Документ подписан простой электронной подписью
Информация о владельце:
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Должность: Ректор
Дата подписания: 02.11.2026 15:59:07
Уникальный программный ключ:
ca953a0120d891083f939673078ef1a989dae18a

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

POLITICAL SYSTEM OF 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 «Political System of Russia» is to create a comprehensive understanding of modern Russian politics, covering institutional, procedural, and value components, as well as the problems, contradictions, and prospects for the country's political development.

The course provides a theoretical basis for understanding Russia's political system; second, to examine the structure of political power and relations between institutions to enrich professional assessment skills; and third, to analyze key aspects of Russian politics to enable an analytical understanding of the prospects and problems of modern Russia.

2. REQUIREMENTS FOR LEARNING OUTCOMES

Mastering the course «Political System of 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-7	Able to: search for the necessary sources of information and data, perceive, analyze, remember and transmit information using digital means, as well as using algorithms when working with data obtained from various sources in order to effectively use the information received to solve problems; evaluate information, its reliability, build logical conclusions based on incoming information and data.	GC-7.1. Searches for the necessary sources of information and data, perceives, analyzes, remembers and transmits information using digital means, as well as using algorithms when working with data received from various sources in order to effectively use the received information to solve problems; GC-7.2. Evaluates information, its reliability, builds logical conclusions based on incoming information and data.
GPC-5	Able to build a strategy for promoting publications on the profile of activity in the media based on the basic principles of media management.	GPC-5.1. Independently prepares professionally oriented texts of various genres and stylistics (article, analytical report, information and analytical note, review, policy note, review, policy document, abstract, abstract for a report, press release, etc.). GPC-5.2. Evaluates the target audience and editorial policy of print, audiovisual and Internet media with a socio-political orientation. GPC-5.3. Evaluates the perception of the image of political phenomena and processes formed in the media.
PC-2	Able to provide analytical support for the development and adoption of political decisions, including through the use of skills in diagnostics, analysis, and forecasting of political processes and problematic situations.	PC-2.1 Conducts analytical monitoring of political processes, develops long-term forecasts for the development of political processes. PC-2.2 Independently develops and prepares analytical materials on domestic and foreign policy issues, formulating expert opinions and practical recommendations for officials making political decisions. PC-2.3 Develops activity strategies for public authorities, non-governmental organizations, and commercial structures in the political sphere of society, depending on the specific political situation.

3. COURSE IN HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The course «Political Culture: Russia – the West – the East» 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 "Political Culture: Russia – the West – the East".

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-7	Able to: search for the necessary sources of information and data, perceive, analyze, remember and transmit information using digital means, as well as using algorithms when working with data obtained from various sources in order to effectively use the information received to solve problems; evaluate information, its reliability, build logical conclusions based on incoming information and data.		
GPC-5	Able to build a strategy for promoting publications on the profile of activity in the media based on the basic principles of media management.		Research work during the semester; Pre-graduation internship; Political stability, international conflicts, and state fragility (or state failure).
PC-2	Able to provide analytical support for the development and adoption of political decisions, including through the use of skills in diagnostics, analysis, and forecasting of political processes and problematic situations.		Research work during the semester; Pre-graduation internship; Political stability, international conflicts, and state fragility; International migration: political values and cultural aspects; The energy factor in contemporary global politics**; China and Russia in the context of the new world order; Political and governance models in BRICS countries: levels, forms, and mechanisms.

* 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**			
				2		**4**
Contact academic hours		*34*				
Lectures (LC)		17				
Seminars (workshops/tutorials) (S)		17				
Self-studies		*92*				
Evaluation and assessment (exam/ passing/failing grade)		*18*				
Course workload	academic hours	**144**				
	cr	**4**				

Type of academic activities		Total	Semesters/ training modules			
				2		4
	edits					

* 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. Theoretical and Constitutional Foundations of the Political System of the Russian Federation	Topic 1.1. Concept, Structure, and Functions of the Political System	The political system as a category of political science: definition and main approaches. Structural components: institutional (state, parties, public associations), normative (Constitution, laws, by-laws), communicative (interaction between political actors), cultural-ideological (political values, ideologies, participation culture).	*LC, S*
	Topic 1.2. Constitutional Foundations of the Political System of the Russian Federation	The 1993 Constitution of the Russian Federation as the legal foundation of the political system. Characteristics of the foundations of the constitutional order (Chapter 1 of the Constitution). The 2020 amendments: supremacy of the Constitution of the Russian Federation over international law, prohibition on the alienation of territories, mention of "faith in God" as part of the historical heritage. Principles of the political system of the Russian Federation.	*LC, S*
Module 2. Institutional Structure of the Political System of the Russian Federation	Topic 2.1. The Institution of the Presidency and Executive Power	The President of the Russian Federation as head of state, guarantor of the Constitution, and Supreme Commander-in-Chief. Legal status, constitutional powers, and actual role of the President in the political system. The Administration of the President of the Russian Federation: structure, functions, role in decision-making preparation. The institution of Presidential Plenipotentiary Envoys in federal districts as a mechanism of the "presidential vertical." The Government of the Russian Federation.	*LC, S*
	Topic 2.2. Legislative Power, Judicial Power, and Federal Structure	The Federal Assembly — the parliament of the Russian Federation (bicameral structure). The judicial system: The Constitutional Court of the Russian Federation (review of laws for compliance with the Constitution), The Supreme Court of the Russian Federation (highest judicial instance for civil, criminal, and administrative cases), the system of courts of general jurisdiction and arbitration courts.	*LC, S*
Module 3. Political Processes, Civil Society Institutions, and Current Trends	Topic 3.1. Electoral System, Parties, and Civil Society	The electoral system of the Russian Federation: principles of electoral law (universal, equal, direct, secret ballot). Active and passive voting rights. Electoral commissions: Central Election Commission (CEC), regional, territorial, and precinct commissions. Electoral campaigns.	
	Topic 3.2. Current Challenges and Trends in the	Digitalization of the political sphere: the "Gosuslugi" portal (State Services), "Incident Management" feedback systems, the "GosTech" platform. Risks and opportunities of digital sovereignty.	

Course module title	Course module contents (topics)	Topics contents	Academic activities types
	Development of the Political System of Russia		
	Topic 3.3. Political Culture, Elites, and Citizen Participation in the Political System of Russia	Political culture as a component of the political system. Types of political culture (parochial, subject, participant) and their manifestation in Russia. The predominance of subject traits with elements of activism in large cities. Political socialization.	

* - 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. Akela, J. C. (2017). The Party System In Post-Soviet Russia: a case study of the party united Russia. World Affairs: The Journal of International Issues, 21(2), pp. 34–49.
2. Alexeev, D. (2014). Russian Politics in Times of Change: Internal and External Factors of Transformation. Connections, 14(1), pp. 105–120.
3. Orttung, R., Lussier, D. & Paretskaya, A. (2000). The Republics and Regions of the Russian

Federation: A Guide to Politics, Policies, and Leaders. New York, United States: EastWest Institute. 415 p.
4. Sakwa, R. (2020). Russian Politics and Society (5th ed.). Routledge. 720 p.
5. Smorgunov, L. (2016). Governance of Electoral Policy in Russia: New Political Parties and Institutional Limits for Representation, in SSRN Electronic Journal, doi:10.2139/ssrn.2940703.

Additional readings:

6. Beliaeva, N. et al. (1991). After perestroika: democracy in the Soviet Union. Moscow, Washington, D.C: Interlegal Research Center and Center for Strategic and International Studies, 114 p.
7. Clark, W. A. (1998). Presidential Power and Democratic Stability under the Russian Constitution: A Comparative Analysis. Presidential Studies Quarterly, 28(3), pp. 620–637.
8. Gel'man, V., & Tarusina, I. (2000). Studies of political elites in Russia: issues and alternatives. Communist and Post-Communist Studies, 33(3), pp. 311–329.
9. Moser, R. G. (1999). Independents and Party Formation: Elite Partisanship as an Intervening Variable in Russian Politics. Comparative Politics, 31(2), pp. 147– 165
10. Popkova, E. G. and Vodenko, K.V. (2020). Public Administration and Regional Management in Russia: Challenges and Prospects in a Multicultural Region, Springer Link [Electronic resource]. https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-38497-5.
11. Sablin, I. (2020). Introduction to the Special Issue "Parliamentary formations and diversities in (post-)imperial Eurasia." Journal of Eurasian Studies, 11(1), 3–5.
12. Seredina, M. (2022). Parties in Russia: party system nationalisation in dominant party systems, East European Politics, 38:2, pp. 208-226.

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 «Political System of Russia»
2. The laboratory workshop (if any). on the course «Political System of Russia» 3. The guidelines for writing a course paper / project (if any) on the course «Political System of 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.

DEVELOPERS:

Assistant of the department of comparative politics	**Kirichuk D. A.**
position, department	name and surname

HEAD OF EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT:

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