Political Science 147B is an overview of contemporary Russian-American relations. This course assumes no previous study of either international relations or the central Eurasian region. Throughout the course the focus is on America’s “Russia problem.” Thus, throughout the course, you should ask:

- What are Russia’s goals concerning the issue under consideration?
- How do Russian policies and behaviors on this issue affect America’s interests?
- What options to respond are available to the United States government?
- How should we expect Russia and others to respond in turn to each of our options?
- Which option would you recommend that our government choose?

The course is organized as follows:

I. FOREIGN POLICY ANALYSIS: A TEMPLATE
II. EXPLAINING RUSSIAN FOREIGN POLICY BEHAVIOR
   A. Russian Politics and Foreign Policy Behavior, 1992-
   B. Premises for Analysis from Russian Statements of National Security Doctrine
   C. Premises for Analysis from Competing Theories
III. KEY ISSUES ON THE CURRENT AGENDA
   A. The Near Abroad
      Issue #1. Post-Soviet Boundaries and Failed States in Central Eurasia
      Issue #2. Competing Alliances in Central Eurasia
      Issue #3. Regime Change in Central Eurasia
   B. The Eurasian Contact Zone
      Issue #4. Central Eurasian Energy and Eurasian Power Relations
      Issue #5. Economic and Military Competition in the Not-so-near Abroad
   C. The Global Arena
      Issue #6. The War on Terrorism
      Issue #7. Arms Races, Arms Control, and Proliferation
      Issue #8. Cyber, Information, and Hybrid War

Learning objectives. Upon successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Comment in an informed manner on contemporary Russian foreign policy and eight front-page issues in Russian-American relations.
- Use strategic policy analysis to parse pressing challenges in American relations with many countries (other than or in addition to Russia), to identify options for response to these challenges, and to advise policymakers on prudent/proper courses of action.
- Present an oral background briefing to a professional audience.
- Write a professional-quality memorandum analyzing a policy challenge and suggesting to a policy maker whether and how to respond.

Instructor: Philip G. Roeder proeder@ucsd.edu
Social Sciences Building 382 534-6000
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:00-3:00 pm, and by appointment

Teaching Assistant: John Porten By appointment SSB 326 john.porten@gmail.com
**Readings and Lectures.** All assigned readings are available through Geisel Library’s on-line course reserves. The readings focus on very recent issues and crises. Lectures provide the background, the larger context within which these developments fit, and the strategic policy analysis of individual issues and cases that should be a model for your own work. You should either attend all lectures, listen to the podcasts, or arrange for someone whom you trust to take good notes for you. Copies of the PowerPoints will also be available through the TritonED and Podcast systems.

**Grades.** Your course grade will be based on the following:

- Quiz #1 (on the lecture and reading materials) 20% Thu May 2
- Quiz #2 (on the lecture and reading materials) 20% Thu Jun 6
- Research project topic 0% Tue Apr 16
- Background brief 10% Fri May 10
- Oral background briefing 10% Fri May 24
- Policy analysis memorandum 40% Mon Jun 10

For the computation of course grades all assignments will be graded on a 16-point scale. This is simply the familiar 4-point GPA scale times 4. Thus, letter grades will be assigned the following numerical scores:

- A=16  A-=14  |  B+=13  B=12  B-=10  |  C+=9  C=8  C-=7  |  D=4  |  F=0

**Quizzes.** Each quiz consists of 30 multiple-choice questions. You will have 60 minutes for each quiz. The quizzes seek to check your understanding of the lectures and readings. Each question asks you about the major claims made in lecture or the reading. Please prepare by focusing on the big themes and major points that sum to larger analytic theses rather than learning separate unconnected facts.

**Policy memorandum.** The assignments labelled Research project topic, Background brief, Oral background briefing, and Policy analysis memorandum are all parts of one research project on a topic that you choose in consultation with the instructors of this course. The research assignment is described in a separate document.

**Plagiarism.** You may discuss your research project with others, but your written work must be your own. Please do not jeopardize your academic career and your professional reputation by academic dishonesty. The payoff to dishonesty is very small, the costs—both immediate and long term—can be very high.

**Note:** By enrolling in this course you agree to submit your final paper for textual-similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms-of-use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com website.

**Podcasts.** All lectures will be available through the UCSD Podcast web-site. The PowerPoint slides should be included in these podcasts.

**TritonEd Course Web-site.** On the TritonEd web-site are a copy of this course syllabus and the four parts of the Policy memorandum assignment.
I. FOREIGN POLICY ANALYSIS: A TEMPLATE

Tu Apr 2. Introduction to the Course
Th Apr 4. An Example of Strategic Analysis: The Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962

Read for Thursday:


II. EXPLAINING RUSSIAN FOREIGN POLICY BEHAVIOR

Tu Apr 9. Russian Politics and Foreign Policy Behavior, 1992-
Th Apr 11. Premises for Analysis from Russian Statements of National Security Doctrine

Read for this week:


Tu Apr 16. Premises for Analysis from Competing Theories

Read for Premises from competing theories:


III. KEY ISSUES ON THE CURRENT AGENDA

A. THE NEAR ABROAD

Issue #1. Post-Soviet Boundaries and Failed States

Th Apr 18. How Do We Prevent Russia From Expanding Further? Can We Roll-back Russia?
Tu Apr 23. Case Studies: Transdniestria, South Ossetia, Abkhazia
Th Apr 25. Case Studies: Crimea and the Donbass

Read for Issue #1:


**Issue #2. Competing Alliances in Central Eurasia**

Tu Apr 30. Should the U. S. Extend Security Guarantees throughout Central Eurasia?
Th May 2. Quiz #1
Tu May 7. Current Challenges in Enlarging the Western alliances

Read for Issue #2:

**Issue #3. Regime Change in Central Eurasia**

Th May 9. Should the United States Press for Regime Change in Central Eurasia?
Tu May 14. Openings for and Resistance to U.S. Programs

Read for Issue #3:

**III. KEY ISSUES ON THE CURRENT AGENDA**

**B. THE EURASIAN CONTACT ZONE**

**Issue #4. Central Eurasian Energy and Power**

Th May 16. Should the United States Seek to End Energy Dependence on Russia?

**Issue #5. Economic and Military Competition in the Not-so-near Abroad**

Tu May 21. Can the U. S. Contain Russia in the Arctic, Black Sea, and Middle East?

Read for Issue #5:
**Issue #6. The War on Terrorism in Eurasia**

**Th** May 23. Should We Cooperate with Russia in the War Against Terrorism?

Read for Issue #6:


**III. KEY ISSUES ON THE CURRENT ARENA**

**C. THE GLOBAL ARENA**

**Issue #7. Arms Races, Arms Control, and Proliferation**

**Tu** May 28. Should We Try to Out-build Russia or Cooperate to Limit the Arms Race?

**Th** May 30. The Current Status of the Nuclear Arms Race

Read for Issue #7:


**Issue #8. Cyber, Information, and Hybrid War.**

**Tu** Jun 4. Can the United States Contain Russian Election Meddling to Acceptable Levels?

**Th** Jun 6. **Quiz #2**

Read for Issue #8:
