

**MOSCOW STATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
(MGIMO-UNIVERSITY),
THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF RUSSIA**

**B.A. in Government and International Affairs
School of Government and International Affairs
Department of Comparative Politics**

«Approved»

**Director of School of Government and International Relations
_____M.A. Troitskiy**

«____» _____ 2018

The syllabus for the course

Introduction to Political Science

**Government and International Relations
(41.03.05 School of Government and International Relations)**

Program: Government and International Relations

**Qualification – Bachelor
Form of study – Full time**

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The Course “Introduction to Political Science” has been elaborated in accordance with the MGIMO Educational Standard for the Bachelor’s Program in International Relations (track “Government and international relations”)

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The syllabus has been approved by the Department of Comparative politics on _____ 2016.

Head of Department

_____ prof. O.V. Gaman-Golutvina

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PART 1: INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION, COURSE DESCRIPTION AND TEACHING METHODS

1.1 General information

- Full course title: Introduction to Political Science
- Type of course: Compulsory
- Level of course B.A.
- Year of study: 1st and 2nd
- Number of ECTS credits allocated: 6 (2 at the 1st Year and 4 at the 2nd Year of studies)
- Name of lecturer(s) and office hours:

Dr. I.V. Kudryashova, Associate professor, Department of Comparative politics
Dr. O.G. Kharitonova, Associate professor, Department of Comparative politics
Dr. I.Y. Okounev, Associate professor, Department of Comparative politics
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1.2 Course aims and learning outcomes

The course is designed as an introduction to the concepts underlying modern approaches to the study of politics and as an introduction to comparative politics, a field that involves cross-national analysis and area studies of domestic politics in different countries. The course is taught in units of political actors, political phenomena and specific theoretical problems. The theme-based composition of the course will familiarize the students with the main theoretical frameworks in contemporary Comparative Politics, i.e. the structuralist approach, the culturalist approach, the institutionalist approach and the agency-based approach.

Learning outcomes:

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

- understand the basic political concepts in politics;
- discuss major theories and concepts of political science and its subfields;
- understand the nature of power, authority, legitimacy, leadership;
- apply terminology, theories, and concepts to current events and specific cases,
- critically interpret domestic and international political events;
- assess structural, cultural and institutional factors determining political outcomes;
- understand the essence of institutional arrangements;
- compare institutions, political culture and behavior across nations;
- demonstrate critical thinking, analyze and evaluate political evidence and produce well-reasoned arguments about politics using evidence to support conclusions in a coherent way

1.3 Course requirements and grading plan

Course requirements

Students will be required to attend not less than 90% of classes and be prepared for class discussions. Reading of the assigned materials and active engagement in class discussions is compulsory.

Grading plan

- **Class participation – 20%**
Students are expected to attend all the lectures seminars and participate in class discussions; since the course is highly interactive, it is essential that students attend the seminars having read the materials for that day's class.
- **In-class tests – 60%**
Students will write three tests during the semester. Dates of test classes are defined by the instructor and communicated to the students at the first class of the respective course.
- **In-class issue presentation – 20%.**
Such a presentation (up to 15 minutes) is performed by each student at least once in the term. The presentation will be based on the week's additional readings and discussion topics. The presenter should supply a brief summary of the argument but offer a critical interpretation of the reading by drawing out the key ideas of the text, linking them with others already covered, and registering agreements and disagreements. The presenter should also attempt to consider how the given argument could be framed differently. A few critical questions should further be offered for the class to discuss collectively.

PART 2. COURSE CONTENT

2.1 Types of work

Types of work	Academic hours		
	Total	72	144
Total for classwork	32	34	66
Lectures	16	16	32
Seminars	16	18	34
Homework	40	74	114
Preparation for lectures, seminars, written or oral tests			
Preparation for and passing the final exam	-	36	36
Course assessment (homework, tests, activity at seminars)	2 ECTS	4 ECTS	6 ECTS

2.2 Course outline

Section and topic	<i>Full-time course</i>			
	Academic hours taken (or credits)			
	Lectures	Seminars	Homework	Total hours for topic
1. Politics and political science	4	4	14	22
2. Political culture and political socialization	4	4	14	22
3. "Political man" in contemporary world.	4	4	14	22
4. Political system and institutions	2	2	12	16
5. Political regimes	2	4	12	18
5. Party and party systems	4	4	12	20
7. Territorial arrangements: federalism vs. unitarism	4	4	12	20

8. Origins of democracy and its contemporary development	4	4	12	20
9. Political development and modernization.	4	4	12	20
Preparation for and passing the final exam	-	-	36	36
TOTAL	32	34	150	216

2.3 Course content and readings by topic

Schedule and Assignments

Topic 1. Politics and political science

Topic 2. Political culture and political socialization

Topic 6. «Political man» in contemporary world

Topic 3. Political system and institutions

Topic 4. Political regimes

Topic 5. Party and party systems

Topic 7. Territorial arrangements: federalism vs. unitarism

Topic 8. Origins of Democracy and its contemporary development

Topic 9. Political development and modernization

Topic 1. Politics and political science (2 lectures, 2 seminars)

Lecture 1.1

Introduction to the course. Course format. Goals, objectives and assessment. Course content: outline of main topics. Politics as a social phenomenon. Concepts and interpretations of politics. Finding the best definition. Politics as: ‘current affairs’, the art of government, conflict or competition for power and its use, resolution of conflict, etc. Short introduction to the theory of political systems and functionalist approach. Politics as a functionally defined subsystem and its interconnection with the other subsystems in society. Functions served by these subsystems.

Lecture 1.2

What is political science? Political science as philosophy and theory. Development of the discipline of political science. Traditional subfields of political science. Comparison as one of the most adequate ways to connect theory about society and politics with empirically founded facts. Framework of political analysis. Analytical approaches to the study of politics.

Seminar 1.1

Themes for discussion:

1. What is politics and what causes the diversity of its definitions?
2. How do you understand the following expression: “Man is by nature a political animal” (Aristotle).

3. What is the role of politics in modern society and what is the relationship between politics and other subsystems in society? Give relevant examples from your country's political life.

Seminar 1.2

Themes for discussion:

1. Main stages of the development of political science.
2. What is comparative politics and what does it do in practice?

Compulsory readings for topic 1:

- Hague, Rod and Martin Harrop. Comparative Government and Politics. An Introduction. 9th edition. Palgrave Macmillan. Chapter 5.
- Heywood, Andrew. Politics. 4th edition. Palgrave Macmillan. Chapter 1.

Further readings for topic 1:

- Almond G.A. Political theory and political science // The American political science review. – Los Angeles, 1966. - Vol.60, No. 4.
- Goodin R. E. The State of the Discipline, the Discipline of the State. /The Oxford Handbook of Political Science / ed. by R.E. Goodin. - Oxford : Oxford Univ. Press, 2011. – Part 1. Introduction.
- Parsons T. The role of theory in social research // American sociological review. - 1938. - Vol.3, No. 1.
- Parsons T. The Concept of Society: The Components and Their Interrelation / Parsons T. Societies: Evolutionary and Comparative Perspectives. - Englewood Cliffs (NJ): Prentice-Hall, 1966, p.5-29.

Internet resources:

- International Political Science Association: <http://www.ipsa.org/>
- Russian Political science association: <http://rapn.ru/>

Topic 2. Political culture and political socialization. (2 lectures and 2 seminars)

Lecture 2.1

Political systems and political cultures. What is 'political culture': principal approaches to conceptualization. Political culture as the particular distribution of patterns of orientation towards political objects (G.Almond, S.Verba). Alternative approaches.

The structure of political culture. Political culture and political behavior. Political culture and political socialization. Agents of political socialization. Classifying political cultures.

Lecture 2.2

Evolution of political culture. Unity of political culture. Democratization and political culture. Concepts of political ideologies. Recent tendencies of development of political attitudes in advanced countries. "Civic culture".

Russian political culture in historical perspective. The dynamics of value orientations and behavioral patterns of Russians in the 1990-2000s.

Seminar 2.1

Themes for discussion:

1. The concept of political culture: definitions, structure, types. Why do we need to study political culture?
2. Democracy and political culture. What should come first?

Seminar 2.2

Themes for discussion:

1. Political socialization and its principal agents. How 'to learn' political culture and whether it might be taught?
2. Political culture in Russia: "eternal" or changeable?

Compulsory readings for topic 2:

- Hague, Rod and Martin Harrop. Comparative Government and Politics. An Introduction. 9th edition. Palgrave Macmillan. Chapter 6.
- Heywood, Andrew. Politics. 4th edition. Palgrave Macmillan. Chapter 10.

Further readings for topic 2:

- Denk, Thomas, Henrik Christensen, and Daniel Bergh. "The Composition of Political Culture-A Study of 25 European Democracies." *Studies In Comparative International Development* 50, no. 3 (September 2015): 358-377. Academic Search Premier, EBSCOhost (accessed May 12, 2017).
- Almond G., Verba S. *The Civic Culture. Political Attitudes and Democracy in Five Nations.* – London, etc., 1989. – P. 1-10.
- Formisano R. The concept of political culture // *Journal of Interdisciplinary History.* – 2001. – Vol. 31, no. 3. – P. 393-426.
- Inglehart R. *Culture and Democracy // Culture Matters. How Values Shape Human Progress /* Ed. by L.E.Harrison, S.P.Huntington. – N.Y.: Basic Books, 2001. – P. 80-97.
- Putnam R.D. *Making Democracy Work: Civic Traditions in Modern Italy.* – Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994.
- Whitefield S. *Culture, Experience, and State Identity: A Survey-Based Analysis of Russians, 1995-2003 // Political Culture and Post-Communism /* ed. by S.Whitefield. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005. P. 125-147.

Internet resources:

- Chilton S. Defining Political Culture // *The Western Political Quarterly*, Vol. 41, No. 3. (Sep., 1988), pp. 419-445. URL: <http://users.polisci.wisc.edu/schatzberg/ps657/Chilton1988.pdf>
- World values survey. URL: <http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/>
- Bowling Alone.com: <http://www.bowlingalone.com/>

Topic 3. «Political man» in contemporary world (2 lectures, 2 seminars)

Lecture 3.1. Political behavior and political leadership

Person as the main actor of political relations. Social groups in politics. Political socialization, its mechanisms and stages. Agents of political socialization.

Political behavior and its types. Motivation of political behavior. Forms of political behavior. Political participation and its varieties. Civil society and its formation in contemporary Russia.

Lecture 3.2. Political leadership

Political leadership. Main functions of leadership. Types of authority. Typologies of political leaders. Styles of political behavior. Political psychological studies of political leadership.

Political elites as the subject of political science. Classical and contemporary theories of political elites. Recruitment and rotation of political elites under democratic and authoritarian regimes.

Seminar 3.1. Political behavior and political leadership

Themes for discussion:

1. Political actors

2. Types of political behavior
3. Types of political leaders

Seminar 3.2. Political Elites and Political Leadership in Russia in Historical Retrospective and Comparative Perspective

Themes for discussion:

1. Elite recruitment in the Commonwealth of Independent States
2. Political elites in Russian politics
3. Elite transformations in Russian politics

Compulsory readings:

- Gaman-Golutvina O. Russian elites in the modern nomadic civilization. (Reader)
- Heywood, Andrew. Politics. 4th edition. Palgrave Macmillan. Chapter 17.

Further readings:

- Marin, R. "Instances of decentralization in East-Central Europe: operationalization, taxonomy and applications on local political elites' outlook." *Romanian Journal Of Political Science* 14, no. 2 (Winter 2014): 99-125. Academic Search Premier, EBSCOhost (accessed May 12, 2017).
- Gaman-Golutvina O. Political Elites in the Commonwealth of Independent States: Recruitment and Rotation Tendencies. *Comparative Sociology* 6 (2007) 136–157.
- Gaman-Golutvina O. Russian Society and Elites in 1989-2009: Transformation Results and Future Perspectives, in: Heinrich Best, Katharina Bluhm, Michael Fritsch & Rainer K. Silbereisen (Eds.). *Transitions – Transformations: Trajectories of Social, Economic and Political Change after Communism* (Historical Social Research Historische Sozialforschung). Special Issue. Berlin 2010.
- Higley, J., and Pakulski, J. 'Elite and Leadership Change in Liberal Democracies', *Comparative Sociology*, .2007. 6, 1–2, 6–26.
- King. *Leaders' Personalities and the Outcomes of Democratic Elections*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Oleinik, A.N. ,V.G. Ledyayev, O.V. Gaman-Golutvina. *Reforming the State without Changing the Model of Power? On Administrative Reform in Post-Socialist Countries*. London & New York: Routledge, 2009.

Internet resources:

- President of Russia: <http://eng.kremlin.ru/>

Topic 4. Political institutions (1 lecture, 1 seminar)

Lecture 4.1

System approach in political science. Political systems and political institutions. The state, its emergence and evolution. Contemporary political institutions. Interest aggregation and articulation. Typologies of institutions. Political parties and interest groups. Electoral systems. Majoritarian and proportional representational electoral systems. Parliamentary, presidential and semi-presidential systems. Preconditions, changes, survival and breakdown of institutions. Political institutions and democratic survival.

Seminar 4.2

Themes for discussion:

1. Emergence and evolution of the state

2. Institutions and their political consequences
3. The perils and virtues of presidentialism
4. Institutional design for new democracies

Compulsory readings:

- Hague, Rod and Martin Harrop. *Comparative Government and Politics. An Introduction*. 9th edition. Palgrave Macmillan. Chapter 16.
- Heywood, Andrew. *Politics*. 4th edition. Palgrave Macmillan. Chapter 16.

Further readings:

- Linz, Juan José (1990) The Virtues of Parliamentarism. *Journal of Democracy*, vol. 1, issue 1, pp. 84-91.
- Linz, Juan José (1990) The Perils of Presidentialism. *Journal of Democracy*, vol. 1, issue 1, pp. 51-69.
- Stepan A., C. Skach. *Constitutional Frameworks and Democratic Consolidation: Parliamentarism Versus Presidentialism // World Politics*. – 1993. – Vol. 46. – P. 1-22.

Internet resources:

- Monty G. Marshall. and Keith Jagers. Polity IV Project. *Political Regime Characteristics and Transitions, 1800-2001*. Center for International Development and Conflict Management, University of Maryland. <http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/inscr/polity/>
- Inter-Parliamentary Union: <http://www.ipu.org/english/home.htm>

Topic 5. Political regimes (1 lecture, 1 seminar)

Lecture 5.1

Contemporary political regimes. Typologies of political regimes. Measuring political regimes. The longevity of nondemocratic regimes.

Totalitarian regimes. The essence of totalitarianism. The features of totalitarian regimes. Historic examples: Mussolini's Italy, Hitler's Germany, Stalin's USSR, Mao's China.

Authoritarian regimes. Dictatorships in practice: Latin American and East Asian examples. Personal dictatorships and their resilience.

Institutionalization in dictatorships. Modern hybrid regimes.

Regime emergence and breakdown. Regime changes: revolutions, coups, reforms, democratization and civil wars.

Seminar 5.2

Themes for discussion:

1. Political regime operationalization
2. Political regimes' preconditions
3. Institutions and regime survival
4. Political regimes changes

Compulsory readings:

- Hague, Rod and Martin Harrop. *Comparative Government and Politics. An Introduction*. 9th edition. Palgrave Macmillan. Chapter 4.
- Heywood, Andrew. *Politics*. 4th edition. Palgrave Macmillan. Chapter 2.

Further readings:

- Gel'man V. "The Politics of Fear." *Russian Politics & Law* 54, no. 5/6 (September 2016): 6-26. Academic Search Premier, EBSCOhost (accessed May 12, 2017)

- Diamond, Larry. (2002) Thinking about hybrid regimes. *Journal of Democracy* 13 (2): 21-35.
- Linz J. and Alfred Stepan.(1996). *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press,. pp.38-54.
- O'Donnell, G. Delegates Democracy (1994). *Journal of Democracy* 5(1): 55-69.

Internet resources:

- Freedom House. *Freedom in the World*. Survey Methodology. New York: Freedom House. <http://www.freedomhouse.org/>
- Monty G. Marshall. and Keith Jagers. Polity IV Project. *Political Regime Characteristics and Transitions, 1800-2001*. Center for International Development and Conflict Management, University of Maryland. <http://www.cidcm.umd.edu/inscr/polity/>

Topic 6. Territorial arrangements: federalism vs. unitarism (2 lectures, 2 seminars)

Lecture 6.1

Why does the state need territorial arrangements? Unitary and federal states: advantages and deficits. Structural features of federal states. Classification of federal states. Asymmetric federations. Ethnic federalism.

Lecture 6.2

Federalism and democracy. Federalism and modernization.

Federal bargaining. Federal choice: voluntary or imposed?

Why decentralization? Decentralization, corruption and “good governance”.

Seminar 6.1

Themes for discussion:

1. Is there any federal tradition in Russia's history? Soviet model of federalism.
2. Federative Treaty of 1992. Federal principles on the 1993 Constitution. Bilateral treaties.
3. Key features of “Yeltsin” model of federalism.

Seminar 6.2

Themes for discussion:

1. Administrative reform of the president Putin.
2. Federal districts. Reform of the Federation Council. Less political autonomy for the regions – more centralization. Federalism and modernization.
3. Why to support federalism in contemporary Russia?

Compulsory readings:

- Hague, Rod and Martin Harrop. *Comparative Government and Politics. An Introduction*. 9th edition. Palgrave Macmillan. Chapter 13.
- Heywood, Andrew. *Politics*. 4th edition. Palgrave Macmillan. Chapter 8.

Further readings for topic:

- Elazar Daniel J. *From Statism to Federalism: A Paradigm Shift*. *Publius*, Vol. 25, No. 2. (Spring, 1995), pp. 5-18.
- Figueredo Rui and Barry Weingast. *Self-Enforcing Federalism*. *The Journal of Law, Economics, & Organization*, Vol. 21, No. 1, 2005.
- Lane Jan-Erik and Svante Ersson. *The Riddle of Federalism: Does Federalism Impact on Democracy? Democratization*, Vol.12, No.2, April 2005, pp.163–182
- Watts, Ronald. *Federalism, Federal Political Systems and Federations*. *Annu. Rev. Polit. Sci.* 1998. 1:117.37.

Internet resources:

- Centre for Studies on Federalism: <http://www.csfederalismo.it>
- Forum on Federations: <http://www.forumfed.org/>

Topic 7. Parties and party systems (2 lectures, 2 seminars)

Lecture 7.1 Political parties

Definition of political party. Parties as institutes of democracy. Origins of political parties and their functions in political life. Criteria for political parties typologies. Dominant types of political parties in 20th century. New types of political parties: catch-all parties, cartel parties, parties of “new wave”.

Lecture 7.2 Party systems

Definition of party system. Party system as system of interactions between parties about organization of government. Quantitative and political principles of typology of party systems. One-party system, two-party system, various types of multiparty systems. Parties in governments. Parties and party system in contemporary Russia.

Seminar 7.1

Themes for discussion:

1. Political parties: definition and types
2. New types of political parties.

Seminar 7.2

Themes for discussion:

1. Various typologies of party systems.
2. Influence of electoral systems on party systems.
3. Electoral and party systems in Russia.

Compulsory readings:

- Hague, Rod and Martin Harrop. Comparative Government and Politics. An Introduction. 9th edition. Palgrave Macmillan. Chapter 10.
- Heywood, Andrew. Politics. 4th edition. Palgrave Macmillan. Chapter 13.

Further readings:

- Bigi A, Bonera M., and Bal A. "Evaluating political party positioning over time: a proposed methodology." Journal Of Public Affairs (14723891) 16, no. 2 (May 2016): 128-139. Academic Search Premier, EBSCOhost (accessed May 12, 2017).
- Katz R., Mair P. Changing Models of Party Organization and Party Democracy: The Emergence of the Cartel Party // Party Politics. - 1995. - №1. – Pp. 5-28.
- Lijphart A. Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries. - New Haven and L., 1999. – Pp. 62-89
- Lipset S.M., Rokkan S. (eds.) Party System and Voter Alignments. New York, 1967.

Internet resources:

- Parties and elections: www.parties-and-elections.de
- Election world: www.electionworld.org
- International IDEAs Voting Turnout Around the World: www.idea.int
- Lijphart Elections Archive <http://libraries.ucsd.edu/locations/sshl/data-gov-info-gis/ssds/guides/lij/>
- Administration and Cost of Elections Project: www.aceproject.org

Topic 8. Origins of Democracy and its contemporary development (2 lectures, 2 seminars)

Lecture 8.1

Idea of democracy. The first examples of democratic systems in Greece.

The medieval Italian republics. Medieval parliaments. The birth of civil society. Political parties in Europe. Negotiations between social groups as the condition for the legitimacy of the government. Elections and enlargement of electoral base.

Democracy in practice. Main types of democratic systems. Models of democracy.

Lecture 8.2 Transitions to democracy

Waves of democratization in the modern world. Theories of democratic transition and consolidation. Agency, structure and culture in regime transformations. Political regime and regime changes.

Seminar 8.1

Themes for discussion:

Models of democracy in history. The emergence of democracy in the modern world. British and American models of democracy.

Seminar 8.2

Themes for discussion:

Transitions to democracy. Difficulties during rapid changes. Three basic components of society: institutions, political culture and social networks. Outcomes of the dissonance between the three components. Growth of corruption in “grey zones”. Case-studies: Arab countries, Russia, post- Soviet space.

Compulsory readings:

- Hague, Rod and Martin Harrop. Comparative Government and Politics. An Introduction. 9th edition. Palgrave Macmillan. Chapter 3.
- Heywood, Andrew. Politics. 4th edition. Palgrave Macmillan. Chapter 4.

Further readings:

- Hadenius A. Institutions and democratic citizenship. Oxford. Oxford University Press. 2001.
- Dahl R. Dilemmas of pluralist democracy. New Haven, London. Yale University Press
- Sergeyev V.M., N.I.Biryukov Russian Politics in Transition. Aldershot. Ashgate. 1997

Internet resources:

- Freedom House: <http://www.freedomhouse.org/>
- Journal of Democracy: <http://www.journalofdemocracy.org/>

Topic 9. Political development and modernization (2 lectures, 2 seminars)

Lecture 9.1

Concepts of political development and modernization. Evolutionary paradigm and modernization theory (H.Maine, M.Weber, E.Durkheim). Marxism and development. Stages of economic growth (W.Rostow). Dependency theory as a conflict approach to development..

Characteristics of political development: equality, capacity, differentiation. Causes of political development. Major factors in political development (G.A. Almond and G.B. Powell).

Lecture 9.2.

Crises in political development (L.Pye). Activities of the Committee on comparative politics (G. Almond) in 1960-s. Political development and political decay.

What is Modernity? Modernization and westernization. Steps in the development of modernization theory in 1980-s. Modern versions of modernization theory.
Major problems of Russia's modernization.

Seminar 9.1

Themes for discussion:

1. Evaluate various definitions of political development. What are the characteristics of political development? Discuss its implications and requirements.
2. What are the causes of political development? Give its factors with critical evaluation.

Seminar 9.2

Themes for discussion:

1. What produce the controversy over modernization theory?
2. Modernization as Russia's priority.

Compulsory readings:

- Hague, Rod and Martin Harrop. Comparative Government and Politics. An Introduction. 9th edition. Palgrave Macmillan. Chapter 6-8.
- Heywood, Andrew. Politics. 4th edition. Palgrave Macmillan. Chapter 20.

Further readings:

- Eisenstadt S.N. Transformation of social, political and cultural orders in modernization // American sociological review. - 1965. - Vol.30, No.5.
- Huntington S.P. Political modernization: America vs. Europe // World politics. – 1966. – Vol.18, No.3.
- Inglehart R., Baker W.E. Modernization, cultural change, and the persistence of traditional values // American sociological review. - 2000. - Vol.65, No.1.
- Political development revisited - and its alternatives // Wiarda H.J. Comparative politics: Approaches and issues. - Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield publishers, Inc., 2007. P. 129-154.
- Shevtsova L.F. Lonely power: Why Russia has failed to become the West and the west is weary of Russia. – Carnegie endowment for international peace, United book press, 2010.
- Mironov B.N. "The Russian Revolution of 1917 as a By-Product of Modernization." Russian Social Science Review 56, no. 1: 79-95. 2015. Academic Search Premier, EBSCOhost (accessed May 12, 2017)

Internet resources:

- United Nations Development Programme: <http://www.undp.org>
- World Development Indicators | Data - The World Bank: <http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/world-development-indicators>
- Eldis (an online information service providing free access to relevant, up-to-date and diverse research on international development issues): <http://www.eldis.org/>
Europe 2020: http://ec.europa.eu/europe2020/index_en.htm

2.4. Essay topics

Topic 1. Politics and political science.

- Why it is often said that political science is a discipline with a mission?
- How can we understand Bismarck's words "Politics is the art of the possible?"

Topic 2. Political culture and political socialization.

- Why do we need to study political culture?
- Political culture in Russia: “eternal” or changeable?

Topic 3. «Political man» in contemporary world.

- Political leadership: ancient and modern
- Political leader (case study)
- Leadership recruitment (comparative study between regimes)

Topic 4. Political system and institutions

- Political institutions and regime survival: case study
- The perils of presidentialism (semi-presidentialism): case study
- The virtues of parliamentarianism: case study

Topic 5. Political regimes

- Political regime: case-study
- Political regime change: case-study
- Modern hybrid regime: case study

Topic 6. Party and party systems

- Universality of Duverger’s effect
- Perspectives of new types of political parties
- Peculiarities of Russian political parties

Topic 7. Territorial arrangements: federalism vs. unitarism

- Why do the states choose federal order?
- How does federalism relate to democracy?
- Perspectives of ethnic federalism in Russia
- Interregional disparities and federal choice

Topic 8. Origins of Democracy and its contemporary development

- Democracy: old and new, good or bad.
- Globalization’s influence on democracy

Topic 9. Political development and modernization

- Why did Abraham Lincoln believe that “the ballot is stronger than the bullet”?
- How can you illustrate the controversies of modernization in [a chosen country].

2.5. Exam Questions

Topic 1. Politics and political science.

- Political science as a discipline. Major subfields of political science.
- Definition of politics. Why there are so many definitions of it
- Methods of studying politics
- Relationship between politics and other spheres of social life

Topic 2. Political culture and political socialization

- The concept of political culture: alternative approaches to conceptualization
- Political culture and democracy: classic and contemporary studies
- Political culture and socialization

Topic 3. «Political man» in contemporary world.

- Political behavior
- Political leadership
- Political elites

Topic 4. Political system and institutions.

- System approach in political science
- Role and functions of political institutions in political systems
- Emergence and evolution of the state: theoretical and historic approaches
- Political institutions and regime survival
- Parliamentarism and presidentialism in comparative perspective

Topic 6. Political regimes

- Types of political regimes
- Non-democratic regimes in the XX century.
- Political regime changes
- Modern hybrid regimes

Topic 7. Party and party systems

- Political parties and their types
- Typologies of party systems
- Classification of electoral system

Topic 8. Territorial arrangements: federalism vs. unitarism

- Federal and unitary states: basic differences
- How does federalism relate to democracy?
- Safeguards for federalism
- Federalism in Russia: current situation

Topic 9. Origins of democracy and its contemporary development

- Models of democracy
- Democratic transitions: models and agents
- Waves of democracy in contemporary world

Topic 10. Political development and modernization

- What do we mean by the process of political development? How can we measure it?
- What does political modernization involve?

2.6 Exam timing

- Fall semester tests – last week of December; exams January 10-25.
- Spring semester tests – last week of May; exams June 1-25.

2.7 Consolidated reading list (in alphabetic order)

Textbooks

1. Hague, Rod and Martin Harrop. *Comparative Government and Politics. An Introduction.* 9th edition. Palgrave Macmillan.
2. Heywood, Andrew. *Politics.* 4th edition. Palgrave Macmillan.

Further Readings

- 1, pp. 51-69.
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