

MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
IR 362. Russian Politics and Foreign Policy
Lecturer: Dr. Oktay F. Tanrısever

GENERAL INFORMATION

This undergraduate course analyses the relationships between Russian politics and foreign policy. The first part of the course deals mainly with the Russian foreign policy thinking and the discussions about the post-Soviet Russian national identity. This is followed by a discussion of the institutions and processes involved in the formulation and implementation of Russian foreign policy. These institutions include the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Security Council, the military and security services, the parliament, the media and the regional governments. The remaining part of the course will analyse the major domestic problems that shape the orientation of Russian foreign policy. These issues include political stability, economic crisis, federalism and ethnic nationalism.

The course will be conducted in the mode of lecture. Student participation is strongly recommended.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students will be asked to write one term paper with 40% weight on the final grade. There will be an oral presentation with 10% weight. The final examination will count for 50% of the final grade.

TEXTBOOK

Neil Malcom, Alex Pravda, Roy Allison and Margot Light, *Internal Factors in Russian Foreign Policy*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996.

An updated additional list of recommended reading materials for each week will be given in the first week.

THE ORGANISATION OF THE COURSE

Week 1: Introduction

Week 2: Main Currents in Russian Foreign Policy Thinking

Week 3: Russian Foreign Policy Orientation between Europe and Asia

Week 4: The Idea of National Interest in Post-Soviet Russia

Week 5: Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Week 6: Military and the Security Services

Week 7: The Federal Parliament and the Media

Week 8: Regional Governments

Week 9: Political Stability

Week 10: Economic Stability

Week 11: The Political Economy of Russian Federalism

Week 12: Oblasts, Okrugs and Krai

Week 13: Republics

Week 14: Conclusion