The syllabus for the course

Introduction to Political Science

Government and International Relations
(41.03.05 School of Government and International Relations)

Program: Government and International Relations

Qualification – Bachelor
Form of study – Full time
The Course “Introduction to Political Science” has been elaborated in accordance with the MGIMO Educational Standard for the Bachelor’s Program in International Relations (track “Government and international relations”)

Authors
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Director of the MGIMO library ____________________________ M.V. Reshetnikova.

The syllabus has been approved by the Department of Comparative politics on __________2016.
Head of Department
______________________ prof. O.V. Gaman-Golutvina
PART 1: INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION, COURSE DESCRIPTION AND TEACHING METHODS

1.1 General information
- Full course title: Introduction to Political Science
- Type of course: Compulsory
- Level of course: B.A.
- Year of study: 1st and 2nd
- Number of ECTS credits allocated: 6 (2 at the 1st Year and 4 at the 2nd Year of studies)
- Name of lecturer(s) and office hours:
  Dr. I.V. Kudryashova, Associate professor, Department of Comparative politics
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1.2 Course aims and learning outcomes
The course is designed as an introduction to the concepts underlying modern approaches to the study of politics and as an introduction to comparative politics, a field that involves cross-national analysis and area studies of domestic politics in different countries. The course is taught in units of political actors, political phenomena and specific theoretical problems. The theme-based composition of the course will familiarize the students with the main theoretical frameworks in contemporary Comparative Politics, i.e. the structuralist approach, the culturalist approach, the institutionalist approach and the agency-based approach.

Learning outcomes:
By the end of this course students should be able to:
- understand the basic political concepts in politics;
- discuss major theories and concepts of political science and its subfields;
- understand the nature of power, authority, legitimacy, leadership;
- apply terminology, theories, and concepts to current events and specific cases,
- critically interpret domestic and international political events;
- assess structural, cultural and institutional factors determining political outcomes;
- understand the essence of institutional arrangements;
- compare institutions, political culture and behavior across nations;
- demonstrate critical thinking, analyze and evaluate political evidence and produce well-reasoned arguments about politics using evidence to support conclusions in a coherent way

1.3 Course requirements and grading plan
Course requirements
Students will be required to attend not less than 90% of classes and be prepared for class discussions. Reading of the assigned materials and active engagement in class discussions is compulsory.
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 – 60%
  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.

• In-class issue presentation – 20%
  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 and discussion topics. 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.
PART 2. COURSE CONTENT

2.1 Types of work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of work</th>
<th>Academic hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>72</td>
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<td>Total for classwork</td>
<td>144</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>32</td>
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<td>Seminars</td>
<td>144</td>
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<td>Homework</td>
<td>216</td>
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<td>Preparations for lectures, seminars, written or oral tests</td>
<td>66</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preparations for and passing the final exam</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Course assessment (homework, tests, activity at seminars)</td>
<td>114</td>
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2.2 Course outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section and topic</th>
<th>Full-time course</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Academic hours taken (or credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lectures</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Politics and political science</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>2. Political culture and political socialization</td>
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<td>3. “Political man” in contemporary world.</td>
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<td>4. Political system and institutions</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>5. Political regimes</td>
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<td>5. Party and party systems</td>
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<td>7. Territorial arrangements: federalism vs. unitarism</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
8. Origins of democracy and its contemporary development | 4 | 4 | 12 | 20
9. Political development and modernization. | 4 | 4 | 12 | 20
Preparation for and passing the final exam | - | - | 36 | 36
TOTAL | 32 | 34 | 150 | 216

2.3 Course content and readings by topic

Schedule and Assignments
Topic 1. Politics and political science
Topic 2. Political culture and political socialization
Topic 6. «Political man» in contemporary world
Topic 3. Political system and institutions
Topic 4. Political regimes
Topic 5. Party and party systems
Topic 7. Territorial arrangements: federalism vs. unitarism
Topic 8. Origins of Democracy and its contemporary development
Topic 9. Political development and modernization

Topic 1. Politics and political science (2 lectures, 2 seminars)

Lecture 1.1
Introduction to the course. Course format. Goals, objectives and assessment. Course content: outline of main topics. Politics as a social phenomenon. Concepts and interpretations of politics. Finding the best definition. Politics as: ‘current affairs’, the art of government, conflict or competition for power and its use, resolution of conflict, etc. Short introduction to the theory of political systems and functionalist approach. Politics as a functionally defined subsystem and its interconnection with the other subsystems in society. Functions served by these subsystems.

Lecture 1.2
What is political science? Political science as philosophy and theory. Development of the discipline of political science. Traditional subfields of political science. Comparison as one of the most adequate ways to connect theory about society and politics with empirically founded facts. Framework of political analysis. Analytical approaches to the study of politics.

Seminar 1.1
Themes for discussion:
1. What is politics and what causes the diversity of its definitions?
2. How do you understand the following expression: “Man is by nature a political animal” (Aristotle).
3. What is the role of politics in modern society and what is the relationship between politics and other subsystems in society? Give relevant examples from your country’s political life.

Seminar 1.2
Themes for discussion:
1. Main stages of the development of political science.
2. What is comparative politics and what does it do in practice?

Compulsory readings for topic 1:

Further readings for topic 1:

Internet resources:
- International Political Science Association: http://www.ipsa.org/
- Russian Political science association: http://rapn.ru/

Topic 2. Political culture and political socialization. (2 lectures and 2 seminars)

Lecture 2.1
Political systems and political cultures. What is ‘political culture’: principal approaches to conceptualization. Political culture as the particular distribution of patterns of orientation towards political objects (G.Almond, S.Verba). Alternative approaches.
The structure of political culture. Political culture and political behavior. Political culture and political socialization. Agents of political socialization. Classifying political cultures.

Lecture 2.2

Seminar 2.1
Themes for discussion:
1. The concept of political culture: definitions, structure, types. Why do we need to study political culture?
2. Democracy and political culture. What should come first?
Seminar 2.2
Themes for discussion:
1. Political socialization and its principal agents. How ‘to learn’ political culture and whether it might be taught?
2. Political culture in Russia: “eternal” or changeable?

Compulsory readings for topic 2:

Further readings for topic 2:

Internet resources:
World values survey. URL: http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/
• Bowling Alone.com: http://www.bowlingalone.com/

Topic 3. «Political man» in contemporary world ( 2 lectures, 2 seminars)

Lecture 3.1. Political behavior and political leadership
Person as the main actor of political relations. Social groups in politics. Political socialization, its mechanisms and stages. Agents of political socialization.

Lecture 3.2. Political leadership
Political leadership. Main functions of leadership. Types of authority. Typologies of political leaders. Styles of political behavior. Political psychological studies of political leadership.
Political elites as the subject of political science. Classical and contemporary theories of political elites. Recruitment and rotation of political elites under democratic and authoritarian regimes.

Seminar 3.1. Political behavior and political leadership
Themes for discussion:
1. Political actors
2. Types of political behavior
3. Types of political leaders

Seminar 3.2. Political Elites and Political Leadership in Russia in Historical Retrospective and Comparative Perspective

Themes for discussion:
1. Elite recruitment in the Commonwealth of Independent States
2. Political elites in Russian politics
3. Elite transformations in Russian politics

Compulsory readings:
• Gaman-Golutvina O. Russian elites in the modern nomadic civilization. (Reader)

Further readings:

Internet resources:
• President of Russia: http://eng.kremlin.ru/

Topic 4. Political institutions (1 lecture, 1 seminar)

Lecture 4.1

Seminar 4.2
Themes for discussion:
1. Emergence and evolution of the state
2. Institutions and their political consequences
3. The perils and virtues of presidentialism
4. Institutional design for new democracies

Compulsory readings:

Further readings:

Internet resources:
- Inter-Parliamentary Union: http://www.ipu.org/english/home.htm

Topic 5. Political regimes (1 lecture, 1 seminar)
Lecture 5.1
Contemporary political regimes. Typologies of political regimes. Measuring political regimes. The longevity of nondemocratic regimes.
Totalitarian regimes. The essence of totalitarianism. The features of totalitarian regimes. Historic examples: Mussolini’s Italy, Hitler’s Germany, Stalin’s USSR, Mao’s China.
Institutionalization in dictatorships. Modern hybrid regimes.
Regime emergence and breakdown. Regime changes: revolutions, coups, reforms, democratization and civil wars.

Seminar 5.2
Themes for discussion:
1. Political regime operationalization
2. Political regimes’ preconditions
3. Institutions and regime survival
4. Political regimes changes

Compulsory readings:

Further readings:

Internet resources:

Topic 6. Territorial arrangements: federalism vs. unitarism (2 lectures, 2 seminars)
Lecture 6.1
Lecture 6.2

Seminar 6.1
Themes for discussion:
1. Is there any federal tradition in Russia’s history? Soviet model of federalism.
3. Key features of “Yeltsin” model of federalism.

Seminar 6.2
Themes for discussion:
1. Administrative reform of the president Putin.
3. Why to support federalism in contemporary Russia?

Compulsory readings:

Further readings for topic:

Internet resources:
Topic 7. Parties and party systems (2 lectures, 2 seminars)

Lecture 7.1 Political parties

Lecture 7.2 Party systems
Definition of party system. Party system as system of interactions between parties about organization of government. Quantitative and political principles of typology of party systems. One-party system, two-party system, various types of multiparty systems. Parties in governments.
Parties and party system in contemporary Russia.

Seminar 7.1
Themes for discussion:
1. Political parties: definition and types
2. New types of political parties.

Seminar 7.2
Themes for discussion:
1. Various typologies of party systems.
2. Influence of electoral systems on party systems.
3. Electoral and party systems in Russia.

Compulsory readings:

Further readings:

Internet resources:
- Parties and elections: www.parties-and-elections.de
- Election world: www.electionworld.org
- International IDEAs Voting Turnout Around the World: www.idea.int
- Administration and Cost of Elections Project: www.aceproject.orgn
Topic 8. Origins of Democracy and its contemporary development (2 lectures, 2 seminars)

Lecture 8.1

Lecture 8.2 Transitions to democracy

Seminar 8.1
Themes for discussion:
Models of democracy in history. The emergence of democracy in the modern world. British and American models of democracy.

Seminar 8.2
Themes for discussion:
Transitions to democracy. Difficulties during rapid changes. Three basic components of society: institutions, political culture and social networks. Outcomes of the dissonance between the three components. Growth of corruption in “grey zones”. Case-studies: Arab countries, Russia, post-Soviet space.

Compulsory readings:

Further readings:

Internet resources:
- Freedom House: http://www.freedomhouse.org/

Topic 9. Political development and modernization (2 lectures, 2 seminars)

Lecture 9.1

Lecture 9.2.
Crises in political development (L.Pye). Activities of the Committee on comparative politics (G. Almond) in 1960-s. Political development and political decay.

Seminar 9.1
Themes for discussion:
1. Evaluate various definitions of political development. What are the characteristics of political development? Discuss its implications and requirements.
2. What are the causes of political development? Give its factors with critical evaluation.

Seminar 9.2
Themes for discussion:
1. What produce the controversy over modernization theory?
2. Modernization as Russia’s priority.

Compulsory readings:

Further readings:
- Shevtsova L.F. Lonely power: Why Russia has failed to become the West and the west is weary of Russia. – Carnegie endowment for international peace, United book press, 2010.

Internet resources:
- Eldis (an online information service providing free access to relevant, up-to-date and diverse research on international development issues): http://www.eldis.org/Europe 2020: http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm

2.4. Essay topics

Topic 1. Politics and political science.
- Why it is often said that political science is a discipline with a mission?
- How can we understand Bismarck’s words “Politics is the art of the possible?
Topic 2. Political culture and political socialization.
- Why do we need to study political culture?
- Political culture in Russia: “eternal” or changeable?

Topic 3. «Political man» in contemporary world.
- Political leadership: ancient and modern
- Political leader (case study)
- Leadership recruitment (comparative study between regimes)

Topic 4. Political system and institutions
- Political institutions and regime survival: case study
- The perils of presidentialism (semi-presidentialism): case study
- The virtues of parliamentarianism: case study

Topic 5. Political regimes
- Political regime: case-study
- Political regime change: case-study
- Modern hybrid regime: case study

Topic 6. Party and party systems
- Universality of Duverger’s effect
- Perspectives of new types of political parties
- Peculiarities of Russian political parties

Topic 7. Territorial arrangements: federalism vs. unitarism
- Why do the states choose federal order?
- How does federalism relate to democracy?
- Perspectives of ethnic federalism in Russia
- Interregional disparities and federal choice

Topic 8. Origins of Democracy and its contemporary development
- Democracy: old and new, good or bad.
- Globalization’s influence on democracy

Topic 9. Political development and modernization
- Why did Abraham Lincoln believe that “the ballot is stronger than the bullet”?
- How can you illustrate the controversies of modernization in [a chosen country].

2.5. Exam Questions

Topic 1. Politics and political science.
- Political science as a discipline. Major subfields of political science.
- Definition of politics. Why there are so many definitions of it
- Methods of studying politics
- Relationship between politics and other spheres of social life

Topic 2. Political culture and political socialization
• The concept of political culture: alternative approaches to conceptualization
• Political culture and democracy: classic and contemporary studies
• Political culture and socialization

**Topic 3. «Political man» in contemporary world.**
• Political behavior
• Political leadership
• Political elites

**Topic 4. Political system and institutions.**
• System approach in political science
• Role and functions of political institutions in political systems
• Emergence and evolution of the state: theoretical and historic approaches
• Political institutions and regime survival
• Parliamentarism and presidentialism in comparative perspective

**Topic 6. Political regimes**
• Types of political regimes
• Non-democratic regimes in the XX century.
• Political regime changes
• Modern hybrid regimes

**Topic 7. Party and party systems**
• Political parties and their types
• Typologies of party systems
• Classification of electoral system

**Topic 8. Territorial arrangements: federalism vs. unitarism**
• Federal and unitary states: basic differences
• How does federalism relate to democracy?
• Safeguards for federalism
• Federalism in Russia: current situation

**Topic 9. Origins of democracy and its contemporary development**
• Models of democracy
• Democratic transitions: models and agents
• Waves of democracy in contemporary world

**Topic 10. Political development and modernization**
• What do we mean by the process of political development? How can we measure it?
• What does political modernization involve?

**2.6 Exam timing**
• Fall semester tests – last week of December; exams January 10-25.
• Spring semester tests – last week of May; exams June 1-25.

**2.7 Consolidated reading list (in alphabetic order)**
Textbooks

Further Readings
12. Gaman-Golutvina O. Elites and leadership in Russian politics (Reader)
14. Gaman-Golutvina O. Russian elites in the modern nomadic civilization. (Reader)
26. Mansfield H.C. Machiavelli’s political science // The American political science review. – Los
   Angeles, 1981. - Vol.75, No. 2.
27. Marin, R. "Instances of decentralization in East-Central Europe: operationalization,
taxonomy and applications on local political elites’ outlook." Romanian Journal Of Political
   May 12, 2017).
28. Mironov B.N. "The Russian Revolution of 1917 as a By-Product of Modernization."
   Russian Social Science Review 56, no. 1: 79-95. 2015. Academic Search Premier, EBSCOhost
   (accessed May 12, 2017)
29. Parsons T. The role of theory in social research // American sociological review. - 1938. -
   Vol.3, No. 1.
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.