Course syllabus

RUSSIA IN THE GLOBAL WORLD: FOREIGN POLICY AND BEYOND

For the Master Programs 41.04.04 “Russian Studies”

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Adopted by the Academic Council
of Master Program
№ « » 2019

Course Description

Prerequisites
Basics of philosophy, basics of contemporary history, basics of political science (preferable), basics of international relations.

Course Type
Compulsory. 64 hours of classwork
126 hours of homework

Abstract
The course is intended to introduce international students to the Russian self-positioning in the global world and to provide understanding of the basis of Russia’s relations with other international actors. The course consists of three blocks. The first one analyses Russia’s primary foreign policy instruments. It will include an overview of institutional decision-making design, “hard” and “soft” power tools as they are perceived and used by Russian officials. The second block is designed as an overview of major driving forces and stages of the Russian foreign policy starting from the collapse of the USSR. The students will learn of Russia’s self-perception and self-positioning in the global multipolar world, as well as relations with other global actors and its participation the global governance institutions. Contemporary Russia’s identity in the context of relations with the West and the East will also be discussed in this block. The third block is focused on new global challenges and their influence on Russia’s self-perception and positioning in the world. The topics discussed will include: emerging technologies and their impact on international relations and Russia’s security; international migrations as a threat or developmental resource and its influence on human capital of modern Russia; economic vulnerabilities produced by growing protectionism, ex-territorial methods of economic pressure and trade wars, sanctions.

The course will combine discourse analysis, constructivist, and neoinstitutional approaches.

Learning objectives
- competence to understand and analyse major drivers and founding principles of post-Soviet foreign policy of Russia and its dynamics;
- competence to analyse Russia’s self-perception and self-positioning in the global world and the respective regions;
- develop skills to analyse and interpret key directions of Russia’s foreign policy and relations with other international actors.

**Grading system**

Participation in the class (attendance, activity, written test, etc): 30 per cent
Short essay: 30 per cent
Final Exam (written): 40 per cent

**Course Plan**

**Theme 1. Studying Russia’s foreign policy: the main tools and sources of knowledge**

The main sources of information on Russia’s foreign policy: official documents, web-sites, newspapers, media-resources. Media-resources and web-site of the MFA. Analytics on foreign policy and it’s mail producers. Scientific articles and publishing agencies. The role of universities in foreign policy analysis.

**BLOCK 1. RUSSIA’S FOREIGN POLICY INSTRUMENTS**

**Theme 2. Institutional level of decision-making: actors, procedures and tools**


**Theme 3. Non-governmental level: academic and expert community, NGOs**

Non-governmental level and non-governmental actors of foreign policy process. The role of academic community, think-tanks, NGOs, civil community. Main foreign policy fora. Second-track communication.

**BLOCK 2. FOREIGN POLICY OF POST-SOVIET RUSSIA: CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES AND IDENTITY**

**Theme 4. Post-soviet foreign policy schools and approaches in Russia**


**Theme 5. Continuity and discontinuity in Soviet and Post-Soviet Russia’s foreign policy**

The changes of institutional design of foreign policy decision-making with the collapse of USSR. The evolution of threat perceptions. Main drivers of post-soviet Russia’s foreign policy. Periodisation of post-soviet foreign policy. Main foreign policy documents (foreign policy concepts, military doctrines, national security strategies): from Eltsin to Putin-2 era.

**Theme 6. Understanding Russia’s foreign policy: Western theories against Russia’s truth?**

Theme 7. Modern Russia’s foreign policy identity and self-positioning


Theme 8. Euro-Atlantic vector of Russia’s foreign policy


Theme 9. Eurasian vector of Russia’s foreign policy

Russia’s post-soviet approaches to neighbours: interests, opportunities and constrains. Institutional decisions to support cooperation on post-soviet space. Custom Union and Eurasian Economic Union. “Greater Eurasia” idea. Possibility of cooperation between the EU and EAEU. Russia and China cooperation in Central Asia.

Theme 10. Russia’s pivot to the East: opportunities and constraints

Asian vector of Russia’s foreign policy: interests and opportunities. Russia’s “pivot to the East”: main stages, key partners. “Belt and Road Initiative” and Russia’s stake at the project. Russia-China model of cooperation. Expectations and reality. Russia’s identity and “pivot to the East”.

Theme 11. Russia in multilateral cooperation organizations

Fast developing countries and new emerging superpowers: the origins of G20 and BRICS. Russia’s interests in BRICS and G20. Multilateral security cooperation: SCO. Russia’s position on the UN security reform. Russia’s return to the Council of Europe. OSCE as the only platform for Russia-EU security cooperation?

Theme 12. Russia’s soft power: challenges and reasons of limited success

Russia’s interpretation of Joseph Nuy’s concept. The idea of “attractiveness”. Institutional approach to soft power. Russia’s soft power institutions. Does Russia has soft power strategy? Effectiveness of Russia’s soft power.

BLOCK 3. NEW CHALLENGES TO RUSSIA’S FOREIGN POLICY

Theme 13. Emerging technologies and their impact on international relations and Russia’s security


Theme 14. International migrations: a threat or development resource for Russia?
Current demographic trends in Russia. The influence of demography on the labor market. Migration – challenge or resource? The balance of immigration and emigration. The basic characteristics of the immigrants flow. The problem of correlation between the demand and supply of labor market in the context of migration. Russia’s migration strategy.

**Theme 15. Russia’s integration into the global economy: sovereignty vs development dilemma**

Russia in the system of global economic relations. The understanding of economic interdependence by Russia’s ruling class. Sovereignty vs development dilemma. Economic interdependence in the era of sanctions and trade wars.

**Readings (required)**


**Readings (optional)**


   http://karaganov.ru/content/images/uploaded/a7a117d7310c6e15bf14bf0f6d2f56ae.pdf


33. EU–EAEU in Greater Eurasia: Long-Term Agenda for Economic Cooperation. IIASA project “Challenges and Opportunities of Economic Integration within a Wider European and Eurasian Space”. December, 2016. https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/79433497.pdf


49. Burlinova N. Russian soft power is just like Western soft power, but with a twist. Russia Direct. 7 April 2015. https://russia-direct.io/opinion/russian-soft-power-just-western-soft-power-twist


