

Russian: Domestic and Foreign Policy (course code 120525)
7th Semester Required Course
Fall Semester 2025-2026

Instructor: Prof. Dimitrios Triantaphyllou

Class Hours: Mondays 09:00 – 12:00 (Room 302)

Office: Institute of International Relations (IDIS), Hill 3-5, Plaka; Room 314, Panteion University

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Office Hours: Mondays, 11:00-13:00 (at IDIS), Tuesdays 12:00 – 13:00 (Room 314) or by appointment

Course Description:

This course examines the context of Russia's politics and its foreign and security policy since the collapse of the Soviet Union. It looks at past determinants shaping its political system and structure, and its foreign policy and seeks to explain their modus operandi in today's world. It aims to familiarize the students with the main themes in contemporary political, social and economic systems in the Russian Federation. It also aims to explain Russia's foreign policy making behavior by looking at its contours and determinants as well as assessing the country's relations with the West, the non-Western world, and its 'near abroad'. As the successor state of the Soviet Union, successive Russian leaders have banked a lot on the transformation of their country since 1991 into a world power. Although, it is unclear if Russia's weak economic position as a result of the global financial crisis and the ongoing war in Ukraine will help or hamper this effort, the study of this fascinating country is a must for every student of International Relations as today's Russia, whether weak or strong, has tremendous impact on the global arena. The Russian ongoing attempted invasion of Ukraine will also be discussed as it is a core component of understanding the interplay between its domestic political context and the conduct of its foreign policy.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Possess in-depth knowledge and understanding of Russian politics and political system;
2. Possess good knowledge and understanding of how Russian foreign policy is formulated;
3. Possess good knowledge and understanding of Russia's foreign relations;
4. Possess good knowledge and understanding of how issues concerning democracy and legitimacy in Russia are assessed;
5. Possess skills and ability to independently present, analyze and discuss issues related to Russian politics and foreign policy, both orally and in writing.

General Competences:

Upon completion of the unit, students will be able to:

- Research, analyse and synthesize data and information, using the necessary technologies
- Work in an international environment
- Respect diversity and multiculturalism
- Exercise criticism and self-criticism
- Exercise free, creative, and inductive thinking.

Course Content:

- The electoral system and the Presidency
- Political parties and voting behavior
- Civil society, the media, and the rule of law
- Economy and society
- Federalism
- The Tsarist and Soviet legacies of Russian foreign policy
- The contours of Russian foreign policy
- Redefining Russian foreign policy since 1991
- Russia and the West
- Relations with China
- Russia and the post-Soviet world
- Russia's reawakening

Course Requirements:

Midterm Exam: 40% of total grade (**to be given in class on Tuesday, 18 Nov.**)

Final Exam: 60% of total grade

[Both exams will be given in English]

Readings:

BOOKS

- Stephen White, Richard Sakwa, Henry E. Hale (Eds.) *Developments in Russian Politics 9*, Palgrave Macmillan, Duke University Press, 9th edition, 2019.

- Jeffrey Mankoff, *Russian Foreign Policy: The Return of Great Power Politics*, Rowman and Littlefield, second edition, 2011.
- Robert Donaldson and Vidya Nadkarni, *The Foreign Policy of Russia: Changing Systems, Enduring Interests*, Routledge, 7th edition, 2023.
- Mark Galeotti, *A Short History of Russia: How the World's Largest Country Invented Itself, from the Pagans to Putin*, Erbury Publishing, 2021.
- Dmitri Trenin, *Russia*, Polity Press, 2019.

ARTICLES

- Obydenkova, Anastassia & Wilfried Swenden. (2013) Autocracy-Sustaining Versus Democratic Federalism: Explaining the Divergent Trajectories of Territorial Politics in Russia and Western Europe. *Territory, Politics, Governance*, vol. 1, no. 1, 2013, pp. 86-112, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21622671.2013.763733>
- Hahn, Gordon M. (1994) Opposition politics in Russia, *Europe-Asia Studies*, vol. 46, no. 2, 1994, pp. 305-335, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09668139408412163>
- Gel'man, Vladimir. Political Opposition in Russia: A Troubled Transformation, *Europe-Asia Studies*, vol. 67, no. 2, 2015, pp. 177-191. <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/09668136.2014.1001577>
- Sundstrom, L. M., Henry, L. A., & Sperling, V. The Evolution of Civic Activism in Contemporary Russia. *East European Politics and Societies*, vol. 36, no. 4, 2022, pp. 1377-1399. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08883254211070851>
- Stuvøy, Kirsti. 'The Foreign Within': State-Civil Society Relations in Russia, *Europe-Asia Studies*, vol. 72, no. 7, 2020, pp. 1103-1124, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09668136.2020.1753658>
- Toepler, S., Zimmer, A., Fröhlich, C. *et al.* The Changing Space for NGOs: Civil Society in Authoritarian and Hybrid Regimes. *Voluntas*, vol. 31, 2020, pp. 649-662. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11266-020-00240-7>
- Liadze, Lana, Corrado Macchiarelli, Paul Mortimer-Lee, and Patricia Sanchez Juanino, Economic costs of the Russia-Ukraine war, *The World Economy*, vol. 46. No. 4, 2023, pp. 874-886. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/twec.13336>
- Mitrova, T. and Melnikov, Y. Energy transition in Russia. *Energy Transit*, vol. 3, pp. 73-80, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s41825-019-00016-8>
- Mitrova, T. (2022). Energy and the Economy in Russia. In: Hafner, M., Luciani, G. (eds) *The Palgrave Handbook of International Energy Economics*. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-86884-0_32

- Krinichansky, K.V. and Sergi, B.S. (2019), "Financial Development and Economic Growth in Russia", in Sergi, B.S. (Ed.) *Modeling Economic Growth in Contemporary Russia*, Emerald Publishing Limited, Bingley, pp. 1-28. <https://doi.org/10.1108/978-1-78973-265-820191001>
- Newlin, Cyrus and Andrew Lohsen . Russia Futures: Three Trajectories, *Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)*, 2022, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep40569>
- Salikov, Marat. Federalism in Russia: Current State and Emerging Trends, *Brics Law Journal*, Vol. VII, no. 4, 2020. <https://doi.org/10.21684/2412-2343-2020-7-4-127-152>
- Zulkarnay, I. (2019). Liberalism and Federalism in Russian State-Building, 1992–2017. In Cucciolla, R.M. (eds) *Dimensions and Challenges of Russian Liberalism. Philosophy and Politics - Critical Explorations*, vol 8. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-05784-8_13
- Mochalov, A. (2021). Federalism in Russia. In Cremades, J., Hermida, C. (eds) *Encyclopedia of Contemporary Constitutionalism*. Springer, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-31739-7_11-1
- Kubicek, Paul. Russian Foreign Policy and the West. *Political Science Quarterly*, vol. 114, no. 4, 1999, pp. 547–68. *JSTOR*, <https://doi.org/10.2307/2657783>
- Kuchins, Andrew C. & Igor A. Zevelev. Russian Foreign Policy: Continuity in Change, *The Washington Quarterly*, vol. 35, no. 1, pp. 147-161, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0163660X.2012.642787>
- Frear, Matthew & Honorata Mazepus. Security, Civilisation and Modernisation: Continuity and Change in the Russian Foreign Policy Discourse, *Europe-Asia Studies*, vol. 73, no. 7, 2021. Pp. 1215-1235, [10.1080/09668136.2020.1843601](https://doi.org/10.1080/09668136.2020.1843601)
- Kennan, George. The Long Telegram, 22 February 1946 <https://nsarchive2.gwu.edu/coldwar/documents/episode-1/kennan.htm>

More readings may be added during the course of the Semester

Students are also urged to keep up with developments by accessing the following online resources:

- <http://www.rferl.org/> Radio Free Europe, news and analysis on Russia and the CIS
- <http://www.jamestown.org> covers Russia and the CIS
- www.opendemocracy.org has useful background analysis on many issues relating to the post-Soviet space
- <http://eng.globalaffairs.ru/> commentary on Russian foreign policy by leading Russian academics

**Επιλογή συγγράμματος δια της Υπηρεσίας Διαχείρισης Διδακτικών Συγγραμμάτων
«Εύδοξος»:**

Μάθημα [120525]: RUSSIA : DOMESTIC POLITICS AND FOREIGN POLICY

Εξάμηνο 7 - Χειμερινό

Επιλογές Συγγραμμάτων:

1.
 - ο Βιβλίο [143549743]: Η Σύγχρονη Ρωσία και οι Ελληνορωσικές Σχέσεις, Μανώλη Παναγιώτα επιμ. [Λεπτομέρειες](#)
2.
 - ο Βιβλίο [143562230]: Η Ρωσία του 21ου αιώνα σε 10 μαθήματα, Βασίλειος Σιταράς [Λεπτομέρειες](#)