

Joint MA in Political Science: Integration and Governance

Module: International Relations

Course: Russian Foreign Policy

Course Title	Russian Foreign Policy			
Course Number				
Module	International Relations			
Type of Courses	Lecture+Seminar			
ECTS credits	6			
Number of teaching hours	30 teaching hours			
Lecturers	Dr. Hajdi Xhixha			
Assistant lecturers				
Department	Political Science – Faculty of Political Science and Security Studies-UBT			
Curricula	Joint MA in Political Science: Integration and Governance			
Compulsory/elective	Elective			
Entry level criteria	Successful completion of the course Foundations of International Relations			
Recommended for semester	3 or 4			

Course description	<p>This course combines perspectives from the diplomatic and political sciences to analyze the development of Russian foreign policy toward the Balkans, Europe and beyond. The aim of the course is to introduce the students to the Russian self-positioning in the world; to know and understand the basic concepts of Russia's foreign policy, its relations with other countries, international unions, organizations, etc... The course begins with an overview of the concepts and themes in Russian studies and will continue with the theoretical framework, and historical background of Russian foreign policy development. It will also include an overview of official decision-making, "hard" and "soft" power tools used in time by Russian officials. The students will learn and understand foreign policy mind-set of Russia, perceptions and its position in the global order, relations with other countries, conflicts and clashes, and the Russian role in global governance. This course will also offer to students' knowledge on contemporary Russian foreign policy, global challenges and how they influence Russia's position in the global order. A very important section of the course are the themes of Russia relations with the Balkan Region, Europe and world beyond, where students will be able to expand their knowledge on specific relations of Russia, developed with specific policies.</p> <p>The topics discussed will summarize main concepts, themes, situations of Russia and their impact on international relations; position of Russia in the world as an international factor.</p>
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<p>Intended learning outcomes</p>	<p>Knowledge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● comprehensive knowledge on Russian perception and tradition in the foreign policy field; political and diplomatic concepts. ● Complete knowledge on history, political and strategic behaviour of Russia toward the Region, Europe, the World; ● Practical knowledge about the political processes and situations between Russia and other International actors. <p>Competence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● understanding and analysing the main drivers and founding principles of foreign policy of Russia and its dynamics; ● analysing Russia’s self-perception, and it’s position in the region, Europe, and the world; ● analysing strategic directions of Russia’s foreign policy and its relations with other international actors. <p>Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students will be able to analyze historical and political processes during the important stages of Russian Foreign Policy; ● Students will be able to critically assess some of the conditions for historic, state and political situations of Russia during its history and today; ● Students will be able to compare the different policies of Russia during Soviet and post-soviet era till contemporary times which will help them be able to analyze the foreign policy of Russia during history and nowadays.
<p>Contribution of this course to the learning outcomes of the module (or program)</p>	<p>This course contributes to the Module learning outcomes by enhancing the knowledge, skills and competencies attained in the basic course at a specialised level focused on the dynamics of Russian foreign policy.</p>
<p>Expected prerequisite knowledge</p>	

<p>Assessment methods</p>	<p>A. Class Attendance and Participation (20 points) Twenty (20) course grade points will be based on regular attendance and active participation. Students with no unexcused absences and who regularly participate in class discussions will earn 20 points. One unexcused absence and limited participation will earn 10 points. More than one unexcused absence and minimal participation will earn 0 points. Classroom participation will form an integral part of the course, and students will be expected to develop the ability to think clearly and critically, ask significant questions, and express their ideas logically and concisely.</p> <p>IMPORTANT: Regular participation is mandatory.</p> <p>B. Review others paper (30 points) Each student will sign up to deliver a brief review of others papers on one chosen topic. A sign sheet will be made available in class, and the reviews will start by the third class session. The reviews will be a 5-minute review of key points in the paper, followed by commentary/analysis, and help lead the class into a brief discussion.</p> <p>C. Final Exam (50 points) The final exam will consist of an essay (cca. Bt. 13-19 pages) that should reflect a clear understanding of the readings and ideas we considered throughout the semester. It should refer to some course reading materials, discussions, and videos. The essay paper is due by XXX, and should be e-mailed directly (preferably in Word) to the instructors at hajdi.xhixha@ubt-uni.net Topics TBA.</p> <p>Students are encouraged to consult with the instructors if they need additional clarification. Please note that the final grade will reward improvement throughout the course.</p>												
<p>Specific requirements</p>	<p>Presentation of an original paper as agreed in consultation with the lecturer. A second submission of a paper used already in another course is not allowed.</p>												
<p>Pre-Conditions for examination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - presentation of paper; - regular class attendance 												
<p>Teaching methods</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Assignm ent/ Activity</th> <th>Teaching Activity</th> <th>Wor kloa d</th> <th>Assessm ent activity</th> <th>Assessme nt criteria</th> <th>Percen tage of final grade</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Ex cathedra</td> <td>Ex cathedra</td> <td>30</td> <td>Class attendan ce</td> <td>List of class attendanc</td> <td>Basic require ment</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Assignm ent/ Activity	Teaching Activity	Wor kloa d	Assessm ent activity	Assessme nt criteria	Percen tage of final grade	Ex cathedra	Ex cathedra	30	Class attendan ce	List of class attendanc	Basic require ment
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					e (at least 80%)	
	Paper	Discuss topic of paper; review of ongoing work (when posted to Moodle), ..	40	Continuous writing, presentation (Moodle) and final finishing of paper.	Completeness, consistency, accuracy, ... of the text.	20%
	Review of other's papers	Provide criteria for the review	30	Continuous review of two colleagues papers (whenever posted to Moodle) following given criteria.	Completeness, usefulness, ... of review	30%
	Final Exam	Written exam	50	Final exam grading	Correctness exam of the answers given	50%
	Total		150 h¹			100 %

Course content		
List of contents/topics	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Required reading</i>
	Introduction:	Malinova O. 2014
	Theory of Russian approaches : Realism, Liberalism, constructivism (1)	Dugin A. (2012)
	Theory of Russian approaches : Realism, Liberalism, constructivism (2)	Dugin A. (2012)
	History of Russian Foreign Policy: Soviet and post-soviet era (1)	Legvold R. 2007, Lebedeva M. 2018
	History of Russian Foreign Policy: Soviet and post-soviet era (2)	Legvold R. 2007, Lebedeva M. 2018
	Russian Foreign Policy: Putin era	Tsygankov A. 2005

¹ based on [EXCT-CP * 25], here 6 are assumed

	Russian Foreign Policy Toward Balkan Region	Samokhalov V. 2019
	Russian Policy toward Europe	Romanova T. 2016 Snegovaya M. 2021
	Ukraine-Russian relations, before and now.	Toal G. 2017
	Russian International organizations; CSTO, CST; Russian lead role inside them.	Douhan A.F. and Rusakovich A.V. 2016
	Russian Foreign Policy toward Asia; EuroAsia	Timofeev I., Alekseenkova E. 2015
	Russian foreign Policy toward Africa	Ramani S. 2023
	Cultural Diplomacy of Russia; soft power	Tsvetkova N. 2020 Melissen J. 2005
	America-Russian relations; politics, strategic and diplomacy	Stent A.E. 2015
	The future; Russia toward global economy	Lavrov S.2019

<p style="text-align: center;">Mandatory literature</p>	<p>Legvold R. Russian Foreign Policy in the 21th century and the shadow of the past, Colombia University Press, 2007.</p> <p>Dugin A. The fourth political theory, London: Arktos, 2012</p> <p>Bratersky M. V. The Evolution of National Security Thinking in Post-Soviet Russia // Strategic Analysis. 2016.</p> <p>Lebedeva M. Russian studies of international relations. In Soviet and Post-Soviet Politics and Society. Vol.187. Stuttgart, 2018. https://www.ibidem.eu/media/catalog/product/9/7/9783838208510_inhaltsverzeichnis.pdf</p> <p>Ivanov I. An overview of Russian foreign policy. In The new Russian diplomacy, Brookings Institution Press and Nixon Centre 2002,</p> <p>Malinova O. Obsession with status and resentment: Historical backgrounds of the Russian discursive identity construction. Communist and Post-Communist Studies 47, 291-303, 2014</p> <p>Toal G. Near Abroad: The West and the context over Ukraine and Caucasus, Oxford University, 2017</p> <p>Tsygankov A. Vladimir Putin's Vision of Russia as a Normal Great Power. In Post-Soviet Affairs, 2005.</p> <p>Samokhvalov v. Russia in the Balkans, Great Power Politics and local response, <u>vol. 21, no. 2, the balkans at a crossroads: domestic issues, regional affairs, global powers, changing dynamics (spring 2019)</u>, pp. 189-210 (22 pages).</p> <p>Snegovaya M. The timing of the Shrew; How the west could make the Kremlin Listen, European view, p.72-79, 2021.</p> <p>Romanova T. Russia and Europe: Somewhat different, somewhat the same? RIAC Policy Brief, No.5, July 2016. https://russiancouncil.ru/common/upload/Russia-EuropePolicybrief5-en.pdf</p> <p>Douhan A.F. and Rusakovich A.V. (eds.) collective security treaty organization and contingency planning after 2014, Foreign Policy and Security Research Centre, Geneva – Minsk, 2016</p> <p>Timofeev I., Alekseenkova E. Eurasia in Russian Foreign Policy: Interests, Opportunities and Constraints / I.Timofeev, E.Alekseenkova // Institute Francais des relations internationales. - Russie.Nei.Visions No. 89, December 2015.</p> <p>Ramani S. Russia in Africa Resurgent Great Power or Bellicose Pretender? Hurst, 2023.</p> <p>Tsvetkova N. Russian Digital Diplomacy: A Rising Cyber Soft Power? Springer 2020</p> <p>Melissen J. The New Public Diplomacy Soft Power in International Relations, Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.</p> <p>Stent A.E. The Limits of Partnership: U.S.-Russian Relations in the Twenty-First Century, edition paperback, march 2019.</p>
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	<p>Lavrov S. World at a Crossroads and a System of International Relations for the Future // Russia in Global Affairs. 20 September 2019. https://eng.globalaffairs.ru/book/World-at-a-crossroads-The-future-system-of-international-relations-2019</p>
<p>Optional literature</p>	<p>Kortunov A. False Conflict: Universalism and Identity, Russian International Affairs Council, October, 2017</p> <p>Neumann I.B. Russia and the Idea of Europe: A Study in Identity and International Relations (New International Relations), Routledge 1995.</p> <p>Tsuganov A. Russia's Foreign Policy: Change and Continuity in National Identity 2nd Edition, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2010</p> <p>Gabuev A., Zuenko I. The "Belt and Road" in Russia: Evolution of Expert Discourse. In Russia in the Global Affairs. 17 January 2019. https://eng.globalaffairs.ru/number/The-Belt-and-Road-in-Russia-Evolution-of-ExpertDiscourse-1991</p> <p>Gabuev, A. (2016). Friends with benefits? Russian-Chinese relations after the Ukraine crisis. [online] Carnegie Moscow Center. Available at: https://carnegie.ru/2016/06/29/friends-with-benefits-russian-chinese-relations-after-ukraine-crisis-pub-63953</p> <p>Lukianov F. Putin's Foreign policy. The Quest to Restore Russia's Rightful Place. Russia in Global Affairs. 4 May, 2016, https://eng.globalaffairs.ru/redcol/Putins-Foreign-Policy-18133, 2016</p> <p>Lavrov S. Russia's Foreign Policy in a Historical Perspective // http://eng.globalaffairs.ru/number/Russias-Foreign-Policy-in-a-Historical-Perspective-19445, 2018</p>
<p>Scheduled dates</p>	<p>TBA</p>
<p>Additional Information (supplementary issues, related topics, additional learning opportunities associated with the course)</p>	<p>None.</p>