Globalization is a political trend that has had the greatest impact on the last decades. The world is going through a period marked by the erosion of the boundaries between nation-states. This erosion seriously undermines the very concept of the state sovereignty. At the same time we witness an emerging trend of regionalization in economic, political, and geographic senses - between countries and within countries. This trend gives rise to serious political consequences.

Regionalization as well as globalization shape our modern world and mold its spatial organization. Spatial organization, resulting from two different processes – integration and fragmentation, can be considered as directly connected to globalization. When it goes from the bottom to the top it leads to macroregions formation, which can be seen as a direct result of globalization. When it moves from top to bottom it leads to growing subnational diversity and autonomy at all levels, which is a reaction onto globalization.

Russia, which alone occupies 1/7 of the world territory, is a country where regional approach is indispensable. To get an idea of Russia as a whole one should not only realize its regional diversity but have knowledge of its different regions which collectively make the country. It’s not so much about mechanical gathering and memorizing the information about different regions, but rather learning the country through its regions. At the same time Russia can serve a testing ground for all kinds of regional studies.

The course offers a complex social-political, cultural and economic - approach to understanding, studying and explaining regional diversity of Russia viewed against the general international background. Basic information is given on the regional dimension of Russia’s nature, population, history, culture and economy and the way they factor in the Russian societal life and political processes. Methods of regional studies applied to Russia and other countries are considered, including comparative analysis, structuralism, functionalism, time-space analysis, landscape studies.

Regionalization can be seen as one of these methods. In the course it is approached in two different ways: as an objective socio-economic process (political regionalization) and as a research technique (academic regionalization). In the first sense regionalization is opposed to unitarianization and unification. Contrary to the myth claiming that regionalization leads to disintegration, regionalization in fact is a way to keep the unity of a state. It can serve as an alternative to federalization or even as a first phase of federalization. In the second sense regionalization is a spatial dimension of regional classification and typology. Differences in the approaches of the two leading schools of regionalization - Russian and American - are considered.

Regionalization within and beyond national borders is considered. Different schemes of regionalization of Russia are analyzed.

The notion of “region” is defined along with region’s composition and its basic features including integrity. Plurality of regions’ networks and of regions’ contours. Hierarchy of regional networks: macro-, mezzo- and microregions. Different types of regions: natural regions and zones, administrative regions (and evolution of state-territorial composition), economic regions (and dynamics of a spatial organization of settlement and economy), socio-cultural, political regions etc. Mental maps. Vernacular regions.

Different models of regional differentiation: center-periphery, concentric zones, growth poles, field of urban settlement, etc. are analyzed, illustrated with different examples and used for analysis.
Boundaries and their different types including lines and zones are investigated. Major functions of boundaries: barrier, connection. Dynamics of boundaries: sustainability and changes. Erosion of boundaries in some cases and their strengthening, as well as the emergence of new ones in other cases.

Russian regions being the main subject of the course are considered in comparative perspective along with regions of the United States, European Union, Germany, Ukraine, and some other countries. The emphasis is made on federal districts, natural zones, major economic regions, historical provinces and cultural regions, subjects of federation, large urban agglomerations, vernacular regions of different scale etc. Evolutionary approach is practiced to learn about Russia’s past, present and future in regional dimension.

Federalism, regionalism and regional separatism are studied using cases of post-Soviet space, Russia in particular, European countries and the United States. Russia’s “parade of sovereignties” in early 1990s. Scotland, Catalonia, Basque country.

Regional integration is analyzed at both national and supranational levels. European regional blocs and alliances: EFTA, CEFTA, Schengen zone, Central European Initiative, Vysegrad group. Northern, Eastern, Southern, Western Europe, Central Europe.

The course uses ample graphic material, first and foremost, maps of different kinds including classic geographical maps, maps of isolines with gradients, anamorphoses, mental maps. Other forms of presenting geographical information including Geographic Information Systems, spatial matrixes etc. are studied and used as well.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
By successfully completing this course, students will (1) know key information about regions of Russia and the world; (2) know the basics of regional analysis; (3) analyze this information and these viewpoints; (4) apply their knowledge and analysis to key questions of regional development in general and Russian regional development in particular; and (5) discuss Russian politics intelligently, actively, and creatively.

GRADING SYSTEM
40% Classroom Participation. Each student is required to participate in class discussions, to present one report, and to make presentation based on his or her essay.
30% Essay. Each student will write one 3000-word essay and to make presentation in class based on it.
30% Final Exam (comprehensive, covering the entire course).

CLASS POLICIES
• Grading Policy: “8” refers to work that fulfills all the requirements of a given assignment and does so well. Grades of 9 and 10 are reserved for truly outstanding work, for which all students will be encouraged to strive. Grades of 7 or lower indicate that the assignment has not been adequately performed to the full extent expected, although 6-7 indicates that the work still has significant merit whereas a 4-5 should serve as a strong warning to seek help.
• Absences will result in “zero” grades for participation and any activity that day. To be excused from attendance of a given class, a student must notify the professor with an acceptable excuse prior to the start of that day’s class unless, in the professor’s judgment, advance notification was impossible. If a student is to miss an examination or in-class exercise for illness or any reason other than religious observance, documentation (e.g., from a doctor) must be provided in order to avoid getting a zero grade for that day’s activities.
• Students are responsible for keeping track of any announcements, including possible changes in the syllabus or office hours, made in class or on Blackboard by the instructor or teaching associate.

READINGS
Students are expected to have looked through presentations made for each lecture and read the readings listed for each lecture before class on the day of that lecture. Lectures will not simply repeat readings, but will assume knowledge of the reading material, so understanding lectures will depend on doing readings on schedule. In-class activities will also often require familiarity with the readings.

CLASS SCHEDULE

1. Introduction. The notion of region
| 2. Geographic boundaries: physical/natural, political/administrative and other |
| 3. Regional infrastructure and superstructure |
| 4. Factors of regions’ formation and development |
| 5. Regions’ development and functioning |
| 6. Regional management |
| 7. Urban agglomerations |
| 8. Regions of Russia and the USA: comparative analysis |
| 9. Euroregions |
| 10. Regions in post-Soviet space |
| 11. Greater Moscow/Moscow capital region – Ile de France – Greater London |
| 12. Crimea |


Region [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Region](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Region)


Vladimir Kolosov, James Scott, Selected Conceptual Issues in Border Studies, EUBORDERSCAPES, WP #4, 2013
The Fergana Valley - [http://www1.american.edu/iced/ice/ferghana.html](http://www1.american.edu/iced/ice/ferghana.html)
Bowon Chang, 2010, The power of geographical boundaries: Cultural, political, and economic border effects in a unitary nation, Iowa State University, [http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2328&context=etd](http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2328&context=etd)

3. **Regional structure.** Hierarchies/matreshkas, levels and networks. Regionalism in Russia. Russia’s regional hierarchy: 1) macroregions including European and Asian parts, Siberia, the Far East; federal districts, economic regions, military districts and commands, river basin management, rail roads; 2) mezoregions including federation subjects, landscape regions and provinces; 3) microreregions including Leizerovich microreregions, local self-administration-2, electoral districts, landscapes). Taxonomic levels: the country in whole; big parts (North-South, Europe-Asia, European

Local and regional structures in Europe, 2005
Subdivisions of Russia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subdivisions_of_Russia
[https://books.google.ru/books?id=wOVjhOAFn_kC&pg=PA3&lpg=PA3&dq=Russia+regional+structure&source=bl&ots=lEMHc_4dTK&sig=fUjSUUprlyHd1iHiz6OHJ4iOtl&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CDsQ6AEwCDgKahUEWj23lO46driHAhWk731KHRP-C58#v=onepage&q=Russia%20regional%20structure&f=false](https://books.google.ru/books?id=wOVjhOAFn_kC&pg=PA3&lpg=PA3&dq=Russia+regional+structure&source=bl&ots=lEMHc_4dTK&sig=fUjSUUprlyHd1iHiz6OHJ4iOtl&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CDsQ6AEwCDgKahUEWj23lO46driHAhWk731KHRP-C58#v=onepage&q=Russia%20regional%20structure&f=false)
Images for vernacular regions USA
[https://www.google.ru/?gfeg_rd=cr&ei=lDLoVaPTOcTyBZPzdhqgI&gws_rd=ssl#newwindow=1&q=vernacular+regions+USA](https://www.google.ru/?gfeg_rd=cr&ei=lDLoVaPTOcTyBZPzdhqgI&gws_rd=ssl#newwindow=1&q=vernacular+regions+USA)
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johann_Heinrich_von_Th%C3%BCnen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Johann_Heinrich_von_Th%C3%BCnen)
[http://geography.about.com/od/urbaneconomicgeography/a/vonthunen.htm](http://geography.about.com/od/urbaneconomicgeography/a/vonthunen.htm)
[http://geography.about.com/od/urbaneconomicgeography/a/centralplace.htm](http://geography.about.com/od/urbaneconomicgeography/a/centralplace.htm)
[http://www2.econ.uu.nl/users/marrewijk/geography/zipf/](http://www2.econ.uu.nl/users/marrewijk/geography/zipf/)


Russian towns on Volga


London at night isochrones map http://www.mapnificent.net/london/
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Megalopolis_(city_type)
http://www.citypopulation.de/world/Agglomerations.html
Gerald Carlino, William R. Kerr, 2014 Agglomeration and Innovation
http://www.hbs.edu/faculty/Publication%20Files/15-007_e181fd00-4426-4db8-8f70-89b1b5054a8f.pdf


Natalia Zubarevich, Russian elections and relations between the centre and the regions, 30 November 2011

Paul Goble, Russian-Style Federalism in Ukraine Would Reduce Russian Language Use There, 2014

Ekaterina Zhuravskaya, Federalism in Russia, CEFIR / _ES Working Paper series, #141, 2010,

Nikolai Petrov, Federalism Russian-Style and the Evolution of Center-Region Relations, 2002
http://www.miamioh.edu/cas/_files/documents/havighurst/%2010%20years%20/petrov.pdf


Metropolitan statistical area https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metropolitan_statistical_area
Megalopolis - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Megalopolis
Jean Gottmann, Megalopolis or the Urbanization of the Northeastern Seaboard,
Economic Geography, Vol. 33, No. 3 (Jul., 1957), pp. 189-200
http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/142307.pdf?refreqid=excelsior%3Aab45c8995f0c8d86eaa5fd30bf7d5c3


http://www.rusemb.org.uk/russiageography/
https://slon.ru/posts/58717
Drill or Expand the Geographic Hierarchy in a Geographical Map http://support.sas.com/documentation/cdl/en/citug/65339/HTML/default/viewer.htm#n031pwplal3jlnn1a9ysm4rn8zh3.htm


https://books.google.ru/books?id=45wOqhvJLsC&pg=PA110&lpg=PA110&dq=Russia+regional+structure&source=bl&ots=D-JOhSXbjX&sig=PpovFE54KOiKizE0MrJx73jloc&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0CD8Q6AEwCjgKahUKEwJ23IO46drHAhWk73IKHRP-C58v=onepage&q=Russia%20regional%20structure&f=false
http://www.barentsinfo.org/Barents-region/Administration/Administration-in-Russia
Eduardo Medeiros, (Re)Defining the Euroregion concept

http://eur.sagepub.com/content/16/2/177.full.pdf+html

http://eur.sagepub.com/content/7/4/319.abstract?ijkey=133d3e0e86c937ead4b3e3461d9bd34724b10902&keytype2=tf_ipsecsha


Leonid V. Smyrnaygin Typologies of Regional Conflicts in Modern Russia
http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/conf_proceedings/CF139/CF139.chap1.pdf

Aleksei M. Lavrov, Budgetary Federalism
http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/conf_proceedings/CF139/CF139.chap3.pdf


V. Kolosov, M. Zotova, A. Sebentsov, Structural features of the economy and gradients of socioeconomic development of the border regions of Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine. Political Geography, October 2014 http://link.springer.com/article/10.1134%2FS207997051404011X

11. Greater Moscow/Moscow capital region – Ile de France – Greater London. Moscow and the rest. Overcentralization and its costs. Moscow as the capital and a global city. Capital functions and their transfer. S. Petersburg as the second capital. Moscowcentrism and Moscowclasm. Moscow as a model and a center of innovations which are spread across the country. Center-periphery model at all levels. Distance from Moscow as factor of politics in regions. Spatial trajectory of innovations’ spread.

Moscow metropolitan area https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moscow_metropolitan_area
Ian Steadman Plans to double size of Moscow greenlit http://www.wired.co.uk/news/archive/2012-09/12/moscow-expansion-plan-chosen
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%8Ele-de-France
http://untappedcities.com/2014/04/17/can-le-grand-paris-project-revitalize-the-greater-paris-region/

Vladimir Putin, Address of the President of Russian Federation, March 18, 2014
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crimea
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sevastopol

http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10611940.2015.1160715

Mark Kramer. Why Did Russia Give Away Crimea Sixty Years Ago? 2014
https://www.wilsoncenter.org/publication/why-did-russia-give-away-crimea-sixty-years-ago


Mikhail Deliagin Crimea The First Step in Russia's Return to the World Russian Politics & Law Volume 53, 2015 - Issue 2: Russian Views of Ukrainian Crisis: Part 2. Legal and Political Ramifications Pages 6-31
http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10611940.2015.1045395

Nikolai Petrov Crimea Transforming the Ukrainian Peninsula into a Russian Island Russian Politics & Law Volume 54, 2016 - Issue 1: The Ukraine Conflict and Russian Politics Pages 74-95
http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10611940.2015.1160715