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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

CONTEMPORARY SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT IN RUSSIAN AND GLOBAL POLITICAL SCIENCE

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 course «Contemporary Schools of Thought in Russian and Global Political Science» makes students be aware of the latest trends and directions of modern political science in Russia and in the world.

The course covers such topics as history of development of political science in Russia, transitology and democratic transit, new paradigms of political science knowledge, integrated communications theory, research methods (approaches) in political science, etc.

2. REQUIREMENTS FOR LEARNING OUTCOMES

Mastering the course «Contemporary Schools of Thought in Russian and Global Political Science» 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-1	Able to critically analyze problem situations based on a systematic approach and develop an action strategy.	GC-1.1. Analyzes the task, highlighting its basic components; GC-1.2. Determines and ranks the information required to solve the task; GC-1.3. Analyzes ways to solve problems of ideological, moral and personal nature based on the use of basic philosophical ideas and categories in their historical development and socio-cultural context.
GPC-4	Able to conduct scientific research in his field of activity, including in interdisciplinary fields, independently formulate scientific hypotheses and innovative ideas, and check their reliability.	GPC-4.1. Conducts scientific research in interdisciplinary areas, including setting goals and objectives, choosing research methods, determining the scientific novelty of the problem under study, confirming the reliability of scientific hypotheses, formulating one's own conclusions and recommendations.
GPC-9	Able to participate in the implementation of basic professional and additional educational programmes.	GPC-9.1. Develops and updates (under the guidance of a specialist of a higher qualification level) work programmes for training courses, disciplines (modules) of vocational training programmes, basic vocational education and additional education. GPC-9.2. Develops and updates (under the guidance of a specialist of a higher qualification level) educational and methodological materials for conducting certain types of training sessions on taught training courses, disciplines (modules) of vocational training programmes, basic vocational education and additional education.

3. COURSE IN HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The course «Contemporary Schools of Thought in Russian and Global Political Science» is part of the mandatory component of Block 1 "Courses (Modules)" of the higher education degree program.

As part of the Higher Education Academic Programme, students also study other courses and/or practices that contribute to the achievement of the planned learning outcomes of the discipline «Contemporary Schools of Thought in Russian and Global Political Science».

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-1	Able to critically analyze problem situations based on a systematic approach and develop an action strategy.		Research work in the semester; Pre-graduation internship; Diversity and Governance: Civil Society, Religion, and Ethnicity**; Empire and Nationalism in Russia, the Soviet Union, Europe, and Asia**; Universal system of human rights protection; International migration: political values and cultural aspects;
GPC-4	Able to conduct scientific research in his field of activity, including in interdisciplinary fields, independently formulate scientific hypotheses and innovative ideas, and check their reliability.		Pre-graduation internship; Universal system of human rights protection; Political values: ways of formation and methods of research; Governance models in the EU and the EAEU; Political and governance models in BRICS countries: levels, forms, and mechanisms;
GPC-9	Able to participate in the implementation of basic professional and additional educational programmes.		Research work in the semester; Pre-graduation internship;

* 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 4 credits 144 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			
			2		4
Contact academic hours	*34*				

Type of academic activities		Total	Semesters/ training modules			
				2		4
Lectures (LC)		17				
Seminars (workshops/tutorials) (S)		17				
Self-studies		*29*				
Evaluation and assessment (exam/ passing/failing grade)		*9*				
Course workload	academic hours	**72**				
	credits	**2**				

* 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. Contemporary Discussions on the Subject Field of	Topic 1.1. The Subject of Political Science and the History of Its Development in Russia	Subject and object of political science: boundaries and discussions. The formation of political science as an independent discipline (late 19th – mid-20th century). The Soviet	*LC, S*

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Topics contents	Academic activities types
Political Science		period: the Marxist-Leninist paradigm and scientific communism. The revival of political science in post-Soviet Russia (1990s). The current stage: institutionalization, scientific schools, research centers. Problems and prospects for the development of Russian political science.	
	Topic 1.2. Democratic Transition and Reforms in Russian Politics	The concept and models of democratic transition. Reforms of the late 1980s – early 1990s. Political development of the 1990s. Transformations of the 2000s. Contemporary reforms and the constitutional process.	*LC, S*
	Topic 1.3. National Schools of Political Science	American school: behaviorism, rational choice theory, political institutionalism. European school: comparative political science, democratic theory, social constructivism. Chinese school: political economy, Confucian traditions, party-state approach. Russian school: Soviet heritage, post-Soviet transformations, civilizational identity. Comparative analysis: the universal and the particular, prospects for dialogue between schools.	*LC, S*
Module 2. Theoretical and Instrumental Capabilities of Political Science	Topic 2.1. General (Fundamental) Political Science	The concept and structure of fundamental political science knowledge. Categorical apparatus: power, political system, regime, legitimacy. Basic theories: pluralism, elitism, institutionalism, behaviorism. Functions of fundamental science: explanatory, prognostic, worldview. The relationship between fundamental and applied political science.	*LC, S*
	Topic 2.2. Branch Political Science	Political science by directions and spheres of political activity: international; social; youth; regional; environmental; energy; corporate.	
	Topic 2.3. New Paradigms of Political Science Knowledge	Global studies; transitology; synergetics; theory of integrated communications; Duverger's law; inclusivity hypothesis; convergence theory; I. Wallerstein's modern world-systems theory, and others.	*LC, S*
Module 3. Methods of Scientific Inquiry in Contemporary Political Science	Topic 3.1. Research Methods (Approaches)	Systemic-historical; systemic-component; systemic-structural; systemic-functional; systemic-integrative; systemic-communicative; sociological; culturological, and other methods.	*LC, S*
Module 4. The Global Political Science Community	Topic 4.1. Global Centers of Political Science Research	International Political Science Association (IPSA). Russian Political Science Association (RAPN). Russian Society of Political Scientists (ROP).	*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.	
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. Shively, W.P., & Endersby, J.W. (2025). The Craft of Political Research (11th ed.). Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003358350
2. Ilonszki, G., & Roux, C. (2022). Opportunities and Challenges for New and Peripheral Political Science Communities: A Consolidated Discipline? - Springer Nature. 281 p. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-030-79054-7 (URL: https://directory.doabooks.org/handle/20.500.12854/77345).
3. Holman, C. (2018). Machiavelli and the Politics of Democratic Innovation. - University of Toronto Press. (URL: https://directory.doabooks.org/handle/20.500.12854/26100).
4. Parvikko, T. (2021). Arendt, Eichmann and the Politics of the Past. - Helsinki University Press. 310 p. DOI: 10.33134/pro-et-contra-2 (URL: https://directory.doabooks.org/handle/20.500.12854/7742)

Additional readings:

5. Алексеева Т.А. Современные политические теории. — М.: «Российская политическая энциклопедия» (РОССПЭН), 2000. — 479 с.
6. Nikiporets-Takigawa Galina Yu., Afonin Mikhail V., Krivova Anna L., Otyutskiy Gennady P. THE MAIN TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS OF MODERN POLITICAL SCIENCE EDUCATION IN RUSSIA // ПНиО. 2020. №4 (46). URL:https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/the-main-trends-and-development-prospects-of-modern-political-scien ce-education-in-russia

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 «Contemporary Schools of Thought in Russian and Global Political Science»2. The laboratory workshop (if any). on the course «Contemporary Schools of Thought in Russian and Global Political Science»

3. The guidelines for writing a course paper / project (if any) on the course «Contemporary Schools of Thought in Russian and Global Political Science»

* 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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Head of the department	**Mchedlova M.M.**
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