

**MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
IR 463. Russian Foreign Policy  
Lecturer: Dr. Oktay F. Tanrısever**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

This undergraduate course intends to explore the dynamics of Russian foreign policy in the post-Cold War era. Emphasising the ambivalent position of Russia between the Eastern and the Western Worlds, the course evaluates the impact of the post-Soviet transition process on the foreign policy orientation of Russia. The first part of the course deals mainly with the Soviet foreign policy, forming the historical background of the contemporary Russian foreign policy. This is followed by a discussion of the basic principles of the contemporary Russian foreign policy with reference to the major issue-areas.

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

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Students will be asked to write one paper with 50 % weight on the final grade. The final examination will count for 50 % of the final grade.

**Compulsory Reading Material**

Nikolai N. Petro and Alvin Z. Rubinstein, *Russian Foreign Policy: From Empire to Nation-State*, London: Longman, 1997.

Roger E. Kanet and Alexander V. Kozhemiakin, eds., *The Foreign Policy of the Russian Federation*, London: Macmillan, 1997.

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: The Formative Years of the Soviet Union

Week 3: The Soviet Union in the Post-World War II Era

Week 4: New Thinking in the Soviet Foreign Policy

Week 5: In Search of Russian National Interest

Week 6: Russia and the 'West'

Week 7: Russia and the 'East'

Week 8: Russia and the Middle East

Week 9: Russia and Turkey

Week 10: Russia and the CIS

Week 11: Russia and the Caucasus

Week 12: Russia and Central Asia

Week 13: Russia's Relations with Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova

Week 14: Emerging Trends in Russian Foreign Policy