

**PUBLIC POLICIES IN RUSSIA**

**Course Description**

This course is designed to provide students with basic knowledge of the evolution of the political process in contemporary Russia and thereby enhance their understanding and skills for understanding Russian political governance and public policy. This course intends to show Russian politics through the eyes of Russian and foreign scholars who specialize in contemporary public policy issues in Russia. Russian politics will be shown about the constitutional process, regime change, and values of Russian society. Issues addressed in this course include the following: the Russian political system, the democratization process, elections, and parties, political decision-making, and social and economic policy in contemporary Russia. The analysis of current political issues will provide students with the tools to understand contemporary Russia and give an outlook on future developments.

**Learning Objectives**

After completing this course students will be able to:

- describe key sociopolitical developments in Russia and the former Soviet space since 1991;
- evaluate and describe key processes in the post-Soviet world and their challenges, including democratization and the development of a public sphere;
- analyze the contemporary Russian politics and policies from an interdisciplinary perspective, employing concepts from disciplines of political science, international relations, and sociology;
- apply theoretical and social science concepts to analysis of the Russian politics and policies.

**Course Prerequisites**

Students should be aware of basic concepts in social sciences.

**Methods of Instruction**

The course will consist of lectures and seminar discussions on material read at home and included in the lecture. Students are expected to participate actively in classroom discussions and prepare all written assignments in a timely manner.

## **Assessment and Final Grade**

Students will be assessed according to the following criteria:

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- Participation 20%
- Quizzes 20% (10% for each quiz)
- Assignments 30% (10% for each essay)
- Final test 30%

TOTAL: 100%

## **Course Requirements**

Students are required (1) to participate actively, intelligently and regularly in class discussions; (2) to come prepared for each class meeting; (3) to take 2 quizzes and final test; (4) submit three essays (assignments).

### **Grading Scale:**

<b>A</b>	<b>A-</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>D-</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>94-100</b>	<b>90-93</b>	<b>87-89</b>	<b>83-86</b>	<b>80-82</b>	<b>77-79</b>	<b>73-76</b>	<b>70-72</b>	<b>67-69</b>	<b>63-66</b>	<b>60-62</b>	<b>59</b>

## **Key aspects to be covered**

1. Constitutional process and the transformation of the Russian political regime.
2. Russian political and administrative system: institutions and practice.
3. Key issues in social and economic policies: from the 1990s to 2020s.
4. Political Parties and Elections in Russia.
5. Political elites and decision-making in Russia.
6. Federalism and issues of the multilevel governance.
7. Contentious politics, political participation, and civic engagement in Russia.
8. Policy analysis and evaluation in different dimensions of contemporary Russian development: economics, social sphere, regulation, international relations.
8. Key vectors of the Russian foreign policy.