**Russia and non-traditional security challenges in the contemporary world**

***Course syllabus***

Global security is undergoing profound changes with implications for the global and the regional milieu. Under these circumstances, combating non-traditional security challenges remains the only sphere of cooperation with a consolidating effect.

The course addresses a number of salient non-traditional security issues at the global and the regional level. It encourages students’ conceptual thinking on what should be done in order to maintain the cooperative paradigm in relations between key global actors against the current advent of the “Cold War: 2.0.”.

The course runs 16 hours. It is taught by Russian scholars who specialize in global and regional security issues and provide government agencies with recommendations on appropriate responses to security challenges including non-traditional ones the country has to deal with. This reading list is meant to provide students with a comprehensive overview of the issues raised and discussed.

***Kanaev. Non-traditional security challenges in Russia’s Asia-Pacific policy.***

Non-traditional security in the current priorities of Asia-Pacific countries. Energy and food security: issues, solutions, tasks ahead. Asia-Pacific maritime security challenges: the non-traditional dimension. Natural disasters as a challenge to Asia-Pacific security. The bilateral and multilateral vectors of the regional response to non-traditional security challenges: what has and has not been achieved.

Russia and Asia-Pacific non-traditional security issues. The energy vector of Russia’s Asia-Pacific policy: main outcomes and shortcomings. Russia and Asia-Pacific food security: promising areas of cooperation. The maritime vector of Russia’s policy in Asia-Pacific: instruments for lessening contradictions over regional maritime security issues. Russia and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in Asia-Pacific: present activities and tasks for the future.

***The reading list***

2015. Russia as a Natural Gas Supplier to the Asia-Pacific Region. *Asia-Pacific Foundation of Canada*. 12 January. // <https://www.asiapacific.ca/blog/russia-natural-gas-supplier-asia-pacific-region-conversation>

Bordachev T., Kanaev E. (2014) Russia’s New Strategy in Asia. *Valdai Club*. 07.10.2014. // <http://valdaiclub.com/asia/72424.html>

(2014) Looking East Amid a Crisis to the West: Russia’s Energy Export Strategies

An Interview with Tatiana Mitrova. *NBR Analysis*. 9 September. // <http://www.nbr.org/research/activity.aspx?id=483>

(2014) Toward the Great Ocean-2, or Russia’s Breakthrough to Asia*. Valdai Discussion Club Report.* / Ed. By S.A.Karaganov. February. // <http://vid-1.rian.ru/ig/valdai/Twd_Great_Ocean_2_Eng.pdf>

Likhacheva A., Makarov I. (2014) The Virtual Water of Siberia and the Russian Far East for the Asia-Pacific Region: Global Gains vs Regional Sustainability. *Higher School of Economics Research Paper* No. WP BRP 10/IR/2014. // <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2536894> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2536894>

Kanaev E. A. (2012) The South China Sea Issue: A View from Russia. // *ASEAN-Russia: Foundations and Future Prospects*. Singapore: ISEAS. P. 97-109.

E. Kanaev, Sumsky V., Koldunova E. (2012) Russia’s interests in the Context of Asia-Pacific Region Security and Development. M.: Prospect. // <http://russiancouncil.ru/common/upload/riacapren.pdf>

***Dmitry Suslov. Traditional and non-traditional challengers in Russian foreign and security policy (2 lectures, 4 hours)***

A fleeting glance at Russian foreign policy rhetoric could make an impression, that Russia is preoccupied with traditional “hard security” challengers only (issues like the future of strategic balance with the US and military balance in Europe, NATO expansion and transformation, missile defense, etc.) and pays insufficient attention to non-traditional or “unconventional” security challengers. This is at best half true. Although recent deterioration of US-Russia and Russia-Western relations have indeed increased importance of traditional military threats and challengers among the Russian security priorities, Moscow still takes the non-traditional ones quite seriously. This part of the course will get students acquainted with the Russian approaches to the non-traditional challengers and their place in the Russian foreign and security policy. Particular attention will be given to Russian approaches to energy, food and water security, both globally and in the regions adjacent to Russia (Post-Soviet space, Europe). Russian policies in the fields of counter-terrorism, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and cybersecurity will also be widely discussed and analyzed.

***The reading list:***

Russia's National Security Strategy to 2020. Approved By Decree of the President Of the Russian Federation 12 May 2009 No. 537. <http://rustrans.wikidot.com/russia-s-national-security-strategy-to-2020>

Military Doctrine of the Russian Federation. Approved by the President of Russian federation on December 25, 2014. <http://www.scrf.gov.ru/documents/18/129.html>

Food security Doctrine of the Russian Federation. Approved by the President of Russian federation on January 30, 2010. <http://www.scrf.gov.ru/documents/15/108.html>

Russia’s Energy Strategy to 2030. Approved by the Government of Russian Federation on November 13, 2009. <http://www.scrf.gov.ru/documents/15/122.html>

Water Strategy of the Russian Federation to 2020. Approved by the Government of Russian Federation on August 27, 2009. <http://www.scrf.gov.ru/documents/15/120.html>

Mariya Y. Omelicheva. Russia’s Counterterrorism Policy: Variations on an Imperial Theme. // Perspectives on terrorism, Vol. 3 No 1, 2009. <http://www.terrorismanalysts.com/pt/index.php/pot/article/view/61/html>

Mikhail Rykhtik. Asymmetric Threats and Counter-Terrorism Strategies in Russia. In: R.W. Orttung and A. Makarychev (Eds.). National Counter-Terrorism Strategies. IOS Press, 2006.

Doctrine of Information Security of Russian Federation. Approved by the President of Russian Federation on September 9, 2000. <http://www.scrf.gov.ru/documents/6/5.html>

International Information Security Convention (Concept). <http://www.scrf.gov.ru/documents/6/112.html>

***Dmitry Suslov. Non-traditional security challengers in Russian policy towards the West and US-Russia relations (2 lectures, 4 hours)***

This part of the course is devoted to analyses of practical cooperation between Russia and the Western actors (above all the US and NATO) on key non-traditional security challengers. Major achievements and failures of this cooperation, as well as their reasons and prospects, will be discussed. In particular, major attention will be paid to US-Russian cooperation in Afghanistan, which has been remaining for the last decade one of the major hubs and sources of such unconventional security challengers, as Islamic terrorism and extremism, narcotics, organized crime and regional instability, and one of the major pillars of US-Russian positive cooperation. Reasons for gradual degradation and collapse of this cooperation will be discussed, as well as prospects of US-Russian relations in and around Afghanistan and Central Asia. Special focus will be given to the correlation between traditional and non-traditional security factors in the US and Russian policies towards Afghanistan and Central Asia. Finally, this part of the course will also discuss problems and prospects of US-Russian cooperation on counter-terrorism and non-proliferation of WMD in the global context. Among them, particular attention will be given to differences in how the sides define and identify terrorism and proliferation threats, to their cooperation in managing the Iranian nuclear problem, in strengthening the Non-Proliferation Regime, as well as their approaches to the security challengers triggered by the “Arab spring”.

***Reading list:***

Sergey Markedonov. Russia and Counterterror Cooperation. // The National Interest, April 2013. <http://nationalinterest.org/commentary/russia-counterterror-cooperation-8399>

Dmitry Suslov. A New Start for Russian-US Counter-Terrorism Cooperation. <http://valdaiclub.com/usa/60020.html>

Dmitry Suslov. The Future of Russia-US Anti-Terrorism Cooperation. <http://valdaiclub.com/usa/60060.html>

Ekaterina Stepanova. Afghanistan After 2014: The Way Forward for Russia. IFRI, May 2013.

Peter Tomsen. The Good War? What Went Wrong in Afghanistan -- and How to Make It Right // Foreign Affairs, November/December 2014