

## Russia: Politics, Society, and Foreign Policy – 71-288-01

Bar Ilan University

Department of Political Studies

Dr. Anna Geifman

(שיעור, תרגיל, סמינר, סדנה, מעבדה וכד')	Online class in English	סוג הקורס:
	2 hours	היקף נ"ז:
	2024-2025	שנת לימודים:
	Semester 2	סמסטר:
	No assigned hours	יום ושעה
	By prior agreement	שעת קבלה:
	Anna.Geifman@biu.ac.il	מייל מרצה:
	<a href="https://lemida.biu.ac.il">https://lemida.biu.ac.il</a>	קישור לאתר למדה:

### תקציר הקורס

This course examines turbulent relations between state and society in imperial, Communist and post-Communist Russia. Concepts of political ideology and power, unique to Russian national tradition, will be analyzed in historical perspective. Students will learn about patterns in social attitudes towards the imperial government, the Communist regime, and post-Soviet “democracy”. They will also analyze state practices geared towards keeping the population submissive. The phenomenon of “terrorism from below” and “terrorism from above” represents the most extreme manifestation of conflict between government and citizens and will be investigated as a measure of political culture and consciousness in Russia.

### מטרות/תוצרי הלמידה

#### ידע

##### 1. הלומדים יתארו

Students will familiarize themselves with diverse methodologies and controversial interpretation of modern Russian history by historians and political scientists and be able to describe key issues in the unique and complicated process of Russia's national development.

##### 2. הלומדים יגדירו

The objective is to create a context and within it analyze the country's development from a traditional society to Communist dictatorship. The eventual demise of the USSR as a vital event, which to this day impacts the political, economic, and strategic world order is a key issue to be examined thoroughly in course.

##### 3. הלומדים יכתבו

Students will write weekly responses to online questions and analytical final papers, examining key controversies about developmental patterns of the Russian political culture.

#### מיומנויות

##### 1. הלומדים ינתחו

Topics for discussion will include national identity and myths, messianic aspirations (Russia as a “Third Rome” and Communist paradise), and predominantly unsuccessful efforts to deal with transitions, such as political, economic, and psychological transformations. These and other issues will be subject to analytical forum discussions.

##### 2. הלומדים יעריכו

A central purpose of the course is to provide students with intellectual tools and methods of understanding key features of the turbulent political culture, its multiple crises, and their effect on the outside world. The central questions to consider are factors responsible for Russia's position as a powerful player on the world's political arena, and the extent to which they continue to be relevant today.



## למידה פעילה - תכנון מהלך השיעורים:

הערכה תהליכית/מעצבת	קריאה/ צפיה נדרשת	למידה פעילה	נושא השיעור	מס' השיעור
This is a graded assignment.	"The Primary Chronicle" (selections)	Comments and forum discussion	Introduction and מבוא ומיתולוגיה רוסית: מקורותיה של המדינה קווי המתאר של תרבות הפוליטית הרוסית	1
This is a graded assignment.	Daniel Rancour-Laferriere, <i>The Slave Soul of Russia</i> (selections)	Comments and forum discussion	Russian Orthodoxy as state religion; national ideology: Moscow as the "Third Rome" אורתודוקסיה רוסית כדת המדינה; אידיאולוגיה לאומית: במוסקבה בשם "רומא השלישית"	2
This is a graded assignment.	Aleksandr Radishchev, "Journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow"	Comments and forum discussion	The impact of slavery ההשפעה של עבדות	3
This is a graded assignment.	Konstantin Pobedonostsev, <i>The Falsehood of Democracy</i> ; Petr Chaadaev, "Apology of a Madman"	Comments and forum discussion	The Russian Intelligentsia and Political Change האליטה האינטלקטואלית הרוסית ושינוי פוליטי	4
This is a graded assignment.	Fedor Dostoevsky, "The Grand Inquisitor"	Comments and forum discussion	The State-society relationship היחסים בין השלטון לחברה	5
This is a graded assignment.	Ivan Turgenev, "Hamlet and Don Quixote"; Eric Hoffer, <i>The True Believer</i> (selections)	Comments and forum discussion	The radical archetype "המהפכן הארכיטיפי" – הייתכן?	6

This is a graded assignment.	Mikhail Bakunin, Sergei Nechaev, "Catechism of the Revolutionary"	Comments and forum discussion	Intelligentsia and the "Russian revolt" יחס של האליטה האינטלקטואלית למרד הרוסי	7
This is a graded assignment.	Anna Geifman, <i>Thou Shalt Kill</i> , Introduction and Chapter 1	Comments and forum discussion	"Terror of the New Type" "הטרור מן הסוג החדש"	8
This is a graded assignment.	Richard Pipes, "The Origins of Bolshevism: Intellectual Evolution of Young Lenin"	Comments and forum discussion	The Russian revolution and its global impact המהפכה הרוסית וההשפעה הגלובלית שלה	9
This is a graded assignment.	Anna Geifman, "The Red Terror in Soviet Russia"; Anna Geifman, "Lenin's personality profile"; Isaac Babel, Cavalry Army (selections); Mikhail Zoshchenko—selected stories	Comments and forum discussion	The "Red Terror" "הטרור האדום" The "Homo Soveticus" התהוות homo soveticus בעקבות "הטרור האדום"	10
This is a graded assignment.	"The Purge Trials" in Thomas Riha, ed., <i>Readings in the Russian Civilization</i> ; Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, "Buddha's Smile"	Comments and forum discussion	Stalin's "Great Terror" "הטרור הגדול" של סטאלין	11
This is a graded assignment.	Varlam Shalamov, <i>Kolyma Tales</i> (selections); Anna Geifman, "Did Soviet Citizens Love Stalin?"	Comments and forum discussion	Impact on Stalin's terror on civil society הטרור הסטליניסטי והשפעתו על החברה	12

This is a graded assignment.	Krushchev's "Secret Speech"; Gail Warshofsky Lapidus, "Ethnonationalism and Political Stability - the Soviet Case"	Comments and forum discussion	The Cold War; Khrushchev; the "Thaw"; de-Stalinization and its impact at home and abroad "המלחמה הקרה"; חרושצ'וב; "הפשרת שלגים"; דסטלניזציה, והשפעתה ברוסיה ומחוצה לה; The Stagnation Period "תקופת הקיפאון"	13
This is a graded assignment.	Caroline Humphrey, "Dirty Business, 'Normal Life', and the Dream of Law"; Amy Knight, "The KGB, Perestroika, and the Collapse of the Soviet Union"; Peter Rutland, "Putin's Path to Power"	Comments and forum discussion	Glasnost' and Perestroika; גלסנוסט ופרסטרויקה Putin's Russia רוסיה של פוטין	14

ציון סופי 

משקל בציון הסופי	תיאור התוצר
50% מהציון הסופי	Online class participation and weekly assignments.
50% מהציון הסופי	Final paper

דרישות הקורס 

Weekly assignments will be done in forums, where students will answer questions based on assigned readings. Having completed this, students will read and comment on their colleagues' replies.

Academic Honesty: students are responsible for maintaining academic honesty, a key value in scholarship. They are to certify the integrity of all their work, including weekly or by-weekly

online submissions and final paper. Students must understand clearly what constitutes plagiarism, which will not be tolerated. They should only submit work which is their own and cite or reference their sources, i.e., the intellectual input of others. Students must never employ unauthorized assistance in preparing and completing assignments.



There are no prerequisites for this class, but since it is conducted in English, students must have working knowledge of the language, especially proficiency in reading, and sufficient writing skills.

## ביבליוגרפיה: תכנים לקריאה, צפיה והאזנה (רצוי עדכני)

Required readings:

Aleksandr Radishchev, "Journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow" (handout)

Amy Knight, "The KGB, Perestroika, and the Collapse of the Soviet Union," *Journal of Cold War Studies*, Vol. 5, No. 1 (Winter 2003), 67-93).

Caroline Humphrey, "Dirty Business, 'Normal Life', and the Dream of Law," in Alena V. Ledeneva and Marina Kurkchyan, eds., *Economic Crime in Russia* (The Hague: Kluwer Law International, 2000), 177-190.

Fedor Dostoevsky, "The Grand Inquisitor" (handout)

Anna Geifman, "Did Soviet Citizens Love Stalin?," *Clio's Psyche*, vol. 10, no. 4 (March 2004): 141-144

Ivan Turgenev, "Hamlet and Don Quixote" (handout)

Konstantin Pobedonostsev, "The Falsehood of Democracy" in Thomas Riha, ed., *Readings in the Russian Civilization*, vol. 2 (Chicago University Press, 1964) (69111) 914.7 REA בספריה להיסטוריה

Krushchev's "Secret Speech",  
<http://www.soviethistory.org/index.php?page=subject&SubjectID=1956secret&Year=1956>

Petr Chaadaev, "Apology of a Madman" (handout)

"The Purge Trials" in Thomas Riha, ed., *Readings in the Russian Civilization*, volume 3 (University of Chicago Press, 1969)

Peter Rutland, "Putin's Path to Power," *Post-Soviet Affairs* 16, no. 4 (October-December 2000): 313-354

Sergei Nechaev and Mikhail Bakunin, "Catechism of the Revolutionary,"  
<http://www.marxists.org/subject/anarchism/nechayev/catechism.htm>

Varlam Shalamov, *Kolyma Tales* (Penguin, 1994)