Ethnopolitics in Russia

Course Syllabus
The course “Ethnopolitics in Russia” is elaborated in accordance with the MGIMO Educational Standard for the Bachelor’s Program in International Affairs (program track “Government and International Affairs”).

Author_____________________________ Elena S. Arlyapova, PhD (Political Science)
Director, MGIMO Library______________________________ Marina Reshetnikova
This program is approved by the Department of Comparative Politics
Department Chair_______________________________ Prof. O.V. Gaman-Golutvina
1.1 General information

Full course title: [Ethnopolitics in Russia]
Type of course: [Optional]
Level of course [B.A.]
Year of study: [2nd]
Number of ECTS credits allocated: [0]
Name of lecturer(s) and office hours:
Dr. Elena Arlyapova, PhD
Department of Comparative Politics
Office hours, office 3026.
E-mail: elena.s.arlyapova@gmail.com

1.2 Course aims and learning outcomes

The aim of the course is to provide students with foundational knowledge and sound understanding of ethnopolitical issues in Russia, to familiarize students with historical and geographical background of ethnopolitics in Russia, to give students guidance upon current ethnopolitical processes and trends in Russian Federation, to present basic conceptual and analytical tools required by the systematic study of ethnopolitics.

Learning outcomes:
By the end of this course students should be able to:
- Understand and operate with key definitions for the ethnopolitical field.
- Demonstrate solid knowledge of ethnic diversity in Russian Federation.
- Have a clear idea of historical background of Russian Ethnopolitics.
- Gain a better comprehension of on-going ethnopolitical processes and trends.

1.3 Course requirements and grading plan

Course requirements
Students will be required to attend not less than 75% of classes and be prepared for class discussions. Conscientious reading of the assigned materials is strongly desirable.

Grading plan
- Class participation- 20%
  Students are expected to attend all the lectures seminars and participate in class discussions; since the course is highly interactive, it is essential that students attend the seminars having read the materials for that day’s class.
- In-class tests – 20%
  Students will write three tests during the semester. Dates of test classes are defined by the instructor and communicated to the students at the first class of the respective course.
- Essay – 20%
  During the course each student is expected to write an essay (minimum 3000 characters, up to 5000 characters, Times New Roman font, size 14, 1.5 interval) on one of the topics proposed. The essay should demonstrate the level of student’s knowledge of publications on the subject. The paperwork is to be presented at least 2 weeks before the end of the course.
- In-class issue presentation – 10%.
Such a presentation (up to 15 minutes) is performed by each student at least once in the term. The presentation will be based on the week’s additional readings. The presenter should supply a brief summary of the argument but offer a critical interpretation of the reading by drawing out the key ideas of the text, linking them with others already covered, and registering agreements and disagreements. The presenter should also attempt to consider how the given argument could be framed differently. A few critical questions should further be offered for the class to discuss collectively. The presenter will be given a short written feedback after the presentation, including the grade, which can be followed up by consultation during office hours.

- Essay in-class presentation – 10%
  The essay is to be presented and consequently discussed at a seminar.
- Written/oral exam – 20% (in class, 120 minutes).
PART 2. COURSE CONTENT

2.1 Types of work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of work</th>
<th>Academic hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total for lectures, seminars and written exam</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminars</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written tests and/or exam</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Homework</strong></td>
<td><strong>32</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written and oral home assignments</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation for lectures, seminars and written exam</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2. Course content and readings by topic [template]

**Topic 1. Introduction to the Course “Ethnopolitics in Russia”**

Lecture 1.1 Introduction to the Course “Ethnopolitics in Russia”.

**Summary:**

Ethnopolitics as a swiftly emerging new sub-discipline of political science. Place of a new distinct area of study and research within political sciences and self-standing within the spectrum of disciplines related to ethnicity. Leading schools and journals.

Subject, research area, and methods of ethnopolitics – basic conceptual and analytical tools. The multidisciplinary core of the discipline and the course.

Key definitions: ethnicity, ethnos, ethnic group, minority, nationality, ethnic mobilization, ethnic and civic identity, ethnopolitical conflict, ethnopolitical process, self-determination, separatism, nation and nationalism, federalism, cultural and territorial autonomy, migration (to include derivatives).

History of ethnopolitics in Russia with particular emphasis upon on-going scholars’ and policy makers’ discussion around terms “nation” versus “ethnos”, “russkiy” versus “rossiyskiy”, crucial for proper understanding current ethnopolitical debates and trends in Russian Federation.

Course specific and navigation.

Seminar 1.1 Ethnopolitics in Russia: subject field, prospects and national specifics.

- Compulsory readings:


- Further readings:


- Internet resources:
  http://www.ethnopolitics.org/ethnopolitics/archive.html
  http://abimperio.net/ (choose English version)
  http://www.indem.ru/Ceprs/ceprieng.htm (Center for ethnopolitical and religious studies)

**Topic 2. Ethnopolitical Map of Modern Russia.**

Lecture 2.1 Ethnopolitical Composition of Russian Federation (Part I).

**Summary:**

Ethnic and religious diversity as a key element and conceptual frames of Russian nation and state building and being. Ethnic aspect of the Russian statehood and stateness. Social-cultural conditionality of ethnopolitical map of contemporary Russia.

Overall picture of multi-ethnicity and multi-religion: total number of ethnic groups and religious (beliefs) clusters, language families, etc.

Presentation of the peoples (grouped on a territorial basis) of Russia:

- Name;
- Geography;
- Population (demographic status and prognosis: birth and mortality rates; life expectancy);
- Language;
- Religion (beliefs);
- Prominent cultural settings;
- Other significant features (way of life; living standards; education; political activity, etc.);
- Myths and stereotypes.

Practical skills of characterizing ethnic groups (as an unavoidable component of further analysis of specific ethnopolitical situation).

The legal framework of the Russian diversity and multi-level interaction in the ethnopolitical field.

Seminar 2.1 Ethnopolitical Composition of Russian Federation (Part I).

- Compulsory readings:
Lecture 2.2 Ethnopolitical Composition of Russian Federation (Part II).

Summary:

Overall ethnopolitical dynamics in Russia: tendencies and outcomes, periodization.
Combination of ethnic and religious factors as determinant for the Russian inner life and domestic policy.

Institutional solutions for accommodating ethnic and religious/confessional diversity in the absence of ethnopolitical and/or ethno-confessional conflict. Acting institutions highly involved in ethnopolitical regulation, elaboration, and realization of long-term strategy in the field of Russian ethnopolitics. Non-institutional actors in ethnopolitical field.

Local legislation adjusting ethnic being, rights of ethnic minorities, interethnic relations within the state, governmental support of small-numbered ethnic groups. International laws putting into practice in Russian Federation in order to provide inhabitant ethnic groups with the best opportunities for their life and development (core documents).

Seminar 2.2 Ethnopolitical Composition of Russian Federation (Part II).

• Compulsory readings:

- Further readings:

Internet resources:

http://www.mapofworld.com/russia/thematic-maps/russia-ethnic-groups-map.html (maps)
http://www.indexmundi.com/russia/ (Constitution of Russian Federation)

Topic 3. Historical Background of Russian Ethnopolitical Scene.

Lecture 3.1 Origins of Russian Multi-Ethnicity – Before and Within the Russian Empire.

Summary:

Geographical premises of Russia’s enlargement strategy. Specific of incorporated territories as a major reason for shaping and reshaping imperial ethnopolitics (coupled with common Russian issues of governing system shortcomings). Main stages of this progress reflected in legislative documentation directly applied to ethnopolitical scope (primary acts analysis).

Handling national and religious issues in practice. “Trouble” regions and ways to solution.

Principles of differentiation in Russian society on ethno-confessional basis – formal and informal. Terms “dominant” and “minority” in reference to ethnic groups settled on the lands of the State of Russia. Benefits and shortcomings of ethnic being in the Russian Empire. Interethnic relationship and interaction between Center and Peripheries.

Migration within the state boundaries and its role for future ethnopolitical balance.

Russian language, Orthodox Church – their part in consolidation and forming national identity. Peoples’ feedback to official politics: demographic dynamics, changes in living area and living standards, degree of political and social involvement.

Conflicting nationalisms of the Center and national Peripheries, and of last ones – among each other.

Major ethnopolitical outcomes off the Tsar time. Perception of the Russian Empire politics towards different ethnic groups: in historiography and nowadays.

Anatomizing the thesis “prison of the nations” and “russification”.
Seminar 3.1 Origins of Russian Multi-Ethnicity – Before and Within the Russian Empire.

- Compulsory readings:

- Further readings:

Lecture 3.2 National (Ethnopolitical) Question in Russian Political Thought.

Summary:
Ethnopolitical problems in the Empire as a reason and base for pointed criticism. Conceptual frames and conducted ethnic policy as targets for blistering attacks by opponents. Ethnopolitical needs, demands and proposals initiated at the local level.

Russian political thought and public debates over ethnic and national issues in XIX – beginning of XX centuries. Ideological doctrine “Orthodoxy, Autocracy and Nationality”: premises and effects. The Slavophiles and Westernizers about ethnopolitical situation, official policy and further planning.

Nationalism versus cosmopolitanism.

Forerunner of Eurasianism – in view of actual parallels with current integration (the Neo-Eurasianism) and isolation (the Nationalism) projects.

“National question” concerns in program thesis and leaders’ speeches of acting parliamentary and non-parliamentary political parties in Russia. The first Dumas’ debates.

Role and significance of ethnopolitical problems and the “national question” in revolutionary movements in Russia in the beginning of XX century.

Seminar 3.2 National (Ethnopolitical) Question in Russian Political Thought.

- Compulsory readings:

Further readings:

Lecture 3.3 Soviet Ethnopolitics. Theoretical grounds.

Summary:
Evolution of V. Lenin’s strategic attitude to national question in Russia and view of forming and functioning of the Soviet State in the light of ethnopolitics. Competing concepts, existing alternatives. Inner-Party debates.
Ethnic hierarchy in the USSR: origins, essence and political application.
“Ethnofederal” state phenomenon.
“Russian question” throughout Soviet ethnic policy (theory).

Seminar 3.3 Soviet Ethnopolitics. Theoretical grounds.

Compulsory readings:

Further readings:

Lecture 3.4 Soviet Ethnopolitics. Practical Realization.

Summary:
 Soviet yearly years: historical and political context for realization of the adopted ethnopolitical strategy. Institutions and their zones of responsibility in elaboration and putting into practice the ethnic policy of the Soviet state. Reaction at the local level.

Ethnopolitical experiments of the 1920s. Language reforms. Religion and the State: influence of lasting conflict on ethnopolitical instability in the regions. Collectivization and industrialization as side factors, increasing tension in ethnopolitical field and its further dynamics. First outcomes of the 1930s. Peoples’ feedback to measures of developing ethnic groups and their living areas (basic indicators): birth and mortality rates (including infant mortality), health, life expectancy, literacy and education, language and cultural status, etc.

Russian question before and after 1936 (practical measures taken).

Deportations and rehabilitations before and during the World War II: vital significance of both phenomena for the late and Post-Soviet ethnopolitical reality.

Long-term demographic, migratory and ethnopolitical trends of the late 1970s as crucial input into gradual loss of state control and raise of ethnocracy in national republics.

Overall outcomes from the Soviet ethnopolitics: peoples’ feedback in a long-range perspective (basic indicators); summarizing the Soviet age - achievements, mistakes and conclusions.

Seminar 3.4 Soviet Ethnopolitics. Practical Realization.

• Compulsory readings:

• Further readings:

**Topic 4. Sticking Points of Recent and On-going Ethnopolitics in Russia.**

**Lecture 4.1 Positive and Negative Basis of Soviet Heritage – Seeking for Balance.**

**Summary:**
Ethnopolitical situation on the eve of grandiose collapse of the Soviet State. Role and meaning of “national question” in forthcoming political events.
Dissolution of the USSR and its dramatic consequences for newly-re-birthing Russia in sense of ethnopolitical changes. Russians in the Near Abroad. Refugees issue.
Conceptual heritage of the former Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic – positive and negative basis for further seeking for balance. Attempts to organize elaboration and realization of the state ethnic policy, results.
Reasons contributed to continued politicization of ethnicity in the early post-Soviet years. Self-determination issue rebirth.
Separatism and ethnic conflicts of the 1990s, resolutions and outcomes.
Uprising of religion throughout the country. Terrorism on ethnic and religious basis.
Dynamics of overall peoples’ feedback – changes in basic indicators: birth and mortality rates (including infant mortality), health, life expectancy, literacy and education, language and culture, etc.
Global trends in Russian ethnopolitical diversity (dramatic revision of dominant ethnic group perception at the local levels, migration in the favor of the cities within the country boundaries and migration flows abroad, etc.).

**Seminar 4.1 Positive and Negative Basis of Soviet Heritage – Seeking for Balance.**

- Compulsory readings:

Further readings:


Lecture 4.2 Current Ethnopolitical Trends and Future Status.

Summary:

Fighting ethnic and religious radicalization – setting the appropriate toolbox. Legislative base against terrorism and extremism. Core documents handling ethnic issues in Russia. Long-term strategy in program articles by V. Putin. From searching for the new ideas and elaboration of working concept for Russian national identity to practical nation-re-building.

Progress and difficulties of nation-making process: emerging nationalism of the Russian ethnic group and evolution of the “Russian idea”, competing nationalisms and the multi-level identity in the Russian regions.

Local ethnopolitical processes and feedback from national republics.

Overall indicators and ethnopolitical dynamics in Russia: proceeded changes and perspectives.

Seminar 4.2 Ethnopolitical Trends in Contemporary Russia and Future Status

Compulsory readings:


Further readings:


2.3. Essay topics/Exam Questions

1) “Nation”: definition, interpretation. 
   Multi-ethnicity of Russian Federation and current ethnopolitical trends.

2) “Ethnicity”: definition, interpretation. 
   Multi-ethnicity of Russian Federation and ethnic policy of the 1990-s: trends and outcomes.

3) “Identity”: definition, interpretation. 
   Historical background of Russian multi-ethnicity – Russian Empire: landmarks for the field.

4) “Ethnic minority”: definition, interpretation. 
   Soviet ethnopolitics: conceptual frames.

5) “Nationalism”: definition, interpretation. 
   Soviet ethnopolitics: major stages of realization.

6) “Migration”: definition, interpretation. 
   Russian political thought and public debates over the “national question”.

7) “Ethnopolitical conflict”: definition, interpretation. 
   Positive and negative Soviet heritage in ethnopolitical sphere.

8) “Self-determination”: definition, interpretation. 
   Legislative base for ethnopolitics in Russia: core local and international documents.

9) “Separatism”: definition, interpretation. 
   Ethnic composition of Russian Federation: general description and characteristics.

10) “Autonomy”: definition, interpretation. 
    Ethnopolitical conflicts in Post-Soviet Russia: reasons, ways of solution.

    Religious factor in Russian ethnopolitical field.

12) “Ethnopolitical process”: definition, interpretation. 
    Nationhood in the Soviet Union.
2.4. Exam timing

- Spring semester test – last week of May.

4.5. Consolidated reading list (in alphabetic order)

Compulsory readings:


Further readings:


PART 3. FINAL REMARKS

- Plagiarism is considered as a severe violation and as an indication of incompetence in the course. Plagiarism is understood as making of one’s text using compilation method for other people’s publications, even connected with own phrases and sentences. Collective performance of individual tasks is also unacceptable. Proved plagiarism an F-mark is given regardless of the fulfillment of all other requirements.
- Assignments are to be handed in on the due date. Late submissions will translate into the lowering of the grade by 1/3 of a grade for each day of delay.
- Students are asked to keep a copy of all work submitted for evaluation.