CIEE Moscow, Russia

Course name: U.S. – Russia Relations
Course number: INRE 3001 MBIR
Programs offering course: Moscow Business and International Relations
Language of instruction: English
U.S. Semester Credits: 3
Contact Hours: 45
Term: Spring 2020

Course Description
This course examines Russian and American policies after the end of the bipolar period of international development; the role of the Russian Federation and the United States in world politics, internal and external factors that influenced political decision making and behavior at the global and regional levels; course, agenda, formats, and problems of Russian-American relations, their evolution in the new international context and perspectives; the influence of relations between Russia and the U.S. on the situation in Eurasia.

We shall study what is Russia in contemporary international relations: its identity, foreign policy doctrines, debates on the role of Russia after 1991 and on its international strategy, the outcome of efforts to restore great power status and consolidate its economic and political potential. We shall analyze different stages of Russia’s development, factors that determined changes in Russian policy abroad and at home. We shall discuss what Russia has done as a global and regional player, and perspectives for growth or decline of its influence in world politics.

We shall study changes that took place in foreign policy thinking in the United States, views that dominated during formulation of the American global strategy for the new century without bipolar regulation. We will analyze the most important American actions that had dramatic effect on international system, international norms and organizations, on policies of other countries, distribution of power in the world and Eurasia.

The course will present a panorama of Russian-American interaction: ideas, agenda, periods, outcomes, perspectives. We shall analyze the most important events, publications by well-known Russian and American experts on dilemmas of Russian-American relations, try to find out the sources of misunderstanding and misperception between Russia and the United States.

The course will give the understanding of what place Russia and the United States occupy in contemporary world politics, how they view each other, what are their incentives for the future, what impact their relations and their policies will have on the world.

Learning Objectives
By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Characterize Russian international policy in 1992-2018
- Characterize American global strategy in 1992-2018, and estimate the outcome of U.S. policy for
world politics

- Describe stages, peculiarities, agenda, crises and perspectives of American-Russian relations
- Present Russian and American discourse on Russian-American relations and compare different views and approaches
- Describe Russian-American interaction in a new great power competition context

**Course Prerequisites**
None

**Methods of Instruction**
Lectures, seminars, site visits

**Assessment and Final Grade**

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**Course Requirements**

**Class participation and Attendance**
Students are required to participate actively in the seminar. The class participation grade will be determined by attendance, engagement (active listening and participation), and evidence of completion of assigned readings. Attendance for this CIEE course strictly follows the CIEE Moscow attendance policy. In case of absence, students must inform both the Resident Director and course instructor in advance of the absence. The student should speak with the instructor to develop a plan to make up missed material.

**Mid-Term Exam**
At the mid-point in the semester, students will take an in-class written exam. The exam will consist of essay questions on the topics of the course covered in the first 7 weeks. Students may use their notes, but no published or online resources.

**Written Account of Security Case**
Students will write a 500-800 word analysis of a security case. Students choose one topic (nuclear security, NATO, or cyber security) and present the topic from the perspective of either the US or Russia, examining interests, goals, motivations, concerns, and strategies.

**Presentation of Security Case**
A 10-minute oral presentation of the case the student security case selected for the written analysis.
Final Policy or Research Paper
Policy paper
Length: 2000-2500 words.
Policy papers are not about facts, but about perspectives and recommendations. They should serve as a reality check and try to give assessments alternative to the political mainstream.

Structure:
- Security problem
- Why current solutions do not work
- Alternative solutions and recommendations (or, alternatively, different scenarios)

On the first page of your policy paper write the addressee of your recommendations (US Department of State, Russia MFA, NATO Headquarters, etc.). Choose a national government structure or an international organization’s secretariat.

This policy paper should include references and a bibliography. Usually policy papers do not have them, but this time they are needed to check the sources of your ideas. Rely on primary sources (official documents, declarations, statements, interviews), as well as secondary sources (academic articles, opinions of experts).

Research Paper
Length of paper: 2000-2500 words
The reasoning in your papers should be well-structured and have original (your own) title and 2-4 subtitles preferably in a form of a question (Is Eurasia a coherent region?). In the introduction you should explain why the subject you chose deserves discussion, why it is relevant to the current theoretical debates or why it is important in practical terms. The introduction should end with the main question you will answer (or problematique, or hypothesis). There should be 3-4 more or less equal parts in your reasoning. Each part should have its own title and “problematique” (problem question). There should be conclusions with answers to the question suggested in the introduction.

Papers should include references and bibliography.

Presentation of Final Paper
The final paper will be accompanied by an oral presentation (20 minutes) in which the student will present the project of research, for which the use of audio-visual material is required (Microsoft PowerPoint). After the presentation, he or she will answer a series of questions to defend the presented material.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1
1.1 Introduction to the course
- Aims and special tasks of the course
• Review of the syllabus
• Russian school of studying IR and diplomacy

1.2 Lecture: International Relations as a Global Phenomenon
• Theories of IR
• Theoretical approaches to the world order

Week 2
2.1 Lecture: Russian Scholars on the World Order, International Relations, and Foreign Policy
• Russia’s foreign policy strategy: historic tradition and continuity
• Debates in Russia on its national identity, foreign policy priorities
• General foreign policy documents of the Russian Federation
• Global and Regional Aspects of Russia’s international strategy

2.2 Lecture: Russian Scholars on the World Order, International Relations, and Foreign Policy
• Liberal period of 1992-1995
• Liberal conservative period of 1996-2008
• Consensus between liberals and liberal conservative after 2008
• Great power status of Russia: comparative characteristics with other leading powers

Week 3
3.1 Lecture: Russian Foreign Policy

3.2 Lecture: Russian Foreign Policy
READING FOR THIS CLASS:
• Handout, excerpts from official documents

Week 4
4.1 Seminar: US and Russian History and Self-Representation
READING FOR THIS CLASS: (Sherlock 2012), (Miller 2014)

4.2 Site visit: Museum of the Cold War Bunker – 42 (required)

Week 5
5.1 Seminar: Russia and the US at the End of the Cold War
READING FOR THIS CLASS: (Haas 2007, 145-179), (Thies 2013, 269-288), (Adamishin 2008), (Simes, 36-52), (Brzezinski 1994, 67-82)

5.2 Seminar: Russian domestic development in the 1990s and US approaches to it; political and economic development (1 of 2)
READING FOR THIS CLASS: (Shleifer and Treisman 2003), (Treisman 2002) (Melville 1999, 165-187)
Week 6
6.1 Seminar: Russian domestic development in the 1990s and US approaches to it; political and economic development (2 of 2)

6.2 Post Truth Politics
READINGS FOR THIS CLASS: (Sharikov 2015), (Koshkin 2017), (“The Post-Truth World: Yes, I’d Lie to You,” 2016)

Week 7
7.1 Site visit: RT (Russia Today) (required)

7.2 Mid-Term Exam

Week 8
8.1 Seminar: The US and Russia in the current world order: Before and After 2014 (2 of 2)
READINGS FOR THIS CLASS: (Arbatov 2006), (Graham 2007), (Zevelev 2012), (Lavrov 2007), (Wohlfforth 2015)

8.2 Seminar: The US and Russia in global governance: G20 and BRICS
READINGS FOR THIS CLASS: (Patrick 2015), (Mullerson 2014), (Villafranca and Villa 2014), (Toloraya 2015), (Korostikov 2015), (Stuenkel 2015)

Week 9
9.1 Seminar: Nuclear Security
READINGS FOR THIS CLASS: (Zolotarev 2015), (Barabanov and Weitz 2014), (Chellaney 2014)
DUE: Written Analysis of Security Case
Presentations of Nuclear Security cases

9.2 Seminar: Security Cooperation: NATO
READINGS FOR THIS CLASS: (“Relations with Russia,” NATO site), (“NATO enlargement…” NATO site), (Sherr 2011), (Antonenko and Giererich 2009), (“NATO and Russia Today,” NATO REVIEW)
DUE: Presentations of NATO Security cases

Week 10
10.1 Seminar: Security Cooperation: Cyber security
READINGS FOR THIS CLASS: (Demidov and Chernenko 2015), (RIAC Digest on Cyber security), (Farrell 2015)
DUE: Presentations of Cyber Security cases

10.2 Seminar: Kosovo Crisis and Georgia Conflict (2008)
READINGS FOR THIS CLASS: (Maffettone 2015), (Aksenyonok 2007), (Markedonov
Week 11
11.1 Seminar: Afghanistan and Iraq in US-Russia Relations. Libya, Syria, ISI
READINGS FOR THIS CLASS: (Stegny 2012), (Naumkin 2014), (Polikanov 2015)

11.2 Seminar: US-Russia-China Triangle. Central Asia
READINGS FOR THIS CLASS: (Lavrov 2006), (Larin 2015), (Babones 2015), (Novikov 2015), (Lukin 2015), (Akayev 2003)

Week 12
12.1 Seminar: Post Soviet Space and Ukraine Crisis in US-Russia Relations
READINGS FOR THIS CLASS: (Trenin 2014), (Carden 2014), (Miller 2008), (Shlapentokh 2014)
DUE: Final papers

12.2 Site Visit: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (required)

Week 13
13.1 Final Presentations
DUE: Presentations

13.2 Final Presentations
DUE: Presentations

Week 14
14.1 Final Presentations
DUE: Presentations

14.2 Final Presentations
DUE: Presentations

Course Materials

Readings


