

**Take Home Final Exam**

Your essay should be clearly organized and argued, and should include an introduction that includes a thesis statement for the paper, followed by clear and methodical development of the argument, a discussion of evidence, and ending with a conclusion summarizing the main points of the paper. The vast majority of your citations for this essay should be our course readings, though you may use one or two outside sources. A full list of citations must be included in every paper.

Undergrads: your answer should be 7-10 pages, double-spaced, and employ 12 pt, times new roman font.

Grad students: your answer should be 12-15 pages, double-spaced, and employ 12 pt, times new roman font.

Please do not discuss this exam with your classmates or anyone else- treat it like any other exam. I expect this work to be your own. Standard academic honesty guidelines apply and any cheating will be referred to the university. Good luck!

**The one and only question:** *The art of holding power is complicated and multifaceted. Explain the ways that Vladimir Putin maintains his power, making sure to discuss the historical and contextual factors that make his strategies particularly effective.*

**SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS:** Unless you have special permission in advance, you must turn in a paper copy of this essay to my mailbox on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of URBN **by 4pm on Tuesday, December 4**. No emailed copies will be accepted. Also, for each day that the essay is late, I will deduct half of a letter grade from your score.

Important Hint #1: This may seem like an easy question – you probably had an idea about this even before the class began – so your goals are breadth and depth; approach this question from several different angles and make sure that you offer a lot of depth in your answer. And, needless to say, use our course readings as evidence to advance your claims.

Important Hint #2: Your grade will be based on your knowledge and utilization of our course readings, your use of the central themes and concepts discussed in class, and the clarity of your writing.