Since independence in 1991 Russia has faced three challenges: the creation of a sovereign state, the development of a new political system, and the restructuring of its economy.

In this course we will assess the outcome of these transformations, examining topics such as:
- "Putinism"
- Russia's foreign influence
- Political protest
- Corruption
- Insurgencies

To explore these topics, we will read works by Russian and Western scholars as well as journalistic accounts and view films, slides, and artifacts.