The course is focused on the emergence and development of political system of post-Soviet Russia within the context of regime changes and state-building. Starting with the Soviet system and collapse of the Soviet Union as a point of departure, the course traces making and unmaking of major political institutions in these newly-established states by examining the impact of various legacies of the past and the role of domestic and international political and economic actors. Special attention is devoted to patterns of political continuity and changes during the wave of so-called “snow revolution” and its aftermath.

**Time**
The course will take place Thursday and Friday, December 6th and 7th 2012.

**Place**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday, 6.12.2012</th>
<th>9.15 – 10.00</th>
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<tr>
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<td>10.15 – 12.00</td>
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<td>13.00 – 17.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, 7.12.2012</td>
<td>9.15 – 17.00</td>
<td>G514</td>
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</tbody>
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**Language**
English

**Evaluation** (1.5 ECTS)
Essay
Day 1, Thursday, 6 December 2012

1. Key concepts of Post-Communist political transformations

Studies of Russian and Eurasian politics in East and West. Approaches and theories of regime change and their applications to Russian and Eurasian politics in a comparative perspective. Models of post-Communist political transformations.

2. Dynamics of late-Soviet politics: issues in political history. The Soviet collapse and its political, economic, and social consequences.


3. Dilemmas of transition: political and economic reforms, state- and nation-building in Russia

Russia: clash between President and parliament, its causes and consequences. Political conflicts in post-Soviet countries: their resolution and non-resolution. Constitution-making in post-Soviet states: constitutionalism and political practice.

4. The strong executive: presidents and governments in post-Soviet Russia


5. The weak legislature: parliamentary politics in post-Soviet Russia

Institutional frameworks and political performance of legislatures in post-Soviet Eurasia. The evolution of the State Duma in Russia: law-making and/or political representation? Legislatues strikes back: institutional changes and their political consequences. “No site for discussions”: do parliaments matter in post-Soviet politics?

6. The unrule of law: legal and judicial politics in post-Soviet Russia


7. Electoral politics in post-Soviet Russia

The background of post-Soviet electoral reforms. Key elements of electoral system: electoral governance and electoral formula. The politics of electoral authoritarianism in Russia and beyond: institutional changes and their political consequences. Electoral fraud: business as usual?
Day 2, Friday, 7 December 2012

8. Political culture, mass participation and voting behavior in post-Soviet Russia


9. Post-Soviet political parties

The legacies of Soviet one-party state. The emergence of political movements during perestroika period and the formation of post-Soviet political parties. The dynamics of party systems: impacts of institutions and electoral behavior. Parties in post-Soviet parliaments and outside. “Parties of power”, their satellites, and others.

10. Interest groups in post-Soviet Russia


11. The transformation of post-Soviet political elites


12. Federalism, regionalism and local government: sub-national authoritarianism, rent-seeking and “power vertical”


13. The politics of changes: “snow revolution” and their political consequences

The weakness of post-Soviet competitive authoritarianism: problems of leadership succession and beyond. The impact of “rose”, “orange”, and “tulip” “revolutions” on Russia: elite conflicts, mass mobilization, and institutional changes. Dilemmas of political changes: democratization, state-building, and elite reconciliation.


The final class will be focused on analysis of political dynamics and prospects of political development in post-Soviet Russia in a comparative perspective.
Required readings

Maria Lipman and Nikolay Petrov (eds.), Russia in 2020: Scenarios for the Future (Washington, DC: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2011), chapters 7 (Rogov), 8 (Treisman), and 11 (Gel'man)


Die Literatur ist auf Gestens verfügbar (mit Login – Benefri Studierende ohne eigenes Passwort wenden sich bitte an: mirjam.zbinden@unifr.ch).

The list of suggested readings will be provided during the classes or upon request