**Course descriptor**

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| Title of the course | **Regional Studies** | | |
| Title of the Academic Programme | BA in Political Science & World Politics | | |
| Type of the course | core | | |
| Prerequisites | There are no explicit prerequisites for the course, but it would be easier for students to study the course’s materials having classes on comparative politics and contemporary Russian politics attended. | | |
| ECTS workload | 6 | | |
| Total indicative study hours | Directed Study | Self-directed study | Total |
| 52 | 176 | 228 |
| Course Overview | The course is designed for fourth-year undergraduate students following the program “Political Science and World Politics”. Its main goal is to familiarize the students with the analysis of subnational level of political and policy processes in federal and non-federal states.  The topics covered include: the discussion around basic terms of regional studies (federalism, decentralization, regional policy, etc.), challenges the federal territorial arrangement meets, nature and strategies of regional policy and particularities of federalism, decentralization and regional development in different countries (necessarily including Russia). | | |
| Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO) | ULO 3: Able to solve professional problems based on synthesis and analysis  ULO 5: Work with information: find, define and use the information from different sources which required for solving of research and professional problems (including the system approach)  ULO 8: Able to efficiently communicate based on the goals and communication situations  PLO 4: Student is capable of retrieving, collecting, processing and analyzing information relevant for achieving goals in the professional field. | | |
| Indicative Course Content |  | | |
| Teaching and Learning Methods | The course consists of lectures (26 hours) and seminars (26 hours). The main teaching and learning methods includes lectures, reading, discussions, preparing group projects. | | |
| Indicative Assessment Methods and Strategy | In-class participation  The instructor grades the participation in discussions during the seminars, answers to instructor’s questions and overall involvement in the in-class activities. The resulting grade for participation is an average of all the marks received by a student during the seminars.  Tests  There will be three short quizzes covering the material of the preceding lectures and seminars. The dates of the quizzes will be announced in advance.  Team project  In the second half of the course students are to prepare a team project — a paper which analyzes the territorial arrangement of a country using theoretical conceptions the course covers.  The cumulative grade is worked out by the following formula: 40%\*in-class participation + 20%\*tests + 40%\*team project  The final exam is in a written form.  The final grade is worked out by the following formula: 60%\*cumulative grade + 40%\*final exam grade. | | |
| Readings / Indicative Learning Resources | Mandatory  Lijphart A. *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*. New Haven [Conn.]: Yale University Press; 2012.  Bednar J. *The Robust Federation : Principles of Design / Jenna Bednar*. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press; 2009.  Filippov M. *Designing Federalism: A Theory of Self-Sustainable Federal Institutions*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press; 2004.  Optional  Зубаревич Н.В. Региональное развитие и региональная политика в России // ЭКО. 2014. № 4.  Borzel, T. What Can Federalism Teach Us About the European Union? The German Experience // Regional and Federal Studies, 2005, vol. 15, No 2, pp. 245-257.  Gel’man, V. The Politics of Local Government in Russia: Neglected Side of the Story // Perspectives on European Politics and Society, 2002, vol. 3, No 3, pp. 495-508. Hughes, J., Sasse, G. Comparing Regional and Ethnic Conflicts in Post-Soviet Transition States, Regional & Federal Studies, 2001, vol 11, no. 3, pp. 1-35  Swenden, W. (2018). Governing Diversity in South Asia: Explaining Divergent Pathways in India and Pakistan, in: Publius: Journal of Federalism, vol. 48, no 1, pp. 102-133  Trounstine, J. All Politics is Local: The Reemergence of the Study of City Politics // Perspectives on Politics, 2009, vol. 7, No 3, pp. 611-618. | | |
| Course Instructor | Andrey Starodubtsev, associate professor, Department of Political Science | | |