**Course descriptor**

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| Title of the course |  | | |
| Title of the Academic Programme | BA in Political Science & World Politics | | |
| Type of the course | core | | |
| Prerequisites |  | | |
| ECTS workload | 5 | | |
| Total indicative study hours | Directed Study | Self-directed study | Total |
| 52 | 138 | 190 |
| Course Overview | The course aims at forming a coherent knowledge of the recent political  developments in Russia through the lens of various conceptual and  theoretical approaches. The course revolves around four major issues in  Russian politics: super-presidentialism, regionalisation, state weakness  and weak political institutions, and its resource wealth. The tasks of the  course are therefore covering these four components. The three former  institutional characteristics are taken to be more stable and to produce  stronger legacies traced back to the late Soviet times and the 1990s. The latter, being primarily the naughts' feature, enters analysis by the mid-  term. | | |
| Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO) | ULO – 9: Able to think critically and interpret the experience (personal and of other persons), relate to professional and social activities  PLO – 4: Student is capable of retrieving, collecting, processing and analyzing information relevant for achieving goals in the professional field.  PLO – 8: Student is capable of executing applied analysis of the political phenomena and political processes  PLO – 9: Student is capable of reporting the results of the information retrieval and analysis, academic or applied research she/he has conducted | | |
| Indicative Course Content |  | | |
| Teaching and Learning Methods | The course consists of 15 lectures (30 hours) and 15 seminars (30 hours).  All lectures are supported by Power Point presentations. Students are  expected to read academic literature, make presentations, discuss the  material in groups. | | |
| Indicative Assessment Methods and Strategy | Final grade consists of the following components:   * 40% work in class during seminars * 20% two reaction papers * 10% colloquium * 30% exam   **Seminar work assessment**  Every seminar starts with a brief overview of the subject by the instructor. This is followed by an in-depth discussion of the literature assigned for the class, with occasional team project presentations. The students' work in class during seminars amounts to 40% of the final grade. This mostly deals with the instructor's assessment of their reading.  **Two reaction papers (one per module)**  The other 20% of the grade come from two reaction papers students write covering the reading assignment for two classes of their choice (which they submit to the instructor after the first class where they get familiar with the course requirements and can ask some further questions to ascertain their points of interest for the course). The reaction paper is a 500 words long essay where a student reviews the literature assigned for the class, gives his/her opinion and some critiques on it. Reaction papers must be submitted not later than a day before the class (seminar) on the subject starts.  **Colloquium**  Colloquium takes place in the middle of the course (beginning of the second term) where students are expected to react to any question(s) asked by the instructor on the assigned topic. Colloquium’s format differs from seminars because it does not imply discussion, rather a pure knowledge of the literature and resembles the oral mini-exam with brief and maximally precise answers. The colloquium’s subject is the matter of agreement between the instructor and students. Students must read all the literature assigned and be prepared to immediately respond to the question(s). Each correct response amounts to 5 points. Two full and correct (to the reasonable extent) responses amount to the maximum of 10 points (10%).  **Exam**  The exam (30%) is a written answer to one of the broad questions covered in the course. The exam lasts two hours and can add up to the final grade as 30%.  The final grade is calculated in accordance with the following criteria.  The cumulative grade (Gcumulative) consists of the grade for the colloquium (Gcolloq), the grade for the reaction papers (Gpapers), and current grade (Gcurrent). The final grade consists of cumulative grade and the grade for the final exam (Gexam).  The final grade is calculated in accordance with the following formulae:  **Gcumulative = 0,3\*Gpapers + 0,1\*Gcolloq + 0,6\*Gcurrent**  **Gfinal = 0,7\*Gcumulative + 0,3\*Gexam** | | |
| Readings / Indicative Learning Resources | Mandatory  Frye T. 1997. “A Politics of Institutional Choice. Post-Communist Presidencies”. Comparative Political Studies 30(5): 523-552.  Gunitsky S. 2015. Corrupting the Cyber- Commons: Social Media as a Tool of Autocratic Stability. Perspectives on Politics 13(1), 42-54.  Greene S. 2013. Beyond Bolotnaia: Bridging Old and New in Russia's Election Protest Movement. Problems of Post-Communism 60(2), 40-52.  Gel’man, Vladimir. 2005. “Political Opposition in Russia: A Dying Species?” Post-Soviet Affairs 21 (3): 226–46.  Golosov, G. V., Tkacheva, T. (2017). Let My People Run. Problems of Post-Communism, 1-10.  Buckley, N., Frye, T., Garifullina, G., Reuter, O. J. (2014). The political economy of Russian gubernatorial election and appointment. Europe-Asia Studies, 66(8), 1213-1233.  Frye T., Reuter O. J., Szakonyi D. (2014) Political Machines at Work Voter Mobilization and electoral subversion in the Workplace // World Politics. 66(2). P. 195-228.  Grigoriev, Ivan. 2018. Law clerks as an instrument of court–government accommodation under autocracy: the case of the Russian Constitutional Court // Post-Soviet Affairs. 34(1). P. 17-34.  Yakovlev, Andrei. 2006. “The Evolution of Business – State Interaction in Russia: From State Capture to Business Capture?” Europe-Asia Studies 58 (7): 1033–56.  Optional  Remington, Thomas. 2008. “Patronage and the Party of Power: President–Parliament Relations Under Vladimir Putin.” Europe-Asia Studies 60 (6): 959–87.  Linz J. The perils of presidentialism // Journal of democracy. – 1990. – Vol. 1. – №. 1. – P. 51-69.  Hale, H.E., 2005. Why not parties? Electoral markets, party substitutes, and stalled democratization in Russia. *Comparative Politics*, pp.147-166.  Remington T. 2008. Patronage and the Party of Power: President–Parliament Relations Under Vladimir Putin. Europe-Asia Studies 60(6), 959-987  Golosov, Grigorii V. 2011. “The Regional Roots of Electoral Authoritarianism in Russia.” Europe-Asia Studies 63 (4): 623–39.  Volkov, Vadim. 1999. “Violent Entrepreneurship in Post-Communist Russia.” Europe-Asia Studies 51 (5): 741–754.  Jowitt, Ken. 1983. “Soviet Neotraditionalism: The Political Corruption of a Leninist Regime.” Europe‐Asia Studies 35 (3): 275–297.  Gel’man, Vladimir. 2004. “The Unrule of Law in the Making: The Politics of Informal Institution Building in Russia.” Europe-Asia Studies 56 (7): 1021–40.  Gel’man, Vladimir. 2012. “Subversive Institutions, Informal Governance, and Contemporary Russian Politics.” Communist and Post-Communist Studies 45 (3–4): 295–303.  Orttung, Robert W. 2004. “Business and Politics in the Russian Regions.” Problems of Post-Communism 51 (2): 48–60.  Hellman, Joel (1998). Winners Take All: The Politics of Partial Reform in Postcommunist Transitions. World Politics. 50(2): 203-234. | | |
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