CIEE Moscow, Russia

Course name: Russian and the United States in International Relations
Course number: INRE 3002 MBIR
Programs offering course: Moscow Business and International Relations
Language of instruction: English
U.S. Semester Credits: 3
Contact Hours: 45
Term: Summer 2019

Course Description

This course examines Russian and American policies after the end of the bipolar period of international development; 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; 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, outcome of efforts to restore great power status, 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 is to give 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 for the world.
Course Prerequisites

None.

Course Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students should be able:

• to characterize Russian international policy in 1992-2014
• to characterize American global strategy in 1992-2014, and estimate the outcome of the U.S. policy for world politics
• to describe stages, peculiarities, agenda, crises and perspectives of American-Russian relations
• to present Russian and American discourse on Russian-American relations; to compare different views and approaches
• to describe Russian-American interaction in a new great power competition context

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Participation: 25%
2. Mid-Term Quiz: 15%
3. Presentation of seminar discussion topic on security approaches 15%
4. Final Policy or Research Paper 30%
5. Presentation of Final Paper 15%

Attendance and Class Participation

• Students will be required to attend not less than 90% of classes.
• Students should be prepared for all class discussions.
• Conscientious reading of the assigned materials is a must.
• In the case of illness, the student inform the professor and Resident Director of the absence in advance. The student should speak to the professor to design a plan for making up missed material. In order to excuse an absence, the professor will require a written justification from the Resident Director.
Course Content

Topic 1. (class #1) Introduction to the course:
- Aims and special tasks of the course.
- Review of the syllabus
- Russian school of studying IR and diplomacy

Topic 2. (class #2 & #3) Russian scholars on the world order, international relations and foreign policy (lectures)
- 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. East and West in Russian foreign policy.
- Great power status of Russia: comparative characteristics with other leading world powers.

Topic 3. (class #4, #5, #6) Russian Foreign Policy in Official Documents (lectures)

Topic 4. (class #7) Russian Economy and Russian Foreign Policy (lecture)

Topic 5. (class #8) US and Russian history and self-representation (seminar)
Read all of these articles:

Topic 6. (class #9) Russia and the US after the end of the Cold War (seminar)
Read one of these two articles:

Read all of these articles:

Topic 7. (class #10, #11) Russian domestic development in the 1990s and US approaches to it; political and economic development (seminar)

Read these three articles:

Topic 8. (Class #12, #13) The US and Russia in the current world order: Before and after 2014 (seminar)

Read three articles of these six articles:
2) Thomas Graham. The Dialectics of Strength and Weakness // Russia in Global Affairs, 8 August 2007 http://eng.globalaffairs.ru/number/n_9138
4) (read one of these articles) Sergey Lavrov. The Present and the Future of Global Politics // Russia in Global Affairs, 13 May 2007 http://eng.globalaffairs.ru/number/n_8554

Topic 9. (class #14) The US and Russia in global governance: G20 and BRICS (seminar)

Read three of these six articles:


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**Read two of these six articles:**


Topic 10. (Class #15) Nuclear Security (seminar)
You need to read two articles on nuclear security and analyze one security cooperation case (see below).


Choose ONE case and compare US and Russian approaches

Case 1. NATO-Russia relations

A number of short materials:

- NATO’s relations with Russia / NATO official website http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_50090.htm
- NATO and Russia today: Interview with Dmitri Trenin, 2011 (video, 8 min) http://www.nato.int/docu/review/2011/NATO_Russia/Trenin-interview/EN/index.htm

Case 2. OSCE

Russian approach


US approach
P. Terrence Hopmann. The United States and the CSCE/OSCE. Helsinki Monitor 2/2000, pp. 20-36  
http://ifsh.de/file-CORE/documents/yearbook/english/00/Hopmann.pdf

Case 3. Cybersecurity

Russian approach

- RIAC Digest on Cyber security http://russiancouncil.ru/digest/cyber.html

US approach


Topic 11. (class #16) Security Cooperation: NATO (seminar)

Topic 12. (Class #17) Security Cooperation: OSCE, cyber security

Topic 13. (Class #18) Kosovo crisis and Georgia conflict (2008) (seminar)

Read two of these three articles:

3) Sergey Markedonov. Regional Conflicts Reloaded // Russia in Global Affairs, November 2008 http://eng.globalaffairs.ru/number/n_11893

Topic 14. (Class #19) Afghanistan and Iraq in US-Russia relations. Libya, Syria, ISI (seminar)

Read two of these three articles:

1) Pyotr Stegny. The Middle East: a'la Versailles or a'la Westphalia? // Russia in Global Affairs, 28 December 2012 http://eng.globalaffairs.ru/number/The-Middle-East--la-Versailles-or-la-Westphalia-15822

Read one article from the list, to be added later (current articles on Syria).
Topic 15. (Class #20) US-Russia-China triangle. Central Asia (seminar)

Read these articles:


Topic 16. (Class #21 & #22) Post Soviet space and Ukraine crisis in US-Russia relations (seminar)

Read these articles:


Topic 17. (Class #23, #24, #25) Final presentations (defense of individual papers)
Written assignments

Policy paper

Length: 1200-1500 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)

At 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.

Policy paper should have references and 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).

In case of plagiarism you will receive 0% for your assignment.

Research paper

Length of paper: 1500-2000 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 have references and bibliography.

In case of plagiarism you will receive 0% for your assignment.