MOSCOW STATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
(MGIMO-UNIVERSITY)

School of Governance and Politics
Department of Political Theory

"Approved"
Dean of the School of Governance and Politics



_____Henry T. Sardaryan
"____" _____ 2020

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS AND PRINCIPLES OF RUSSIAN POLITICS IN THE FACE OF NEW CHALLENGES

Moscow
2020

The course "Strategic directions and principles of Russian politics in the face of new challenges" is developed in compliance with MGIMO-University Educational Standard for Master's Program on Political science, program track « Post-Soviet Public Policy» (dual program of M. Lomonosov's Moscow State University and MGIMO-University).

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The program is approved by Political Theory Department (protocol № 1, date of approval: 27.08. 2020).

Head of Political Theory Department

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Director of MGIMO-University Library

_____ Marina Reshetnikova

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Part 1. Course description

1.1. General information

Full course title: Strategic directions and principles of Russian politics in the face of new challenges

Type of course: Elective

Level of education: Master Degree program

Year of study: 1st

Number of ECTS credits allocated: 4

1.2. Course aims and expected outcomes

The purpose of the discipline «Strategic directions and principles of Russian politics in the face of new challenges» is to expand and deepen of knowledge about methodological approaches, foreign and domestic scientific directions in the study of Russian politics, the existing system of political actors in modern Russia, the main trends and problems of the development of the Russian political space.

In accordance with this goal, tasks of the discipline are the following:

- to consider the evolution of scientific approaches, research methods of contemporary Russian politics.
- to describe key aspects of Russian policy research.
- To highlight the features of modern Russian political processes, to describe the main models of interaction between the subjects of Russian politics;
- to consider the stages of evolution of the institutions of Russian statehood, identify their specifics at the present stage;
- to explore issues related to the transformation of the spiritual values of Russian society, the specifics of political culture.

Learning outcomes:

At the end of the course, a student is expected to:

Code and name of the graduate universal competence	*Code and name of the universal competence achievement indicator*
UC-1. Able to carry out critical analysis of problem situations on the basis of a systematic approach, develop a strategy for action	UCI-1.1. Analyzes, verifies, evaluates the completeness and sufficiency of information in the course of professional activity, if necessary, replenishes and synthesizes the missing information. UCI-1.2. Competently, logically, reasonably forms his own judgments and assessment of information; distinguishes facts from opinions, interpretations, estimates. UCI-1.3. Develops a strategy for action based on critical analysis and a systematic approach. UCI-1.4. Takes an informed decision, defines and evaluates the practical consequences of possible solutions to the problem. UCI-1.5. Able to systematize the results of collective intellectual activity.
UC-5 Able to analyze and take into account the diversity of cultures in the process of intercultural interaction	UCI-5.1. Demonstrates ability to adapt to working conditions as part of multi-ethnic and multi-faith groups. UCI-5.2. Constructively interacts with people, taking into account their sociocultural characteristics, in order to successfully complete the tasks and strengthen social integration. UCI-5.3. Organizes and manages multilateral communication.
PC-2. Able to analyze the decision-making process in terms of political risk assessment	PCI 2.1 Knows the methods of analyzing the decision-making process. PCI 2.2 Able to apply various methods to analyze political risks. PCI 2.3 Possesses analytical skills for political forecasting.
UC-1. Able to carry out critical analysis of problem situations	UCI-1.1. Analyzes, verifies, evaluates the completeness and sufficiency of information in

on the basis of a systematic approach, develop a strategy for action	the course of professional activity, if necessary, replenishes and synthesizes the missing information. UCI-1.2. Competently, logically, reasonably forms his own judgments and assessment of information; distinguishes facts from opinions, interpretations, estimates. UCI-1.3. Develops a strategy for action based on critical analysis and a systematic approach. UCI-1.4. Takes an informed decision, defines and evaluates the practical consequences of possible solutions to the problem. UCI-1.5. Able to systematize the results of collective intellectual activity.

1.3. Course requirements and grading plan

Students are supposed to attend all seminars and lectures and be fully prepared for class discussions. Moreover, students are expected to read suggested materials that may assure their ability to make necessary and useful contribution to in-class discussions. Along with traditional forms of training – lectures and seminars, the following educational technologies are used:

- Self-guided out-of-class work (with the subsequent check by the teacher) on search of factual information (statistical and textual) in the Internet
- Discussion;
- Situation analysis.
- discussion of the essays prepared by students;
- interactive lecture.

The list of disciplines that must be mastered to begin mastering this discipline includes "Philosophy", "Comparative analysis of modern political institutions and processes", "History of Russian politics", "Legal support of state and municipal government", "Main problems of international politics".

Grading plan:

30% - participation in class discussion;

20% - in-class test (the exact date of the test is decided by lecturer, students are informed about the date in advance);

20% - in-class individual presentation (presentation should include an independent research conducted by a student; presentation take no more than 15 minutes);

30% - student's essay.

The lecturer reserves the right to reward exceptional effort in class with extra credit.

2. Course content

2.1. Forms of work

Forms of work	Academic hours	Credits
Total	**126**	**3**
Total for lectures, seminars	48	
Lectures	16	
Seminars	32	
Homework (self-preparation, presentation-related research)	36	
Exam	42	

2.2. Discipline contents

Units and topics	Academic hours			
	Lectures	Seminars	Homework	Per unit/topic
Russian politics as a scientific and academic discipline	2	4	-	6
Political regime in modern Russia.	2	4	-	6

The state as an unified actor of Russian politics	2	4	10	16
Political elites and leaders in contemporary	2	4	10	16
Political parties and interest groups as actors of Russian politics	2	4	10	16
Political-cultural and spiritual-ideological space in modern Russia	2	4	10	16
Center-peripheral relations in modern Russia	2	4	10	16
Contemporary Russian foreign policy	2	4	10	16
Final credit	3			3
Total	16	32	60	144

2.3. Course in briefs

Section 1. Russian politics as a scientific and academic discipline.

The object and subject of the discipline "Strategic directions and principles of Russian politics in the face of new challenges." "Strategic Directions and Principles of Russian Policy in the Context of New Challenges" and "Contemporary Russian Policy": General and Special. The role and place of discipline in the system of modern social and humanitarian knowledge. Method problem. Interdisciplinary discipline connections. The main stages of the development of the discipline "Strategic directions and principles of Russian politics in the face of new challenges" in Russia and abroad: evolution and current state.

Self-study assignments:

1. Describe the subject field of the discipline "Contemporary Russian politics".
2. What are the main stages in the development of Sovietology and Kremlinology?

3. Characterize the main areas of research by domestic authors of Russian politics.

Section 2. Political regime in modern Russia.

Domestic and foreign approaches to the definition of the political regime. Actor approach to defining the ruling regime and the regime of government. Neo-authoritarian regimes / hybrid regimes / controlled democracy: the applicability of theoretical concepts to the analysis of Russian practices. The evolution of the political regime in post-Soviet Russia. Features of the political regime during the first presidential term of Boris Yeltsin. Specificity of the political regime in the second half of the 1990s. Evolution and current state of the political regime in the era of V. Putin's rule. The relationship of the Russian political regime with the regimes of post-Soviet countries: general and specific. Features, evolution and current state of attempts to modernize the modern Russian state and political system.

Self-study assignments:

1. Comparative analysis of foreign and domestic approaches to determining the political regime.
2. Opportunities and limitations of the modern Russian political regime.
3. Modern theoretical models of Russian modernization. The specifics of the current stage: subjects, directions, results, problems.

Section 3. The state as a subject of Russian politics.

Organizational and legal form of the design of the Russian government. Constitutional foundations of the system of separation of powers in the Russian Federation. Powers of the President of the Russian Federation: Formal and Real Possibilities of Forming the Agenda of the Russian Government by the Head of State. Specificity of the horizontal and vertical system of separation of powers in modern Russia. Theoretical models for determining the effectiveness and efficiency of the functioning of the modern Russian state.

Self-study assignments:

1. Correlation between normative and real foundations and processes of functioning of the Russian state.
2. Problems of the effectiveness and efficiency of the Russian state.

Section 4. Political elites and leaders in contemporary Russian politics.

Theoretical directions of research of Russian political elites and leadership. Evolution of Russian political elites. The main ways of recruiting political elites and

leaders in modern Russia. Trends and problems of regional elitogenesis. Features and main features of the institution of political leadership in contemporary Russian politics. Political networks and coalitions in contemporary Russian politics.

Self-study assignments:

1. Possibilities and limitations of the activities of modern Russian political elites.
2. Features of recruiting political elites in Russian regions.
3. Research of the project "Leaders of Russia".

Section 5. Political parties and interest groups as subjects of Russian politics.

Russian partogenesis: main stages. Features of the Russian party system, the main trends in its development. Major political parties in the Russian Federation. The evolution of the "party in power", the main directions of the "United Russia". Russian interest groups and pressure groups: specificity, types. Models of relations between interest groups and the state in modern Russia.

Self-study assignments:

1. Features of the design of the party system in the Russian Federation. Functions of Russian political parties.
2. Groups of interests in Russian society. Corporatism and its development trends.
3. Big business in Russian politics: evolution of forms of representation of interests.

Section 6. Political-cultural and spiritual-ideological space in modern Russia.

Geopolitical and civilizational factors that determined the specifics of Russian values. Specificity of Russian values. Features of Russian political culture at the present stage. The national idea in modern Russia. The concept and main directions of information policy in modern Russia. Actors of information policy, stages of development of relations between the Russian state and the media. The image of modern Russia within the country. Elements of the state image.

Self-study assignments:

1. The ratio of traditional and modern values in Russian political culture.

2. Specificity of the information space of modern Russia.

3. The main directions of information policy of the modern Russian state.

Section 7. Center-peripheral relations in modern Russia.

The essence and main directions of regional Russian policy. Features of the political and legal status of Russian regions. The main stages and characteristics of federal relations. Problems of Russian federalism (asymmetry and the problem of "matryoshka regions"). Ethnopolitical conflicts, forms of their resolution in modern Russia: theory and practice.

Self-study assignments:

1. Ways of solving the problems of Russian federalism.

2. Representation of ethnic communities in Russian regions and at the federal level: theoretical models and practices.

Section 8. Modern Russian foreign policy.

The evolution of the positioning of Russia in the period after the collapse of the USSR, the main stages, a brief description. Russia at the UN. Russia and the post-Soviet space: directions of development within the CIS, CSTO, SCO, EAEU. Russia and the USA. Nuclear deterrence and disarmament. The current state of Russian-American relations. Russia and the EU countries. Russia and China. Russia in the APR. The current stage of relations between the Russian Federation and the LCA countries, the African region.

Self-study assignments:

1. To characterize the main stages of Russian foreign policy since 1991.

2. Trace the evolution of the foreign policy guidelines of modern Russia.

3. Give forecasts for the positioning of the Russian Federation in contemporary world politics.

3. Methodical provisions

3.1. Presentation&essay topics.

Students choose topics for presentation by their own and with advice and consent of lecturer. Possible topics for presentations or essays:

1. The problem of the subject field of the discipline "Strategic directions and principles of Russian politics in the face of new challenges."

2. The main stages in the development of domestic studies of Russian politics.
3. Directions and evolution of Russian studies abroad. Kremlinology. Sovietology, studies of the Russian region.
4. Methodology for researching Russian politics.
5. The structure of the actors of Russian politics at the present stage. Typologies of political processes in Russia.
6. The evolution of the political regime in modern Russia. Typology of intermediate forms of post-communist regimes. "Hybrid" political regimes.
7. Specificity and attributes of the modern Russian political regime. The problem of the stability of the modern Russian political regime.
8. Features, structure, functions of the modern Russian political elite.
9. Mechanisms for recruiting elites in Russian politics. Political "filters" in the Russian public authorities.
10. Ethnocracy as a phenomenon of modern Russian politics.
12. The role, functions of a political leader in contemporary Russian politics.
13. The main stages and trends of elitogenesis in post-Soviet Russia.
14. Modern trends in elitogenesis.
15. Features of the positioning of Russia in the modern world.
16. Stages and directions of foreign policy of the modern Russian state. Russia.
17. Scenarios for the development of Russia's foreign policy strategy.
18. Big business in Russian politics: evolution of forms of representation of interests.
19. Models of the national ideology of modern Russia.
20. Problems of monitoring and "accounting" of public opinion in modern Russia.
21. The concept of "values". Stages of the value evolution of Russian society.
22. "Public values" in contemporary Russian politics.
23. Features of Russian political culture.
24. Specificity of the information policy of the modern Russian state: actors, development trends, problems.
25. Changing the configuration of media spaces in modern Russia: problems and prospects.
26. Evolution of the role and place of the media in modern Russia.
27. Stages of development of Center-peripheral relations.
28. Ways of solving the problems of Russian federalism.
29. Features of Russian ethnic policy at the present stage.
30. Russia and international structures with the participation of the Russian Federation as actors of global governance.

3.2. In-class test

Exemplary questions:

1) What is the definition of "values"?
2) What are major types of regions in Russia?
3) What federal body of Russia cannot be dissolved?
4) What are major opinion poll agencies in Russia?
5) How "hybrid regime" can be defined in terms of electoral integrity?

3.3. Questions for final discussion.

1. Institutionalization of the political system. Features of the reproduction of signs and components of the political system of Russia in the process of its functioning.
2. Adoption and execution of political decisions in Russia. The problem of the effectiveness and efficiency of the modern Russian state.
3. The factor of the state in modernization processes, especially the Russian historical experience. Russia in the context of world modernization.
4. Evolution of the constitutional system of the Russian state since 1991: the main stages.
5. Advantages and disadvantages of the constitutional structure of state power. The ratio of the "formal" and "real" Constitution in Russia.
6. The concept of "political elite" in the Russian context. Methodological approaches to the definition and research of Russian political elites.
Image of modern Russia in the post-Soviet space.
7. Image of modern Russia abroad.
8. Specificity and features of the regional policy of modern Russia.
9. The practice of resolving ethno-national conflicts in modern Russia.
10. Political networks and coalitions, their role and structure in contemporary Russian politics.
11. Features of the design of the party system in the Russian Federation. Functions of Russian political parties.
12. Groups of interests in Russian society. Corporatism and its development trends.

3.4. Assessment of different types of works

Type of work	Grading system	Criteria
in-class test	A (90-100%)	Student answered correctly 9 or more questions out of 10.

	B, C (75-89%)	Student answered correctly 7-8 questions out of 10.
	D, F (60-74%)	Student answered correctly 5-6 questions out of 10.
	E (less than 60%)	Student answered correctly less than 5 more questions out of 10.
participation in class discussion, in-class individual presentation or essay	A (90-100%)	Outstanding presentation or essay of independent work, active participation and critical participation in the discussion
	B (82-89%)	Outstanding presentation or essay of independent work with limited participation in the discussion.
	C (75-81%)	Standard (sufficient) presentation or essay with limited participation in the discussion.
	D (67-74%)	Standard presentation or essay with no participation in the discussion.
	E (60-66%)	Standard presentation or essay with visible errors and no participation in the discussion.
	F (less than 60%)	Lack of understanding of the subject in the presentation, essay and discussions
Exam	A (90-100%)	Thought-provoking and informed answers to the questions in the ticket

		and two additional questions.
	B (82-89%)	Student gives correct answers to questions in the ticket and two additional questions.
	C (75-81%)	The correct answers to the questions in the ticket and to two additional questions are given, provided there are inaccuracies and occasional gaps in knowledge.
	D (67-74%)	The right answers for ticket questions are combined with inaccurate answers to additional questions.
	E (60-66%)	The correct answer to one of the ticket questions and one additional question.
	F (less than 60%)	Incorrect answers to ticket questions and additional questions.

4. Bibliography

4.1. Official documents

1. An address from the President of the Russian Federation to the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation 01/15/2020 (in Russian). URL: http://kremlin.ru/events/president/news/62582
2. Foreign Policy Concept of the Russian Federation (approved by the President of the Russian Federation on November 30, 2016) (in Russian). URL: http://kremlin.ru/acts/bank/41451
3. Strategy for innovative development of the Russian Federation for the period up to 2020. Approved by the order of the Government of Russia N2227-r dated December 8, 2011 (in Russian). URL: http://government.ru/docs/9282/

4. The Constitution of the Russian Federation (adopted by popular vote on December 12, 1993) (taking into account the amendments introduced by the Laws of the Russian Federation on amendments to the Constitution of the Russian Federation of December 30, 2008 No. 6-FKZ, of December 30, 2008 No. 7-FKZ, of February 5 2014 No. 2-FKZ, dated July 21, 2014 No. 11-FKZ) (in Russian). URL: http://kremlin.ru/acts/constitution

5. The National Security Strategy of the Russian Federation Approved by the decree of the President of the Russian Federation of December 31, 2015 No. 683 (in Russian). URL: http://kremlin.ru/acts/bank/40391

6. The strategy for the development of the information society in the Russian Federation for 2017-2030 (in Russian). URL: http://kremlin.ru/acts/bank/page/2 .

4.2. Compulsory readings

1. Gel'man V. Authoritarian Russia: Analyzing Post-Soviet Regime Changes (Russian and East European Studies). – Pittsburgh. University of Pittsburgh Press. 2015. В базе данных eBook Academic Collection (EBSCOhost): URL: http://bibliocatalog.mgimo.ru:2079/login.aspx?direct=true&db=e000xww&AN=992110&site=ehost-live

Oliker O. Russian Foreign Policy: Sources and Implications. – Santa Monica, CA : RAND Corporation. 2009. В базе данных eBook Academic Collection (EBSCOhost):
URL:http://bibliocatalog.mgimo.ru:2079/login.aspx?direct=true&db=e000xww&AN=276606&site=ehost-live

4.3. Additional readings

1. Василенко И.А. Современная российская политика: учебник. – М.: Издательство МГУ, 2013. URL: https://bibliocatalog.mgimo.ru:2107/index.php?page=book_red&id=595681

2. Rutland P. The Political Elite in Post-Soviet Russia // Best H., Higley J. The Palgrave Handbook of Political Elites. Middletown. Wesleyan University. 2016. pp 273-294. URL: https://bibliocatalog.mgimo.ru:2133/chapter/10.1057/978-1-137-51904-7_19

4.4. Internet resources, Data bases

№ п/п	Наименование базы данных, производитель, платформа и/или адрес входа	Характеристики ресурса
1.	ЭБС ZNANIUM.COM «НИЦ ИНФРА-М» http://znanium.com/	Содержит книги, журналы, статьи из различных изданий (более 20 тыс.) Сайт ЭБС **соответствует ГОСТ 52872-2012: «Интернет-ресурсы. Требования доступности для инвалидов по зрению».**
2.	ЭБС «Университетская библиотека онлайн» ООО «НексМедиа» https://biblioclub.ru/	Доступ к базовой коллекции и 135 книгам издательств-партнеров Ресурс содержит учебники, учебные пособия, монографии, периодические издания, справочники, словари, энциклопедии, видео- и аудиоматериалы, художественную литературу. (более 100 тыс. наименований). Сайт ЭБС **соответствует ГОСТ 52872-2012: «Интернет-ресурсы. Требования доступности для инвалидов по зрению».** В базе данных представлено более 3000 аудиокниг, а скачиваемые фрагменты в формате pdf, содержат подтекстовый слой, достаточно высокого качества и могут использоваться тифлопрограммами для голосового озвучивания текстов, быть загружены в тифлоплееры (устройств для прослушивания книг), а также скопированы на любое устройство для комфортного чтения.
3.	ЭБС BOOK.RU «КноРус медиа» https://www.book.ru/	Базовая коллекция содержит более 8 тыс. учебников и монографий. Сайт ЭБС **соответствует ГОСТ 52872-2012: «Интернет-ресурсы. Требования доступности для инвалидов по зрению».**
4.	«eBook Academic Subscription Collection» EBSCO Publishing http://search.ebscohost.com/	«eBook Academic Subscription Collection» - более 170 тысяч электронных книг: монографии, учебники, словари, энциклопедии,

		справочники
5.	Scopus Elsevier B.V. https://www.scopus.com/	Мультидисциплинарная (около 350 научных областей) реферативно-библиографическая и наукометрическая база данных журнальных статей, материалов научных конференций и монографий. Scopus индексирует контент из 24 600 активных изданий от 5000 издателей, который тщательно проверяется и отбирается.
6.	**SAGE Premier** SAGE Publishing http://journals.sagepub.com/	1093 журнала издательства по различным отраслям знаний с архивами
7.	WILEY https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/	1510 журналов издательства с архивами
8.	**Springer Nature** https://link.springer.com/	Коллекции журналов и книг на платформе https://link.springer.com/

5. Material and technical support

Technical equipment is necessary for this course. Computer, projector, Microsoft PowerPoint software are needed for both lectures and seminars. Students may need access to Internet.