

Приложение  
к рабочей программе учебной дисциплины,  
реализуемой на английском языке

**Russian Studies (None-degree)**

**Degree program (code and name)**

**Bachelor (semester program)**

**Level of qualification (bachelor, master, specialist)**

**Contemporary Russian Politics**

**Course (code and name)**

ECTS credits	6
Workload: total/contact/independent	180/90/90
Duration (1 semester/ 1 year)	1 semester
Semester/trimester when the course is delivered (fall, spring)	Fall
Study place / Location (Arkhangelsk, Severodvinsk, Korvazhma)	Arkhangelsk
Responsible institute and chair	Institute of Humanities and Social and Political Sciences
Responsible chair / department	Department of World History
Language of instruction	English
Mode of study (full time, part time)	full time
Type of course unit (compulsory, optional)	Optional
Mode of delivery (face-to-face, blended, distance learning)	face-to-face
Name of lecturer(s) / course responsible person	As. Prof. Alexey E. Feldt
E-mail address	a.feldt@narfu.ru

**Course overview / general description**

The general objective is to examine the basic principles of Russian politics. Special attention during the course is given to the processes in contemporary political life in Russia. The course is divided in three main blocks, each addressing different topics: (I) a brief introduction in Russia's political system, (II) the interaction between the Russian society and the state and (III) Russian foreign policy. Students are encouraged to develop their own interests such as examining the constitutional developments, party formation and/or political personalities.

**Learning outcomes**

Students who successfully completed the course should have achieved the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Understand the basic principles of Russia's political system, and apply these principles to examples of contemporary political life in Russia.
- Knowledge of fundamental terms and notions, necessary for comparative analysis of contemporary politics (political theory, political institutions, security, state, legislation, political power, equality, nation)

Skills:

- Make use of scholarly knowledge to work independently on relevant problems and questions
- Give an account of the basic principles of Russian politics and how they might contribute to our more general understanding of the Russian society.
- Students should be able to explore Russian scientific and informational resources which increases the variety of opinions and provide alternative points of view.

### **Course contents**

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**Part I:** An introduction in Russia's political system (elections and federal- and regional politics)

- Lecture I: The presidency and political leadership. Literature: Brown (ed.), pp. 9-96).
- Lecture II: Elections and the electoral system. Literature: Brown (ed.), pp. 151-178; 195-209; 530-545; "*Prokhorov could be Putin 2.0*"; "*Vladimir Putin in a world of risks and danger*"; "*Why Russia's next president deserves our sympathy*".
- Lecture III: Federalism, Regionalism, and local government. Literature: Brown (ed.), pp. 369-397; Shalyov (2010).

**Part II:** The interaction between the Russian society and the state (legislation, civil society and gender issues).

- Lecture IV: The legislature and the law in Russia. Literature: Brown (ed.), pp. 99-120, 131-138.
- Lecture V: Society and domestic policy. Literature: Brown (ed.), pp. 289-342.
- Lecture VI: Russian statehood and civil society. Literature: Brown (ed.), pp. 345-366; Pursiainen and Patomäki (2004); Richter (2009); Skedsmo (2005).
- Lecture VII: Gender issues in Russia. Literature: Stuvøy (2010); Kulmala (2010).

**Part III:** Russian Foreign Policy

- Lecture VIII: Russian Foreign Policy. Literature: Ivanov (2011); Shadrina (2010).
- Lecture IX: Russian Arctic Policy. Literature: Alexandrov (2009); Hønneland and Jørgensen (2005); Jensen and Skedsmo (2010).
- Lecture X: Seminar including film.

**Recommended previous knowledge:**

At least one year of undergraduate studies, preferably within the field of social sciences, or the core courses of the Bachelor of Circumpolar Studies.

**Assessment methods and criteria:**

A 4-hour University-based, closed-book examination. The grade will be on a scale from A to F, where F is a fail. The course allows the students the opportunity to re-sit their examination in the following semester.

The course is assessed once every programme-period with both in-progress and final evaluations. Moreover, evaluation is undertaken orally to allow students and teacher to establish a dialogue concerning the possibility and/or need for changes and improvements. In order to participate in the written exam, the students need to conduct a presentation of a selected topic during a seminar.

**Mandatory and recommended reading**

- *Bacon, Edwin and Wyman, Matthew (2010)*. Contemporary Russia (Contemporary States and Societies Series). Palgrave Macmillan (general literature, 239 pages).
- Contemporary Russian Politics. A reader (2001). Ed. by *Archie Brown*. Oxford University press (selected pages).
- *Shadrina Elena (2010)*. Russia's foreign energy policy: Paradigm shifts within the geographical context of Europe, Central Eurasia and Northeast Asia. The Norwegian Institute for Defense studies (50 pages).
- *Stuvøy, Kirsti (2010)*. Symbolic Power and (In)Security: The Marginalization of Women's Security in Northwest Russia. *International Political Sociology* 4, 401-418 (17 pages).
- *Alexandrov, Oleg (2009)*. Labyrinths of the Arctic Policy. *Russia in Global Affairs* No. 3, July-September (12 pages). [http://eng.globalaffairs.ru/number/n\\_1359](http://eng.globalaffairs.ru/number/n_1359).
- *Ivanov, Igor (2011)*. What Diplomacy Does Russia Need in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? *Russia in Global Affairs*, October-December (5 pages). <http://eng.globalaffairs.ru/number/What-Diplomacy-Does-Russia-Need-in-the-21st-Century-15420>.
- *Hønneland, Geir and Jørgensen, Jørgen Holten (2005)*. Federal Environmental Governance and the Russian North. *Polar Geography*, 29, No. 1, pp. 27-42 (17 pages).
- *Pursiainen, Christer and Patomäki, Heikki (2004)*. The State and Society in contemporary Russian Political Thought. *Egle Rindzeviciute (ed.) Contemporary change in Russia*. Sodertörns University Stockholm (volume chapter) (39 pages).
- *Skedsmo, Pål (2005)*. Doing good in Murmansk, Civil Society, ideology and Everyday practices in a Russian Environmental NGO. FNI Rapport 14, pp. 15-36 (21 pages).

- *Jensen, Leif Christian and Skedsmo Pål (2010)*. Approaching the North: Norwegian and Russian foreign policy discourses on the European Arctic. *Polar Research*, (12 pages).
- *Shalyov, Andre (2010)*. Unstable equilibrium. Russian regions versus federal centre. *Talking Barents: People, borders and regional cooperation*. Ed. by A. Stålesen. The Norwegian Barents Secretariat, Kirkenes, pp. 111-124 (12 pages).
- *Richter, James (2009)*. Putin and the Public Chamber. *Post-Soviet Affairs*, 25,1, pp. 39-65 (27 pages).
- *Kulmala, Meri (2010)*. Woman Rule This Country: Women's Community Organizing and Care in Rural Karelia. *Anthropology of East Europe Review* 28(2), Fall. pp. 164-185 (22 pages).
- "Prokhorov could be Putin 2.0 – Russian analysts" <http://rt.com/politics/prokhorov-putin-russian-political-833/>
- "Vladimir Putin in a world of risks and danger" <http://rt.com/online-exclusive/russian-presidential-election-2012/>
- "Why Russia's next president deserves our sympathy". <http://rt.com/politics/columns/unpredictable-world-foreign-lukyanov/putin-elections-russia-foreign/>