Spring 2017  
PSC 4386 RUSSIA AND THE WORLD

Instructor: Dr. Sergiy Kudelia  
Location: Draper 353  
Time: TR 2:00PM-3:15PM  
Office Hours: After Class or by Appointment Only  
Email: Sergiy_Kudelia@baylor.edu

**Course Description:**

Russia has recently reemerged as a major power striving not only to expand its influence, but also make territorial gains. Its renewed assertiveness and territorial pretensions pose a security challenge both to its immediate neighbors and, more broadly, to the international order. This international relations course will help students analyze and interpret Russia’s current policies and devise a proper response to them. It starts by putting Russian foreign policy in a broader historical and ideational context. The course will first examine the drivers and continuities in Russian foreign policy-making since Peter the Great and the shifts in its perception of the sources of external threats. It will then review the dynamics of Soviet-American rivalry after World War II and the reasons for the transition to unipolarity. The second part of the course surveys the post-Soviet political landscape and attempts to look at the post-Cold War world through the lenses of Russian policy-makers in the early 1990s. It will trace the evolution in Russia’s security priorities over the last two decades and analyze Moscow’s continued grappling with a variety of conventional and non-conventional threats. The course will also review new instruments in its foreign policy “tool-kit” that help Russia in tackling emerging threats and taking a more forceful stance in the pursuit of its goals. Finally, the course will offer an in-depth look into several regions and issues that generate most contention in Russia’s relationship with the West. The course will conclude with a forward-looking assessment of Russian foreign policy strategies and evaluate options that other major powers have for dealing with Russia.

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completion of the course students are expected to acquire the following:
1. Knowledge of the recurring patterns in the history of Russia’s foreign policy and intellectual debates about the essence of its national interests;
2. Understanding of the decision-making logic and foreign policy priorities of Russia’s current leadership;
3. Ability to analyze the role of various world regions from the standpoint of Russia’s national security interests;
4. Detailed grasp of the most contentious issues in Russia’s relations with other major powers;
5. Ability to make estimates of Russia’s foreign policy strategy.

**Course Requirements:**

Students are required to complete all the readings, participate in class discussions and fulfill the following assignments:

1. **Policy Review Essay (20 pts.)**

Students will choose one of the topics covered in Weeks 9-11 and write an essay explaining the reasons for rivalry between Russia and the United States in a particular geographic area or over a specific issue. The essay should include critical overview of U.S. policies on a selected topic over the last two decades, evaluate their impact and suggest possible revisions to these policies in the near term. The essay should be 2,000-2,500 words in length and reference the relevant literature from the course. It should be emailed to the instructor 24 hours before the class when the topic is addressed. Students will then summarize their findings and arguments during class discussion. The deadline for choosing a topic for an essay is February 7.

2. **Strategy Memo (25 pts.) and Presentation (5 pts. + 5 pts.)**

Students will choose one of the major powers (US/UK/Germany/France/China/Iran) and work in a group (of maximum three students) to develop a comprehensive strategy for dealing with Russia over the next five years based on their national security goals and the current state of bilateral relations with Moscow. The memo should first state what the country seeks to achieve in their relationship, explain how it relates to its broader national interests and then present a set of alternative strategies for achieving these goals depending on the response of Russian leadership and the international context. The memo should be between 2,500 and 3,000 words. Students will present their memos in Weeks 14 -15. Following the presentation each group will field questions from the audience consisting of representatives of other world powers. While the memo is the result of a group effort, each student should be responsible for writing a separate section of the memo. Your memo grade will reflect the strength of the overall group analysis (15 pts.) and the writing quality of your individual section (10 pts.). The deadline for selecting the country for a group project is March 2. The memo will be due on the last day of the class (April 27).

3. **Mid-Term Exam (25 pts. total):**
4. **Attendance and Participation** (10 pts. and 10 pts.)

The policy of the College of Arts and Sciences states that students who fail to attend at least seventy-five percent of class sessions will fail the course. Students will receive full attendance credit if they miss less than 10% of classes. They will receive 5 points for attendance if they miss 10-20% of classes. They will receive 3 points if they miss 21-25% of classes.

Students’ informed participation in the class discussion is an important way of learning for them and their peers. So they are strongly encouraged to participate not only by responding to the instructor’s questions (passive participation), but also by engaging the arguments of other students, posing own questions and promoting dialogue on topics relevant for each class (active participation). I will count only substantive contribution to the class discussion towards participation grade. They will receive full credit for participation only if they contribute to the discussion in over half of the classes that they attend. They will receive 5 points if they participate in 25% of classes or more and 3 points if they participate in less than a quarter of classes.

**Grading**

The system of grading for this course is based on points. You will receive a set amount of points for each assignment and your total for the course will amount to a maximum of 100 points. Your final grade will be decided using Baylor’s normal grading scale with your points total corresponding to a percentage point on the scale.

**Grading Scale:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>93-100=A</td>
<td>90-92=A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>87-89=B+</td>
<td>86-83=B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82=B-</td>
<td>77-79=C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76=C</td>
<td>70-72=C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69=D</td>
<td>Below 60=F</td>
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</tbody>
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**Honor Code:**

Students should uphold and abide by Baylor’s Honor Code: [http://www.baylor.edu/honorcode/index.php?id=44060](http://www.baylor.edu/honorcode/index.php?id=44060). The violation of the Honor Code may result in the failed grade for an assignment, an exam or for the entire course depending on severity of a violation. You should pay particular attention to the rules concerning proper identification of another author’s work and the use of your own papers that had been earlier submitted for credit in other courses. This course has a zero-tolerance policy for plagiarism. Any instance of plagiarism in the submitted work will immediately result in a failed grade (zero points for an assignment).

**Title IX Office**

If you or someone you know would like help related to an experience of sexual violence including sexual assault, harassment, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking or other
type of non-consensual sexual conduct, please contact Kristan Tucker, the Title IX Coordinator at Baylor University, by email (Kristan_Tucker@baylor.edu) or phone (254-710-8454).

**Books for Purchase:**


The following book will be available on reserve at Moody Memorial Library:


The rest of the readings are accessible in electronic form via Bearcat or Baylor Library. The course reserve password is **Kudelia4386.01**

**Additional Resources to Consult on Russian Foreign Policy:**


2) *Johnson’s Russia List* – the most comprehensive daily index of the key articles on Russian affairs published in Russian and world press: [http://www.russialist.org/](http://www.russialist.org/). You can subscribe for free to receive a daily email newsletter listing all the new articles.


CLASS SCHEDULE

Week 1: Ideas and Institutions Behind Russia’s Foreign Policy

1.1 January 10: Introduction

1.2 January 12: What is Russia?


Week 2: Russian Foreign Policy Across Centuries

2.1 January 17: Imperial Russia and the Quest for Expansion


2.2 January 19: Soviet Russia and the Quest for Domination

Week 3: Cold War and Its Legacy

3.1 January 24: Deterrence, Containment and Coexistence


Recommended:

FILM: *Dr. Strangelove or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb* (1964)

3.2 January 26: The End of Bipolarity


Week 4: Russia’s Post-Cold War Choices

4.1 January 31: Rapprochement with the West


4.2 February 2: Neo-Imperial Risorgimento
Stent, Ch. 2, pp. 35 – 48 & Ch. 6, pp. 135 – 158.


**Week 5: Revisiting Post-Communist Landscape**

5.1 February 7: *Autocrats and Nationalists*


5.2 February 9: *Reformers and Revolutionaries*

Stent, Ch. 5, pp. 97 – 123.

**Week 6: Russia’s National Security Priorities**

6.1 February 14: *NATO, Terrorism and Arms Control*

Stent, Chs. 3, 9 & 10, pp. 49 – 82; 211 – 254.

6.2 February 16: *Energy, Trade and Post-Soviet Integration*

Stent, Ch. 8, pp. 177 – 210.


**Week 7: Russia’s Foreign Policy Toolkit**

7.1 February 21: MID-TERM EXAM
7.2 February 23: “Russian World,” Orthodoxy and (Dis)information Campaigns


Week 8: Russia’s Foreign Policy Toolkit II: Hard Power

8.1 February 28: Regional Wars and Military Interventions

Stent, Ch. 7, pp. 159 – 176.


8.2 March 2: Energy Supplies and Cyberwarfare


**SPRING BREAK**

**Week 9: Zones of Rivalry I**

9.1 March 14: **Ukraine**


9.2. March 16: **NO CLASS** (Instructor at a Workshop on US-EU Relations in Germany)

**Week 10: Zones of Rivalry II**

10.1 March 21: **The Caucasus and Central Asia**


10.2 March 23: **China and The Middle East**


**Week 11: Issues of Contention**

11.1 March 28: Global Energy and the Arctic


11.2 March 30: Eurasian and Euro-Atlantic Security


**Week 12**

12.1 April 4: DIADELOSO

12.2 April 6 (NO CLASS – Instructor at MPSA Conference in Chicago): Group Work on Memos

**Week 13: What’s Next for Russia?**

13.1 April 11: The View from Moscow


2016 Foreign Policy Concept of the Russian Federation: [http://www.mid.ru/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/2542248?p_p_id=101_INSTANCE_cKNonkJE02Bw&101_INSTANCE_cKNonkJE02Bw_languageId=en_GB](http://www.mid.ru/foreign_policy/news/-/asset_publisher/cKNonkJE02Bw/content/id/2542248?p_p_id=101_INSTANCE_cKNonkJE02Bw&101_INSTANCE_cKNonkJE02Bw_languageId=en_GB)

13.2 April 13: The View from the West


**Week 14: Devising Russia Strategy**

14.1 April 18: World Summit I (U.S/U.K.)

14.2 April 20: World Summit II (France/Germany)

**Week 15: Devising Russia Strategy Cont’d.**

15.1 April 25: World Summit III (China/Iran)

15.2 April 27: Conclusion: Seeking Common Ground (FINAL MEMO DUE)
