

**INTR 223 Russian Politics**  
Fall 2021 — MW 9:00 - 10:15  
Location: Harkness Hall 329

- **Instructor name and contact information**

Guzel Garifullina

Email: ggariful@ur.rochester.edu

- **Office hours and location**

Office hours: Monday/Wednesday 10:30-11:30 and by appointment

For in-person office hours: make an appointment to avoid crowding

I am also available for Zoom meetings (reach out to me for details). More clarifications may appear if the campus conditions in relation to COVID-19 change over the course of the semester.

Office location: Harkness Hall 101

- **Course description and objectives**

In the past thirty years, Russia has gone through major transformations. After a period of democratic hopes, we have been observing the consolidation of a new authoritarian regime. How much are the current political developments the result of Russia's historical legacy, and how much was determined by the political leaders? How does society react and contribute to the regime transformation? This course will include a brief overview of the Soviet experience and the main elements of the transition and focus on the contemporary developments in Russian politics.

In this course, we will be reading academic sources exploring the development and characteristics of Russian political institutions as well as media publications that provide insights into contemporary developments in Russian politics and the insiders' take on them. The course will start with a brief overview of the most recent events in Russian politics (1,5 weeks). It will be followed by a review of the Soviet period and the 1990s (2 weeks), which will provide a better understanding of the roots and context of today's events. After that, most of the course will be dedicated to Russia after 2000 – the year when Putin became president. By the end of the semester, the students will be able to analyze current political events in Russia and related to Russia, to identify the elements of the Soviet past in public opinion and elite behavior, and to recognize the similarities and differences in the way political institutions, such as legislatures and presidency, function in Russia and in more familiar political contexts.

- **Class meetings and expectations**

Each class meeting will begin with a brief lecture, followed by discussion connecting the lecture material with the day's readings and answering your questions. Required readings are indicated for each class, and students are expected to come to class having read the assigned chapters/articles. I also encourage you to follow current events in Russian politics and bring them up in class discussions. That will help you to connect background information with current developments in Russian politics, demonstrate analysis of the political events, and identify your personal interests within the course. Some sources you can use include:

- **In Moscow's Shadows:** a podcast by Mark Galeotti:  
<https://inmoscowsshadows.wordpress.com/in-moscows-shadows-podcast/> (feel free to also check out his publications)

- **Johnson’s Russia List**, <https://russialist.org/>: Articles from Russian, international, and American sources – all in English. You can subscribe to a daily newsletter.
- **BBC Europe**, <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world/europe>: Search for news on Russia.
- **RT (Russia Today)**, [www.rt.com](http://www.rt.com): This is a Russian state-owned news source. Compare the perspective here and in other sources – both for Russian news and world news (e.g. [www.rt.com/usa](http://www.rt.com/usa)).
- **The Moscow Times**, [www.themoscowtimes.com](http://www.themoscowtimes.com): An English language Russian publication that often takes a more critical view of the Kremlin.
- **PONARS Eurasia**, [www.ponarseurasia.org](http://www.ponarseurasia.org): News and commentary on Russia and Eurasia in general. We will be reading a few reports by PONARS experts – feel free to check out more. There are also digital resources and documentaries on various topics.
- **Public Opinion Polls**: Check out Putin’s approval ratings, and other important results of national polls by Levada (a private polling company) (<http://www.levada.ru/en/>) and by the Russian Public Opinion Research center (a state-owned polling organization) (<https://www.wciom.com>).
- **Russian FilmHub**, <https://russianfilmhub.com>: Russian films that you can watch for free (many can be viewed with English subtitles).

- **Required course materials**

There is a course textbook: *Developments in Russian Politics* (9<sup>th</sup> ed.), available at the university bookstore. All other materials will be available on Blackboard.

Sakwa, R., Hale, H. E., & White, S. (Eds.). (2018). *Developments in Russian Politics 9*. Macmillan International Higher Education.

- **Prerequisites**

No prior coursework or familiarity with Russian history or politics is required to take this course.

- **Grade structure**

As you will see, consistent performance and participation throughout the semester are key to success in this course. All students are expected to do the assigned readings before the class meeting and be prepared for in-class discussion. Each meeting will start with a brief lecture, followed by interactive exercises and discussions.

Grading for the course will be determined as follows:

- Participation 20%
- Quizzes 25%
- Paper 25%
- Midterm exam 10%
- Final exam 15%

I will use the standard scale in assessing grades.

A	94+	C+	77-79	E(F)	59 and below
A-	90-93	C	74-76		
B+	87-89	C-	70-73		
B	84-86	D+	67-69		
B-	80-83	D-	60-66		

## - **Grade elements and assignments**

### o Participation

There will be a variety of in-class activities that will give you a chance to engage with the course material, ask questions, and explore your own interests in Russian politics. Your active participation is key to a fun and useful course experience for everyone.

This part of your grade will reflect both quantity and (more importantly) quality of your participation. To give you a better understanding of your in-class performance, I will provide a mid-term feedback for every student, indicating current participation grade and areas for improvement. I will also be happy to discuss your participation and any questions or difficulties you may have during office hours or via email.

### o Quizzes (bi-weekly – a total of 7)

Every other week we will have a short closed-book in-class quiz based on the material covered in the past two weeks. Quizzes will have 2-3 short answer questions – except for Quiz 1, which will be a map quiz asking you to identify selected cities and landmarks in Russia and a few neighboring countries (quiz items for the first quiz will be provided in Week 1 of the course).

### o Paper (10-12 pages)

You will need to write a paper addressing a question relevant to contemporary Russian politics, using the course readings (required and recommended) and other sources as necessary. Use the first two weeks to think about what you find particularly interesting and want to explore. Each of you will meet with me<sup>1</sup> at least twice to discuss your paper – once early in the semester to talk about the topic and once after the fall break to discuss the outline and structure of your paper (I will be happy to meet with you more than twice of course).

### o Midterm exam

This will be a take-home exam. It will consist of two essay questions on the topics covered so far. I will provide example questions and detailed requirements beforehand.

### o Final exam

The final exam will be comprehensive (i.e. cover all the course material). It will be held during the scheduled exam period and consist of two essay questions.

## - **Summary schedule**

September 1<sup>st</sup> – in-class Quiz 1 (map quiz)

September 15<sup>th</sup> – in-class Quiz 2

September 29<sup>th</sup> – in-class Quiz 3

September 30<sup>th</sup> – before this date schedule a meeting with me to discuss your paper topic

October 13<sup>th</sup> – take home midterm exam (due on October 18<sup>th</sup>)

October 18<sup>th</sup> – in-class Quiz 4

October 29<sup>th</sup> – before this date schedule a meeting with me to go through your paper outline

November 1<sup>st</sup> – in-class Quiz 5

November 15<sup>th</sup> – in-class Quiz 6

November 17<sup>th</sup> – final paper due

November 29<sup>th</sup> – in-class Quiz 7

December 8<sup>th</sup> – last day of class

TBD – final exam

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<sup>1</sup> In person or over Zoom

## Topics by week

You will see that there are days marked as TBD – these will be used to catch up (as needed), review, and ideally – cover an additional topic or two that the students are particularly interested in.

### Part 1: Russia in 2020-2021

- Week 1
  - Wednesday: Intro, overview of Russian politics
  
- Week 2
  - Monday: Institutional changes and COVID-19 in Russia

#### *Required reading:*

Marlene Laruelle, “Russia’s Constitutional Amendments Keep Several Future Open for Putin,” *Russia Matters*, June 25, 2020.

Look at a couple of recent surveys conducted by a prominent Russian survey organization about COVID-19 attitudes: <https://www.levada.ru/en/?s=coronavirus>  
Greene, Sam. Can Russia Vaccinate? July 12, 2021. <https://tldrussia.substack.com/p/can-russia-vaccinate>

#### *Further reading and extra sources:*

“Russia’s Constitutional Change and Putinism 3.0,” July 13, 2020, Foreign Policy Research Institute, Conversation with Professor Chris Miller (Tufts University) and Professor Sarah Wilson Sokhey (University of Colorado Boulder). Available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=17Dm4rFD8cI&list=PLpQz1InL8sO0vUU8-LIQbLCO5sOHw8Y&index=2&t=0s>

- Wednesday: Opposition and repression

#### *Required reading:*

*Regina Smyth, How Alexei Navalny revolutionized opposition politics in Russia, before his apparent poisoning, August 21, 2020. <https://theconversation.com/how-alexei-navalny-revolutionized-opposition-politics-in-russia-before-his-apparent-poisoning-144830>*

Shelley Inglis, For Vladimir Putin and other autocrats, ruthlessly repressing the opposition is often a winning way to stay in power, April 22, 2021. <https://theconversation.com/for-vladimir-putin-and-other-autocrats-ruthlessly-repressing-the-opposition-is-often-a-winning-way-to-stay-in-power-159605>

Stanovaya, Tatiana. Purges and Professionals: the Transformed Russian Regime. June 9, 2021. <https://carnegie.ru/commentary/84713?fbclid=IwAR26S3MH2kyXt1rqh7mnlAASrVdzjkYnFvKVhmrVim9jppqCLK5QZZLi0pW4>

#### *Further reading and extra sources:*

“What It’s Like to Be a Teenager in Putin’s Russia,” *New York Times*, Interviews with Daria Navalnaya, June 27, 2019; available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zv0s4ds2Fek>

## Part 2: Soviet origins and the transition

- Week 3
  - Monday: Labor Day
  - Wednesday: Soviet political and economic system: from revolution to Stalin

### *Required reading:*

McAuley, Introduction and Chapters 3-4

### *Further reading and extra sources:*

Julia L. Mickenberg, One American woman's life in revolutionary Russia, November 6, 2017, <https://theconversation.com/one-american-womans-life-in-revolutionary-russia-86976>

- Week 4
  - Monday: Khrushchev's Thaw and Brezhnev's Stagnation: limits of adaptability

### *Required reading:*

McAuley, Chapter 5

Richard Ericson, "The Classical Soviet-type Economy," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 1991

### *Further reading and extra sources:*

Spufford, F. (2010). Red plenty. Faber & Faber.

- Wednesday: Gorbachev's reforms and collapse of USSR

### *Required reading:*

McAuley, Chapter 7.

Alexander Dallin, "Causes of the Collapse of the USSR" in Post-Soviet Affairs, Volume 8. Number 4, October-December 1992.

### *Further reading and extra sources:*

CNN documentary "The Cold War" (1996). This is a 24-part series, and you can pick the specific topics and periods you are interested in (or binge!). Available on YouTube: <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3H6z037pboGWTxs3xGP7HRGrQ5dOQdGc>

## Part 3: Yeltsin era

- Week 5
  - Monday: The October 1993 Crisis and the 1993 Constitution
    - ! Sunday September 19<sup>th</sup> is the day of Russian national legislative elections.
  - Check out the news, we will talk about them during class

### *Required reading:*

Lilia Shevtsova, 1993: Russia's "Small" Civil War, 3.10.2013, <https://carnegie.ru/commentary/53189>

Alexander Kolesnichenko, How October 1993 led to President Putin, OCT 03 2013, [https://www.rbth.com/politics/2013/10/03/how\\_october\\_1993\\_led\\_to\\_president\\_putin\\_30489.html](https://www.rbth.com/politics/2013/10/03/how_october_1993_led_to_president_putin_30489.html)

### *Further reading and extra sources:*

1993 Russian coup in photos, <https://tass.com/russia/701813>

- Wednesday: Chechnya and domestic terrorism

*Required reading:*

Anatol Lieven, Chechnya: Tombstone of Russian Power (Yale University Press, 1999) - Ch 1: A Personal Memoir of Grozny and the Chechen War (pp. 17-55)

Lapidus, G. W. (2002). Putin's war on terrorism: Lessons from Chechnya. *Post-Soviet Affairs*, 18(1), 41-48.

*Further reading and extra sources:*

Galeotti, M. (2014). *Russia's wars in Chechnya 1994–2009*. Bloomsbury Publishing.

- Week 6

- Monday: Oligarchs

*Required reading:*

Mikhail Khodorkovsky chapter in David Hoffman, *The Oligarchs: Wealth and Power in the New Russia*, Public Affairs, 2003.

*Further reading and extra sources:*

Elisabeth Schimpfössl, Why Vladimir Putin's tax hike for the rich won't bother Russia's oligarchs, July 1, 2020, <https://theconversation.com/why-vladimir-putins-tax-hike-for-the-rich-wont-bother-russias-oligarchs-141624>

- Wednesday: Governors and federalism

*Required reading:*

Kathryn Stoner-Weiss, "Central Weakness and Provincial Autonomy: Observations on the Devolution Process in Russia," *Post-Soviet Affairs*, v.15, no.1, January 1999, pp.87-106.

Neela Banerjee, Incumbent Beats Communist In Key 'Red Belt' Provinces, Sept. 4, 1996, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/SB84178513173850500>

Andrey Pertsev, The last '90s man Looking back on Evgeny Savchenko's 27-year career as governor of Russia's Belgorod region, September 25, 2020, <https://meduza.io/en/feature/2020/09/25/the-last-90s-man>

*Further reading and extra sources:*

Jeffrey Kahn, "The Parade of Sovereignties: Establishing the Vocabulary of the New Russian Federalism," *Post-Soviet Affairs* 16, 1 (2000)

## **Part 4: Putin era**

### 4.1 Institutions

- Week 7

- Monday: The executive: president(s), government, and the bureaucracy

*Required reading:*

DRP, Chapter 2

*Further reading and extra sources:*

Dmitry Gorenburg, *The Political Elite Under Putin*, April 2020,  
<https://www.marshallcenter.org/en/publications/security-insights/political-elite-under-putin-0>

- Wednesday: Parliament and political parties

*Required reading:*

DRP, Chapter 3-4

*Further reading and extra sources:*

Vladimir Gelman, "Party Politics in Russia: From Competition to Hierarchy," *Europe-Asia Studies* 60, 6 (2008)

- Week 8
  - Monday: Fall break
  - Wednesday: Midterm review (take-home midterm available and due before Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup>)
- Week 9
  - Monday: Federalism Russian style: centralization and its (dis)contents

*Required reading:*

DRP, Chapter 9

*Further reading and extra sources:*

Sharafutdinova, G. (2010). Subnational governance in Russia: How Putin changed the contract with his agents and the problems it created for Medvedev. *Publius: The journal of federalism*, 40(4), 672-696.

Reuter, O. J. (2010). The politics of dominant party formation: United Russia and Russia's governors. *Europe-Asia Studies*, 62(2), 293-327.

- Wednesday: TBD

*Required reading:*

*Further reading and extra sources:*

#### 4.2 Political economy

- Week 10
  - Monday: Oil, gas, and the Russian economy

*Required reading:*

DRP, Chapter 10

Juliet Johnson, "Mission Impossible," PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo no.196, June 2012, <http://ponarseurasia.org/sites/default/files/policy-memos-pdf/pepm196.pdf>

*Further reading and extra sources:*

Gans-Morse, J. (2012). Threats to property rights in Russia: From private coercion to state aggression. *Post-Soviet Affairs*, 28(3), 263-295.

Andrei Semenov, "This Time is Different (Again): The Political Consequences of the Economic Crisis in Russia", PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo, April 2021,  
<https://www.ponarseurasia.org/time-political-consequences-economic-crisis-russia/>

- Wednesday: Social policies: healthcare, education, social welfare. Expectations and reality

*Required reading:*

DRP, Chapter 11

Sokhey, S. W. (2020). What Does Putin Promise Russians? Russia's Authoritarian Social Policy. *Orbis*, 64(3), 390-402.

*Further reading and extra sources:*

Podcast interview with Professor Judyth Twigg, "HIV/AIDS in Russia," Listen here:

<http://www.ponarseurasia.org/node/10135>

#### 4.3 Society and the state I

- Week 11

- Monday: National identity, ethnic and language policies

*Required reading:*

DRP, Chapter 5

Chapman, H. S., Marquardt, K. L., Herrera, Y. M., & Gerber, T. P. (2018). Xenophobia on the rise? Temporal and regional trends in xenophobic attitudes in Russia. *Comparative Politics*, 50(3), 381-394.

*Further reading and extra sources:*

Elise Giuliano and Dmitry Gorenburg, "The Unexpectedly Underwhelming Role of Ethnicity in Russian Politics 1991-2011," *Demokratizatsiya*, v.20, no.2, Spring 2012, pp.175-88.

- Wednesday: The politics of memory, nationalism and patriotism

*Required reading:*

Listen to podcast (skip the last part with the patrons' questions): Mark Galeotti, In Moscow's Shadows 3: Victory Day, National Myths and Patron's Questions, May 09, 2020, <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1026985/3687436-in-moscow-s-shadows-3-victory-day-national-myths-and-patron-s-questions>

Caroline Christie, January 24, 2019, Exploring the rise of Soviet nostalgia in Russia, <https://www.documentjournal.com/2019/01/exploring-the-rise-of-soviet-nostalgia-in-russia/>

*Further reading and extra sources:*

Kalinina, E. (2017). Beyond nostalgia for the Soviet past: Interpreting documentaries on Russian television. *European Journal of Cultural Studies*, 20(3), 285-306.

- Week 12

- Monday: Religion and Russian Orthodox church

*Required reading:*

GREGORY L. FREEZE, Russian Orthodoxy and Politics in the Putin Era, FEBRUARY 09, 2017, <https://carnegieendowment.org/2017/02/09/russian-orthodoxy-and-politics-in-putin-era-pub-67959>



*Further reading and extra sources:*

Sufian Zhemukhov, "Why Young People Turn to Islam in the North Caucasus,"  
PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo no.30, August 2008,  
[http://www.gwu.edu/~ieresgwu/assets/docs/pepm\\_030.pdf](http://www.gwu.edu/~ieresgwu/assets/docs/pepm_030.pdf)

- Wednesday: Politics of gender

*Required reading:*

Leyla Latypova, Of Borscht and Protests: The Female Future of Russia's Opposition,  
March 8, 2021, <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2021/03/08/of-borscht-and-protests-the-female-future-of-russias-opposition-a73145>

Buyantueva, Radzhana. "LGBT rights activism and homophobia in Russia." *Journal of homosexuality* 65.4 (2018): 456-483.

*Further reading and extra sources:*

Natasha Bluth, Mother, Wife, and Activist? Opportunities and Obstacles to Women's  
Civic Engagement in Russia, <https://jordanrussiacycenter.org/news/mother-wife-and-activist-opportunities-and-obstacles-to-womens-civic-engagement-in-russia/#.YP9KnI5KhPY>

#### 4.4 Society and the state II

- Week 13
  - Monday: The phenomenon of Putin

*Required reading:*

Listen: Planet Money Podcast, The Rise of Putin.

<https://www.npr.org/2020/01/22/798594410/episode-966-the-rise-of-putin>

Read: Brian Taylor, *The Code of Putinism*, Oxford University Press 2018, Chapter 1

*Further reading and extra sources:*

Samuel Greene and Graeme Robertson, *Putin vs The People: The Perilous Politics of a Divided Russia*.

Catherine Belton, *Putin's People: How the KGB Took Back Russia and Then Took on the West*.

CBC documentary: *The System of Putin* (2007),

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fK7yB50BaSU&list=PLSalKnZJwaRx5\\_MlbUzwmH62BNkUxD1pk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fK7yB50BaSU&list=PLSalKnZJwaRx5_MlbUzwmH62BNkUxD1pk)

- Wednesday: The media and the public opinion.

*Required reading:*

DRP, Chapter 7

*Further reading and extra sources:*

Christopher Walker and Robert Ortung, "Breaking the News," *Journal of Democracy*, v.25, no.1, January 2014, pp.71-85.

- Week 14 (Wednesday is pre-Thanksgiving)
  - Monday: Contestation and repression

*Required reading:*

DRP, Chapter 6

Lipman, M. (2016). At the turning point to repression: why there are more and more “undesirable elements” in Russia. *Russian Politics & Law*, 54(4), 341-350.

*Further reading and extra sources:*

Andrei Kolesnikov, Grassroots Repression — Russian-style, May 5, 2021, *The Moscow Times*, <https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2021/05/05/grassroots-repression-russian-style-a73822>

- Wednesday: TBD

*Required reading:*

*Further reading and extra sources:*

#### 4.5 Foreign policy

- Week 15
  - Monday: Neighbors: Ukraine and Belarus

*Required reading:*

Jonathan Masters, Ukraine: Conflict at the Crossroads of Europe and Russia, February 5, 2020, <https://www.cfr.org/background/ukraine-conflict-crossroads-europe-and-russia>  
Daniel Victor, “What’s Happening in Belarus? A guide to the protests, the police response and the crisis in government sparked by a dispute election,” *New York Times*, August 13, 2020.

*Further reading and extra sources:*

Natalya Chernyshova, The Belarus Protests and Russia: Lessons for “Big Brother”, PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo, March 2021, <https://www.ponarseurasia.org/the-belarus-protests-and-russia-lessons-for-big-brother/>

- Wednesday: Besiegers: Europe and US

*Required reading:*

DRP, Chapter 12  
Ben Steil, Russia’s Clash with the West Is About Geography, Not Ideology. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/02/12/russias-clash-with-the-west-is-about-geography-not-ideology/>

*Further reading and extra sources:*

Andrew Barnes, “How Much Would It Hurt? Exploring Russia’s Vulnerability to a Drop in Energy Prices,” PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo no. 295, September 2013, [http://ponarseurasia.org/sites/default/files/policy-memos-pdf/Pepm\\_295\\_Barnes\\_Sept2013.pdf](http://ponarseurasia.org/sites/default/files/policy-memos-pdf/Pepm_295_Barnes_Sept2013.pdf)

- Week 16
  - Monday: TBD

*Required reading:*

*Further reading and extra sources:*

- Wednesday: Final review

## **Course and university policies**

### **Special circumstances and COVID-19 guidelines**

Students participating in organized activities, such as sports, or observing religious holidays, can make up missed work without penalties and should contact me beforehand to make appropriate arrangements (for example, if you miss an in-class quiz due to a religious holiday).

As the situation with COVID-19 evolves, we will adapt the course as needed to ensure that you have the most rewarding and safe experience. In this case, I will both inform you directly and also update the syllabus if necessary. Yet there are a few provisions that I want to specify right away. If you feel sick, need to quarantine, or care for a family member – please reach out to me so we can arrange for you to work from home or make up some of the class work later. If you need more than one week, you might need to get in touch with the Dean of Students office.

Prioritize your health – physical and mental.

As of now, the University of Rochester requires everyone (irrespective of the vaccination status) to wear masks indoors.

### **Academic honesty**

Students and faculty at the University must agree to adhere to high standards of academic honesty in all of the work that we do. First-year students read and sign an academic honesty policy statement to indicate that they understand the general principles upon which our work is based. The College Board on Academic Honesty website gives further information on our policies and procedures: [www.rochester.edu/college/honesty](http://www.rochester.edu/college/honesty).

You are encouraged to discuss course readings and assignments with your fellow students. However, all written work must be done independently and not in collaboration with another. In order to make appropriate help available for your written assignments, I encourage you to consult with me and with the College Writing, Speaking, and Argument Program.

Remember that rewording someone else's ideas still requires proper citation. Feel free to reach out to me and the library staff if you have any questions regarding proper citation and attribution of authorship.

### **Attendance policy**

Class attendance is required as participation in class discussions is an integral part of the course. I will not formally grade attendance as being present in class while not actively engaging with the material does little to help you learn. Missing a substantial portion of class sessions will have consequences for your ability to pass the course.

Special arrangements can be made for students who cannot attend a portion of class meetings due to COVID-19 or other serious reasons. These arrangements will be made on case-by-case basis, taking into account university regulations and your specific situation.

Quizzes are taken in class. If you missed the class meeting with a quiz, discuss make up opportunities with me as soon as possible.

### **Late submissions policy**

For term papers, submitting your paper after the deadline will decrease your paper grade by 5% per day. If you talk to me early and provide proper documentation or other evidence of a serious reason you can't meet the deadline, extensions can be arranged on a case-by-case basis.

Exams need to be taken on the dates indicated in the syllabus. Reach out to me if you need another arrangement or have an emergency preventing you from taking the exam on time.

## **Communication Policy**

Beyond classroom, if you have any questions about the course, the assignments or anything else, and the question is not covered in the syllabus – please, message me through my university email (ggariful@ur.rochester.edu) or the messaging system within Blackboard<sup>2</sup>. Please allow me 24 hours to reply. Note that if you message me after 6 pm on Friday, it might take until Monday morning. If you haven't received a response within three days or it's urgent, feel free to send me a reminder.

I highly encourage everyone to come see me during my weekly office hours. This is a chance to talk through the questions you may have regarding the readings, your papers, study strategies etc. I will be happy to help. If for some reason you can't make it to the office hours and need to talk in person, reach out through e-mail, we will try and find another suitable time for a one-on-one meeting – in person, on Zoom, or through a phone call.

I will be providing regular feedback on your performance. You can expect your exam grades within a week from submission. If you are concerned about your performance, I will be happy to discuss it during office hours.

In the middle of the semester I will distribute feedback forms that will allow me to hear about your concerns and suggestions regarding the course structure and content, as well as your engagement with the class.

As for all your courses, you will be asked to submit more extensive evaluation forms online at the end of the semester. Please find time to fill them in – your comments are valuable for the future development of this course and evaluation of specific teaching strategies.

## **Preferred Student Names and Pronouns**

Students can update their preferred names and pronouns in [UR Student](#) and [university documentation](#). Early in the course, I will provide an opportunity to indicate your preferred names and pronouns for the class purposes. If you want to talk to me privately, just message me.

## **Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination, Harassment and/or Related Retaliation**

The University of Rochester is committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment and will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct, discrimination, or harassment. There are various options for reporting such behaviors (including anonymous reporting), which you can find at <https://www.rochester.edu/sexualmisconduct/>.

## **Disability resources**

The University of Rochester respects and welcomes students of all backgrounds and abilities. In the event you encounter any barrier(s) to full participation in this course due to the impact of a disability, please contact the Office of Disability Resources. The access coordinators in the Office of Disability Resources can meet with you to discuss the barriers you are experiencing and explain the eligibility process for establishing academic accommodations. You can reach the Office of Disability Resources at: [disability@rochester.edu](mailto:disability@rochester.edu); (585) 276-5075; Taylor Hall; [www.rochester.edu/college/disability](http://www.rochester.edu/college/disability).

## **Inclusion statement**

The University of Rochester, this course, and I are committed to inclusion, and welcome students of all backgrounds and abilities. Services and reasonable accommodations are available to

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<sup>2</sup> Suggestions on etiquette: <https://www.wikihow.com/Email-a-Professor>

students with temporary and permanent disabilities, to students with DACA or undocumented status, to students facing mental health issues, other personal situations, and to students with other kinds of learning needs. Please feel free to let me know if there are circumstances affecting your ability to participate in class or your full participation in this course.

Some resources that might be of use include:

- Office of Disability Resources. (disability@rochester.edu; (585) 276-5075; Taylor Hall)
- Undocumented/DACA Student Support Contacts  
<https://www.rochester.edu/college/ccas/undergraduate/daca/index.html>
- University of Rochester CARE Network <https://www.rochester.edu/care/>
- Office of Equity and Inclusion <https://www.rochester.edu/diversity/>