset

May 24: Public Diplomacy In Putin's Russia

Chapter 15: Becoming "His Excellency"

Chapter 16: Putin Needs an Enemy: The West, Obama, and Me

Chapter 17: Pushing Back

Chapter 18: Twitter and the Two-Step

June 7: The End of the Reset and the Future of U.S.-Russia Relations

Chapter 19: It Takes Two to Tango on Arms Control

Chapter 20: Chasing the Russians, Failing the Syrians

Chapter 21: Dueling on Human Rights, Magnitsky, Yakovlev, and Snowden

Chapter 22: One Last (Partial) Win: Getting Chemical Weapons out of Syria

Chapter 23: Going Home

Chapter 24 Invasion and Annexation in Ukraine

Chapter 25: The End of Reset? Or Can Trump Reset Relations Again?

Evan Osnos, David Remnick, and Joshua Yaffa, "Trump, Putin and the New Cold War. What lay behind Russia's interference in the 2016 election – and what lies ahead?" *The New Yorker*, March 6, 2017 <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2017/03/06/trump-putin-and-the-new-cold-war>