**SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES & LITERATURES – Fall 2024**

# EURO\*4050/EURO\*6060: Contemporary Europe

# Instructor: Dr. Alan McDougall

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**\*\**Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.***

**Course Format:**

The class will take place in person, via weekly seminars.

**Course Synopsis:**

This cross-listed undergraduate and graduate course focuses on the politics, history, and culture of contemporary Russia’s relationship with Europe and the Western world. It first examines the roots of tensions between Russia and the West in the twentieth century, focusing on the original Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States (c. 1945-91). The course then examines the collapse of the Soviet Union and the fall of communism (1989-91) and their impact on Russia’s relationships with the rest of Europe. It concludes by studying the new Cold War between Russia and the West, which was dramatically escalated in 2022 by the Putin regime’s invasion of Ukraine. Studying various historical figures, from Mikhail Gorbachev to Vladimir Putin, and using a range of sources and approaches (including memoir, propaganda, film, and sport), this course takes students to the heart of the crisis that is reshaping contemporary Europe and the contemporary world.

**Methods of Evaluation and Weights:**

Class participation 20%

Class presentations (2) 20% (10% each)

Short assignment 15%

Essay plan 10%

Essay 35%

**Resources Required:**

All readings will be posted on the EURO\*4050/\*6060 Courselink site or available electronically via the University of Guelph Library.