

Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific research



**Department of International Relations & Diplomacy**

**College of Political Science**

**University of Salahaddin- University**

**Subject: Foreign policy of Russia**

**Course Book – Fourth year**

**Lecturer name: Dr. Mohammed Ahmed**

**Academic Year 2023/2024**

# Course Book

<b>1. Course name</b>	Foreign policy of Russia
<b>2. Lecturer in charge</b>	Dr. Mohammed Ahmed
<b>3. Department/ College</b>	International Relations & Diplomacy
<b>4. Contact</b>	<b>e-mail:</b> mohammed.majeed1@su.edu.krd <b>Tel:</b> 07501544238
<b>5. Time (in hours) per week</b>	<b>For example Theory:</b> 2 Every Monday <b>Practical:</b> 1 Every Thursday
<b>6. Office hours</b>	Every Monday & Wednesday from 9:30 to 1:30 PM
<b>7. Course code</b>	<b>PSIR1305</b>
<b>8. Teacher's academic profile</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ PhD, International Relations 2020- 2023 Salahaddin University, Erbil, Kurdistan Region-Iraq</li> <li>▪ Master of Arts, International Relations 2014-2016 Salahaddin University, Erbil, Kurdistan Region-Iraq</li> <li>▪ Bachelor of Arts, Political Science 2008-2012 Salahaddin University, Erbil, Kurdistan Region-Iraq</li> </ul>
<b>9. Keywords: Foreign policy</b>	Foreign policy, International relations, Russian Federation
<p><b>10. Course overview:</b></p> <p>Russia is considered one of the most influential countries in the international stage today. Investigating its foreign policy helps us understand some of the events that are currently happening in the international community. This course emphasizes a careful study of the country's foreign policy and its consequences at the domestic, regional and international levels.</p> <p>This course will try to briefly refer to the history of Russia and its characteristics. Next, it will present the strategic and intellectual basis of Russian foreign policy. Hence, different stages of foreign policy development and challenges facing the country after 1991 will be explained. Russia has been trying to regain the status and glory of the Soviet Union since Vladimir Putin's presidency in 2000, especially after Putin's second term in office Through energy tools, as well as the use of military force beyond its borders to maintain regional hegemony.</p> <p>On the other hand, Russia's relations with Western and Eastern countries will be analyzed, as well as several important events such as the Georgian and Ukrainian wars and their impact on international politics and the political system.</p>	

## 11. Course objective:

This course aims to:

1. Provide information about Russian history and political culture and its impact on the foreign policy-making process.
2. Understand the strategic principles of Russian foreign policy
3. Recognize main priorities of the Russian foreign policy at various stages
4. Explain the role of Russia in international relations during the periods under review
5. Interpret Russian foreign policy and have a proper understanding of current events.

## 12. Student's obligation

Students, teachers and parents must work together. Each has responsibilities and a role to play. Students will be more successful with their learning by being responsible, participating, and having a positive attitude.

### **Responsibilities:**

- attending classes on time and regularly.
- being prepared for classes with all necessary supplies.
- completing all homework assignments.
- organizing their time well.
- respecting themselves and others.
- reading on a regular basis.
- doing their best.

### **Participation:**

- participating in classroom activities.
- contributing to discussions and group activities.
- asking questions when they don't understand.
- participating in community and recreation programs.

### **Attitude:**

- Understanding parents' values, expectations and culture.
- Listening carefully to teachers and parents.
- Developing positive attitudes; being cooperative and considerate.
- Welcoming challenges.
- Helping others.

## 13. Forms of teaching

- Face to Face teaching
- Scientific visits
- Using data show for the presentation of classes
- Group activities
- Video presentations of related topic
- Taking advantage of the lecturer's remarks

## 14. Assessment scheme

The assignments for this class are designed to help students meet the goals of this course. Students will develop their writing and analytical skills and deepen their knowledge of the Russian foreign policy by writing a short primary source paper and one power point presentation so as the final Exam during the semester. In addition, students will have an opportunity to develop their oral communication skills through regular in-class discussions especially through the group project.

So, grading Policy will be depending on: 1-Class participation, Short Paper, One presentation, and Group work: 10% +-Midterm Exam: 40% 3-**Final examination:** (60%)

### **15. Student learning outcome:**

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Explain Russian foreign policy and its strategic principles
- Identify main institutions and influential factors in shaping its foreign policy
- Understand Russia's role in international relations and its relations with the world powers
- Critically analyze the dynamics of Russian Foreign Policy
- Analyze current events related to Russian Foreign Policy

### **16. Course Reading List and References:**

1. Alexander Sergunin, Explaining Russian Foreign Policy Behavior: Theory and Practice, ibidem Press, 2016.
2. Andrei P. Tsygankov, Routledge Handbook of Russian Foreign Policy (1st ed.). Routledge, 2018.
3. Aldo Ferrari and Eleonora Tafuro Ambrosetti, "Russia's Foreign Policy: The Internalinternational Link", Ledizioni Ledipublishing, Italy, 2021.
4. Bojang AS, "The Study of Foreign Policy in International Relations", Journal of Political Sciences & Public Affairs, Volume 6, Issue 4, 2018.
5. Christopher P. Isajiw, "Neo-Nationalism in the Foreign Policy of the Putin/Medvedev Regime", Masters of Science in Global Studies and International Affairs, Northeastern University, Boston, MA., U.S.A, 2012.
6. Council of Europe official site, "The Constitution of the Russian Federation 2020", 2021.
7. Dmitri Trenin, "A Five-Year Outlook for Russian Foreign Policy: Demands, Drivers, and Influences", Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2016.
8. Elnur Hasan Mikail and Muhsin Yilmazchoban, "Vladimir Putin Era Russian Foreign Policy", Kars Kafkas University, Kars, Turkey, Scientific Research Publishing, 2008.
9. Fenghua Liu, "Russia's Foreign Policy Over The Past Three Decades: Change And Continuity", Chinese Journal Of Slavic Studies, Vol. 9, 2022.
10. Francisco J. Ruiz González, "The Foreign Policy Concept Of The Russian Federation: A Comparative Study", the Spanish Institute for Strategic Studies.
11. Jacek Wieclawski, "Challenges for the Russian Foreign Policy – the Lesson of the Georgian Conflict", Asian Social Science Vol. 7, No. 8; August 2011.

12. Keir Giles, "The Turning Point for Russian Foreign Policy", Strategic Studies Institute and U.S. Army War College Press, 2017.

13. Speed E. Estebo, "Russian Foreign Policy and Putin's Fear of Revolution", Master's Thesis, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University, 2015.

14. Valerie A. Pacer, "Russian Foreign Policy under Dmitry Medvedev 2008–2012", Routledge, New York, 2016.

۱۵. الهه کولایی، سیاست و حکومت در فدراسیون روسیه، وزارت امور خارجه، مرکز آموزش و پژوهش های بین الملل، چاپ سوم، تهران، ۱۳۹۲.

۱۶. د. بهاره سازمند، سیاست خارجی قدرت های بزرگ در قرن ۲۱، انتشارات موسسه فرهنگی و تحقیقات بین المللی ابرار تهران، تهران، چاپ دوم، ۱۳۹۹.

۱۷. محمدرضا جهانگیر، بریکس و اهداف راهبردی روسیه در نظام بین الملل، نشر ثالث، ۱۳۹۹.

۱۸. میثیل اشتورمر، روسیه در عصر رویارویی محدود، ت: علی اکبر عبدالرشید، انتشارات سروش، چاپ دوم، تهران، ۱۳۹۶.

۱۹. یفجینی بریماکوف، العالم بدون روسيا؟ قصر النظر السياسی و عواقبه، ت. عبدالله حسن، دار الفكر دمشق، ۲۰۱۰.

17. The Topics:	Lecturer's name
<p><b>Introduction to the Course</b></p> <p><b>A brief history of Russia</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prehistoric Russia</li> <li>- Early Russian Civilization</li> <li>- Kievan Rus</li> <li>- The Rise of Moscow and the Russian Empire</li> <li>- Union of Soviet Socialist Republics</li> <li>- Post-Soviet Russia</li> </ul> <p><b>The evolution of Russian foreign policy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Russia's political debates about foreign policy</li> <li>- The search for a new Russian foreign policy in a period of uncertainty</li> </ul> <p><b>Russian Foreign Policy Schools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Atlanticists ("Westerners")</li> <li>- Eurasianism</li> <li>- Realism</li> <li>- Geopolitical school</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p><b>Foreign Policy Decision-Making System</b></p> <p><i>Governmental actors</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Presidency</li> <li>- Ministry of Foreign Affairs</li> <li>- intelligence community</li> </ul>	<p>Dr. MOHAMMED</p>

- Ministry of the Interior
- Ministry of Economic Development
- Ministry of Finance
- Russian Parliament

*Non-governmental actors*

- The business community
- Human rights NGOs
- Environmentalists
- Religious organizations

**Explaining variability in Russian Foreign Policy**

- International system
- Militarily
- Transition from a command economy to a market economy
- The growing linkage of Russia's economy to the global economy
- Role of political leadership

**Strategic dimensions of Russian foreign policy**

*The intellectual basis, characteristics and objectives of Russian foreign policy strategy*

*Higher dimensions of Russian foreign policy strategy*

- Protection of Russians outside the Russian Federation
- Change in the global system
- Strengthening Russia's international position
- Strengthening and legitimizing the role of the UN Security Council
- Prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and combat terrorism
- Developing relations with CIS countries
- Develop relations with Western countries
- Developing relations with Eastern countries
- Building and developing economic infrastructure

**Instruments of Russian Foreign Policy**

- Diplomacy
- Natural gas
- Intelligence
- Military
- Cyber power
- Media and public diplomacy
- The Russian Orthodox Church

**Stages of the Russian Federation's foreign policy**

- Melting and Mixing Period 1991 - 1996
- Balance and ensuring international polarization 1996-2000

- Construction and Cooperation 2000 –2004
- Confrontation and resistance 2004-2008
- Cooperation and Friendship 2008 –2012
- Riding and Self-Imposing Stage 2012 -....

### Opportunities and challenges in the foreign policy of the Russian Federation

- Geopolitical factors and determinants
- Population factors and determinants
- Economic factors and determinants
- military Factors and determinants
- Soft power factors and determinants
- NATO extension into Eastern Europe and the Caucasus
- Tensions in Russian-Western relations

### **19. Examinations:**

1. Compositional: it depends the type of study, I might need to start the question with, How, why, when, Or the lecturer may ask further discussion with mentioning an example. Or ask for the more student opinion regard the specific subject matter.

2. True or false type of exams: and if true or false, it requires more discussion and bringing their argument by mentioning an example.

3. Multiple choices: There are 4 types of answer for each question by which student need to identify the correct one which matches the question.

### **20. Extra notes:**

### **21. Peer review**