RUSSIAN FOREIGN POLICY, MA, 2 credit

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Seminar description
This course takes an interdisciplinary approach to studying Russian foreign policy making. It integrates scholarship from political science, international relations, international political sociology, critical geopolitics and area studies to make a better sense of the conditions and trajectories of the current discourse in and of Russia. Vis-à-vis the increased salience and proliferation of the analysis of Russia’s international conduct, the course invests in a critical reading towards a better-informed global conversation. It combines recent scholarly contributions with original documents and policy advocacy in order to increase student proficiency in using these sources for analysis and help students engage different actors making Russian foreign policy and producing knowledge about it. This will be achieved by learning to discern the implicit assumptions behind the different genres. The course is structured around analytical approaches, narratives, and concrete instances of political interaction and it may be useful for any graduate student interested in the topic. While it does not require particular prior knowledge, it will be assumed that students are already familiar with key concepts of international politics, follow main international events involving Russian Federation and have basic understanding of Russian history, politics, and society. The knowledge of the Russian language will be of use for those interested in a more in-depth study parallel to the course. The seminar is reading intensive and premised on student involvement in class discussion.

Learning outcomes
By the end of the course, students will:
- Be familiar with the doctrinal foundation of Russian foreign policy making;
- Understand the ideational, political and to some extent societal and historical background behind the current Russian foreign policy discourse, including domestic factors and global politics;
- Have increased knowledge about recent developments in Russian foreign policy;
- Have mastered the main approaches and analytical themes for studying Russian foreign policy;
- Be able to produce a thorough case analysis in the area of Russian foreign policy;
- Be able to critically assess existing policy and scholarly analysis in the field.

Evaluation
1. Participation 10%
2. Foreign policy brief presented in class 20%
3. Russian foreign policy case study essay 35% around 2,000 words
4. A critique of a policy analysis essay 35% 2,000 words

Seminar breakdown:

1. Introduction 11 Jan
- Russia’s Foreign Policy Concept
  http://www.mid.ru/en/web/guest/foreign_policy/official_documents/-/asset_publisher/CptICkB6BZ29/content/id/122186
- Levada survey on annexation of the Crimea http://www.levada.ru/eng/crimea
Additional:

2. Narratives 18 Jan
• Nalbandov, R (2016) Not by bread alone: Russian foreign policy under Putin, Lincoln, Nebraska Potomac Books, chapters 1&2

Additional:

• Tsygankov, A (2010) ‘Understanding change and continuity in Russia’s foreign policy’ in: Russia’s Foreign Policy, Rowman and Littlefield, chapter 1, 3 & 5.
• Lykyanov, F (2016) ‘Putin’s Foreign Policy. The Quest to Restore Russia’s Rightful Place’, Foreign Affairs, May-June 2016
• Putin’s Munich speech 12 February 2007 http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/02/12/AR2007021200555.html
• Transcript of Valdai Discussion 27 October 2016 http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/transcripts/53151

Additional:

4. Traditions and approaches to studying Russian foreign policy 1 Feb
• Omelicheva, M (2016) ‘Critical geopolitics on Russian foreign policy: Uncovering the imagery of Moscow’s international relations’, International Politics, first online 22 September 2016

Additional:
Thorun, Ch (2009) Explaining Change in Russian Foreign Policy: The Role of Ideas in Post-Soviet Russia’s Conduct towards the West, Palgrave Macmillan

5. Great power narrative and (multi-) polarity 8 Feb

Additional:

6. Making each other 15 Feb

Additional:

22 Feb – NO CLASS – INTERNATIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

8. The Russian subject 1 Mar

Additional:
9. **Subaltern Russia 8 Mar**

**Additional:**

10. **Russia in international organisations 15 Mar – to be rescheduled due to holidays**

**Additional:**

11. **Russian foreign policy under Putin: regional vectors 22 Mar**
   - Nalbandov, R (2016) *Not by bread alone: Russian foreign policy under Putin*, Lincoln, Nebraska Potomac Books, chapters 3-7

**Additional:**

12. **Power by (all) other means. Soft power and information war. 29 Mar**

**Additional:**
Books for additional reading:
Allison, R (2013) Russia, the West, and military intervention, Oxford: Oxford University Press.