Moscow State Institute of International Relations
(MGIMO University),
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia

Department of Applied Analysis of International Issues

«Approved»

Director of School of Government and International Affairs

__________________________Mikhail Troitskiy

«___» _____________________ 2018 г.

Russian Foreign Policy

Course Syllabus

Syllabus developed by Irina V. Bolgova, 2018

© Bolgova I.V., 2018
© MGIMO University, 2018
The course “Russian Foreign Policy” is designed in accordance with the MGIMO Educational Standard for Bachelor programs in International Affairs (program track “Government and International Affairs”).

Author___________________________ Associate Prof. Irina V. Bolgova

Director of the MGIMO library______________________ Marina Reshetnikova

The program is approved by Department of Applied Analysis of International Issues on the 25th of January 2018

Head of the Department___________________________ Prof. Tatiana A. Shakleina
PART 1:
INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION, COURSE DESCRIPTION
AND TEACHING METHODS

1.1 General information

Full course title: Russian Foreign Policy
Type of course: Compulsory
Level of course B.A.
Year of study: 3d
Number of ECTS credits allocated: 4

Name of lecturer and office hours:
   Dr. Irina V. Bolgova, PhD in History
   Associate Professor, Department of Applied Analysis of International Issues
   Office hours: Thursday 3PM-7PM, office 3036
   E-mail: i.bolgova@inno.mgimo.ru

1.2 Course aims and learning outcomes

The course is aimed at understating of sources of continuity and discontinuity in contemporary Russian Foreign Policy. Specificity and general patterns of the subject are studied with specific theoretical instruments and necessary empirical background. Russia’s various current policy options are discussed, as well as the issue of national identity of contemporary Russia and its significance for the foreign policy discourse

   Learning outcomes:
   By the end of this course students should be able to:
   • Understand the bases for Russian foreign policy interests and instruments;
   • Evaluate main global priorities and key regional vectors of the Russian foreign policy;
   • Know the main driving forces and groups of interests for elaborating foreign policy priorities;
   • Know the major theoretical approaches towards contemporary Russian foreign policy;
   • Analyse the foreign policy discourse and activities in a broad historical and theoretical framework.

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. Conscientious reading of the assigned materials is compulsory.

Grading plan

Class participation - 20%
Students are expected to attend all the lectures and 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 paperwork on home reading – 40%
Students will write two paper works during the semester (without notice, 1 essay question, up to 30 minutes)

Work-shop – 30 %
Students will have an in-class discussion activity followed by the group presentation of the results (based on home readings, lectures and seminars conclusions)

Requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mark (max)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-class paperwork on home reading (2 times)</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshop on home reading and in-class discussions</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminars</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written tests and/or exam</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Homework</strong></td>
<td><strong>36</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written and oral home assignments</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation for lectures, seminars and written exam</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2. Course content and readings by topic

The Course Schedule (Tentative):

I. ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORKS

Lecture 1. Introduction. Continuity of Russia’s Foreign Policy: Needs, Interests, Goals

Compulsory reading:


Further reading:


Lecture 2. Time, Space and Identity in Russian Foreign Policy

Compulsory reading:


Further reading:


Lecture 3. International Relations Theory and the Study of Russian Foreign Policy

Compulsory reading:


Further reading:


Lecture 4. **Soviet Foreign Policy**: Superpower concept

**Compulsory reading:**


**Further reading:**


Seminar 1: Basic priorities for Russian foreign policy: theoretical framework

Compulsory reading:


Further reading:


II. CONTEMPORARY DEVELOPMENT

Lecture 5. **1990-s: Foreign policy resources vs. national interest**

**Compulsory reading:**


**Further reading:**


Lecture 6. **Post-soviet space in Russian foreign policy: goals and challenges**

**Compulsory reading:**


**Further reading:**


**Seminar 2: 2000’s Putin Foreign Policy Alternatives**

**Compulsory reading:**


**Further reading:**


III. MODERN POLITICAL CHALLENGES

Lecture 7. Russia and USA relations

Compulsory reading:


Further reading:


Lecture 8. Russia as a European country: Russia – EU relations

Compulsory reading:


Further reading:


Leichtova, M 2014, Misunderstanding Russia : Russian Foreign Policy And The West, Farnham: Ashgate, eBook Academic Collection (EBSCOhost)

Seminar 3. Natural resources as a source for Russian foreign policy

Compulsory reading:


Further reading:
Seminar 4. The issue of integration in Russian foreign policy

Compulsory reading:


Further reading:


Lecture 9. Russian ‘pivot to the East’: Russia – China relations

Compulsory reading:


Further reading:


Seminar 5. The evolution of contemporary Russian Foreign policy: continuity and change

Compulsory reading:

Lavrov, Sergey. Russia’s Foreign Policy Philosophy. International Affairs, No. 3, March 2013. [URL]

Trenin D. Highs and Lows: Russia’s Foreign Policy at the Start of 2018. // Russia in Global Affairs 5th February 2018. [URL]

Further readings:


**Seminar 6: Goals and resources in contemporary Russian FP**

**Compulsory reading:**

Lavrov, Sergey (2016). Russia’s Foreign policy in a Historical Perspective. Russia in Global Affairs. [URL]


2.5. Consolidated reading list (in alphabetic order)

**Compulsory reading:**


Further readings:


Internet resources


Official documents


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.