History & International Studies
Keynote Address

Tuesday, March 24th • Quigley Auditorium • 7:00 p.m.

Dr. Yanni Kotsonis
Professor of History and Director of the Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia at New York University

“The Mess We’re In: The Long View of Russia, the US, and the Ukrainian Debacle.”

Professor Yanni Kotsonis will discuss the current state of Russia and its foreign relations in historical perspective. He considers the reforms that transformed Russia into a typically stratified society of inequality, with an atypical reliance on a few resources; how the recent turn under President Vladimir Putin to identity politics and culture wars diverts attention from the economic realities and the anticipated economic recession; and how powerlessness in the face of Western economic might produced a reliance on military rather than economic power. Russian claims that the West is Russophobic should be taken seriously, as should Western claims that Russia has earned it.