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Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution of Higher Education
Peoples' Friendship University of Russia named after Patrice Lumumba
RUDN University

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES
educational division (faculty/institute/academy) as higher education programme developer

COURSE SYLLABUS

CIVIL SOCIETY IN CONTEMPORARY RUSSIA
course title

Recommended by the Didactic Council for the Education Field of:

41.04.04 Political Science
field of studies / speciality code and title

The course instruction is implemented within the professional education programme of higher education:

MA IN POLITICAL SCIENCE, POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND VALUES
higher education programme profile/specialisation title

2026

1. COURSE GOAL(s)

The goal of the course «Civil Society in Contemporary Russia» is to develop in students a system of scientific knowledge explaining the features of the functioning of civil society in modern Russia. The course provides an introduction to the functioning of civil society in modern Russia, with a focus on analyzing project proposals for the development of public organizations and working with legal frameworks, texts, and statistical data.

2. REQUIREMENTS FOR LEARNING OUTCOMES

Mastering the course «Civil Society in Contemporary Russia» is aimed at the development of the following competences:

Table 2.1. List of competences that students acquire through the course study

Competence code	**Competence descriptor**	**Competence formation indicators** (within this course)
GC-3.	Able to organize and manage the work of a team, developing a team strategy to achieve the set goal.	УК-3.1 Formulates and takes into account in his/her activities the behavioral characteristics of groups of people identified depending on the goal set.
GC-4	Capable of using modern communication technologies in the state language of the Russian Federation and foreign language(s) for academic and professional interaction.	GC-4.2. Uses dialogue for cooperation in academic communication, taking into account the personality of the interlocutors, their communicative speech strategy and tactics, and the degree of formality of the situation;
GC-5	Able to analyze and take into account the diversity of cultures in the process of intercultural interaction.	GC-5.1. Finds and uses information about the cultural characteristics and traditions of various social groups in social and professional communication;

3.COURSE IN HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The course «Civil Society in Contemporary Russia» refers to the elective component of (B1) block of the higher educational programme curriculum.

Within the higher education programme students also master other (modules) and / or internships that contribute to the achievement of the expected learning outcomes as results of the course study.

Table 3.1. The list of the higher education programme components/disciplines that contribute to the achievement of the expected learning outcomes as the course study results

Competence code	**Competence descriptor**	**Previous courses/modules***	**Subsequent courses/modules***
GC-3.	Able to organize and manage the work of a team, developing a team strategy to achieve the set goal.	Ethics of Public Policy and Governance; Culture and Identity in Russia; Semester Research Work;	
GC-4	Capable of using modern communication technologies in the state language of the Russian Federation and	Foreign Language in Professional Activities (elective); Russian Language in	

Competence code	Competence descriptor	Previous courses/modules*	Subsequent courses/modules*
	foreign language(s) for academic and professional interaction.	Professional Activities (elective); International Migration: Political Values and Cultural Aspects; Foreign Language in Professional Activities**; Russian Language in Professional Activities**;	
GC-5	Able to analyze and take into account the diversity of cultures in the process of intercultural interaction.	Semester Research Work; Culture and Identity in Russia; History of Religions in Russia; Ethics of Public Policy and Governance; Diversity and Management: Civil Society, Religion and Ethnicity**; Empire and Nationalism in Russia, the Soviet Union, Europe and Asia**;	

* To be filled in according to the competence matrix of the higher education programme.

4. COURSE WORKLOAD AND ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

The total workload of the course is 3 credits 108 academic hours.

Table 4.1. Types of academic activities during the periods of higher education programme mastering

Type of academic activities		Total academic hours	Semesters/training modules			
			1	2	3	4
Contact academic hours		*34*			*34*	
Lectures (LC)		17			17	
Seminars (workshops/tutorials) (S)		17			17	
Self-studies		*47*			*47*	
Evaluation and assessment (exam/ passing/failing grade)		*27*			*27*	
Course workload	academic hours	**108**			**108**	
	credits	**3**			**3**	

* To be filled in regarding the higher education programme correspondence training mode.

5. COURSE CONTENTS

Table 5.1. Course contents and academic activities types

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Topics contents	Academic activities types
Module 1. The Phenomenon of Civil Society	Topic 1.1. Civil Society: History and Theories	Evolution of ideas about civil society. Classical and contemporary concepts of civil society. Structure of civil society. Institutions of civil society and their functions. Public policy.	*LC, S*
	Topic 1.2. Development of Civil Society in Russia	Public organizations and civic initiatives in the USSR. Development of non-profit organizations in modern Russia. Federal Law "On Public Associations" No. 82-FZ of 19.05.1995 (with amendments and additions).	*LC, S*
Module 2. Institutions of Civil Society in Modern Russia	Topic 2.1. Charitable Organizations	Charity and volunteering as a sociocultural phenomenon. NPOs as an institutionalized form of charity and volunteering. Development of charity in Russia: from private and merchant charity to corporate philanthropy. Socio-political significance of modern charity. State support and state control of NPOs. Social partnership between the state and NPOs: federal and regional levels. Federal Law "On Charitable Activities and Volunteering" No. 135-FL of 11.08.1995.	*LC, S*
	Topic 2.2. Ethnonational Organizations and Communities	Civilizational foundations of modern ethnopolitics. Main areas of activity of ethnonational organizations and communities. National-cultural autonomies and their political participation. Interaction between the state and ethnonational organizations.	*LC, S*
	Topic 2.3. Religious Organizations	Contemporary religious situation in Russia. Religious organizations and associations. Interaction between church and state. Federal Law "On Freedom of Conscience and Religious Associations" No. 125-FL of 26.09.1997.	*LC, S*
	Topic 2.4. Trade Unions and Business Organizations	Trade unions and their political functions. The problem of social solidarity. Sustainable development programs and corporate social responsibility of large Russian businesses. GR management. Lobbying. Business participation in the implementation of public policy. National projects of Russia: issues of business-state interaction.	*LC, S*
	Topic 2.5. Political Parties and Public Organizations	Formation of parties and the party system in modern Russia. Relationship between the party system and the electoral system in Russia. Parties of power and opposition parties in Russia. Federal Law "On Political Parties" No. 95-FL of 11.07.2001.	*LC, S*
	Topic 2.6. Local Self-Government	Historical experience and practice of local self-government. Powers of local self-government bodies and experience of their interaction with state authorities. Modern forms of citizen participation in local self-government. Federal Law No. 131-FL of 06.10.2003 "On General Principles of Organization of Local Self-Government in the Russian Federation". Federal Law No. 33-FL of 20.03.2025 "On General Principles of Organization of Local Self-Government in the Unified System of Public Power".	*LC, S*
	Topic 2.7. Mass Media	Mass media in the system of political communication in modern Russia. Political functions of mass media.	*LC, S*

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Topics contents	Academic activities types
		Interaction between the state and mass media. Law of the Russian Federation No. 2124-1 of 27.12.1991/	
Module 3. State Policy for the Development of Civil Society in Modern Russia	Topic 3.1. State-Legal Mechanism for Supporting the Formation and Support of Civil Society	Public Chamber of the Russian Federation. Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation. Presidential Council for Civil Society and Human Rights.	*LC, S*
	Topic 3.2. Financial Mechanism for Supporting Civil Society	Grant support for civil society. Presidential Fund for Cultural Initiatives. Presidential Grants Foundation. Grant projects of large Russian businesses.	*LC, S*
	Topic 3.3. Social Architecture	Social architecture: concept, goals, areas of activity. Social architecture in the system of interaction between the state and civil society. Value component of social architecture. Social programs, projects and platforms as means of implementing social architecture.	*LC, S*

* - to be filled in only for **full** -time training: *LC - lectures; LW - lab work; S - seminars.*

6. CLASSROOM EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT REQUIREMENTS

Table 6.1. Classroom equipment and technology support requirements

Type of academic activities	Classroom equipment	Specialised educational / laboratory equipment, software, and materials for course study (if necessary)
Lecture	A lecture hall for lecture-type classes, equipped with a set of specialised furniture; board (screen) and technical means of multimedia presentations.	
Seminar	A classroom for conducting seminars, group and individual consultations, current and mid-term assessment; equipped with a set of specialised furniture and technical means for multimedia presentations.	
Self-studies	A classroom for independent work of students (can be used for seminars and consultations), equipped with a set of specialised furniture and computers with access to the electronic information and educational environment.	

* The premises for students' self-studies are subject to **MANDATORY** mention

7. RESOURCES RECOMMENDED FOR COURSE STUDY

Main readings:

1. Civil Society in Modernising Russia : Analytical Country Report / L. Yakobson, I. Mersiyanova, O. Kononykhina [et al.] ; National Research University "Higher School of Economics", Centre for Study of Civil Society and the Non-for-Profit Sector. – Moscow, 2010. – 48 p. – URL: https://www.civisbook.ru/files/File/CIVICUS%20Russia.pdf
2. Petrov D. S., Smirnov Y. A., Korhonen M. CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE SOCIAL SCIENCES: EXAMINING POWER RELATIONS IN MODERN RUSSIA //International Journal of Education and Social Science Studies. – 2025. – Т. 1. – №. 2. – С. 33-41.

Additional readings:

3. Orlov K. A. Forms of relationship between the state and civil society //Science. Society. State. – 2025. – №. 1. – С. 12-23.
4. Yu G. L. CIVIL SOCIETY AS DIFFICULT SOCIAL SYSTEM: PHILOSOPHICAL AND LEGAL ASPECT (EXPERIENCE OF RUSSIA). https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Ludmila-Grudtsina/publication/385273212_CIVIL_SOCIETY_AS_DIFFICULT_SOCIAL_SYSTEM_PHILOSOPHICAL_AND_LEGAL_ASPECT_EXPERIENCE_OF_RUSSIA/links/671d1dd6393e8533f7184298/CIVIL-SOCIETY-AS-DIFFICULT-SOCIAL-SYSTEM-PHILOSOPHICAL-AND-LEGAL-ASPECT-EXPERIENCE-OF-RUSSIA.pdf
5. Skuratov Y. I., Yastrebova A. I., Dzhavakhyan R. M. Judiciary and civil society in provision of constitutional rule of law in the Russian Federation //Kutafin Law Review. – 2023. – Т. 9. – №. 4. – С. 641-663.

Internet sources

1. Electronic libraries (EL) of RUDN University and other institutions, to which university students have access on the basis of concluded agreements:

- RUDN Electronic Library System (RUDN ELS) http://lib.rudn.ru/MegaPro/Web
- EL "University Library Online" http://www.biblioclub.ru
- EL "Yurayt" http://www.biblio-online.ru
- EL "Student Consultant" www.studentlibrary.ru
- EL "Lan" http://e.lanbook.com/
- EL "Trinity Bridge"

2.Databases and search engines:

- electronic foundation of legal and normative-technical documentation http://docs.cntd.ru/
- Yandex search engine https:// www .yandex.ru/
- Google search engine https://www.google.ru/
- Scopus abstract database http://www.elsevierscience.ru/products/scopus/

*Training toolkit for self- studies to master the course *:*

1. The set of lectures on the course «Civil Society in Contemporary Russia»
2. The laboratory workshop (if any).on the course «Civil Society in Contemporary Russia»
3. The guidelines for writing a course paper / project (if any) on the course «Civil Society in Contemporary Russia»

* The training toolkit for self- studies to master the course is placed on the course page in the university telecommunication training and information system under the set procedure.

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