

**TENTATIVE PROGRAMS of MODULES MINISTRY OF FOREGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION MGIMO-
UNIVERSITY AT ODINTSOVO INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL - 2018 MODULE # 1 “Russian Foreign Policy: Modern
Challenges” June 24 – July 14, 2018**

Module 1 “Russian Foreign Policy: Modern Challenges”

This intensive Module on Russian foreign policy will focus on major courses: **“Russia’s Foreign Policy: Modern Challenges”** and **“Empirical Study of Russian Politics (Political Process in Contemporary Russia)”** and a course of the Russian language.

The Module study plan will also include: an interactive lecture “Russia's Position in World Politics: Foreign Strategy Challenges and Prospects” by a distinguished political analyst, MGIMO Professor Andrey Bezrukov, followed by a discussion; a round-table discussion of current foreign policy topical issues chaired by Maxim Samorukov, Member of the Research Council and the Foreign and Security Policy Program of Carnegie Moscow Center; a lecture “Energy Component as an Integral Part of International Policy” by Sergey Vasiliev, Director of MGIMO-University Odintsovo Branch, followed by a discussion of the key role played by Energy Diplomacy in the foreign policy of the 21st Century.

“Russia’s Foreign Policy: Modern Challenges”

The course is designed to facilitate understanding of contemporary Russia’s foreign policy and its challenges. It is based on the study of Russia’s foreign policy documents – both national and international. As any big power, Russia pursues multidimensional foreign policy. The course will explore the role Russia plays in the post-bipolar global international system. Russia’s interests in the post-Soviet space, in Europe, in the Middle East, in the Asia-Pacific region and Central Asia will be discussed as well as US-Russia relations. Special attention will be paid to the role of numerous international organizations and structures – where Russia is a member – in Russia’s foreign policy: UN, G-8, G-20, Shanghai Cooperation Organization, BRICS, etc.

The course is a graduate-level general introduction to modern Russia’s foreign policy. It begins with an assessment of the consequences of the collapse of the USSR and the changes that it brought to the global international system and Russia’s place in it.

The course is based on the study of major foreign policy documents: Russia’s National Security concepts, its Military doctrines and Concepts of Foreign Policy developed throughout the past two decades (with special attention paid to the most recent ones), agreements with its major counterparts such as the United States, EU, China, etc. Special attention will be paid to Russia’s multilateral treaties in the post-Soviet space and beyond: the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the CIS Customs Union, Eurasian Economic Union, Shanghai Cooperation Organization (ShCO) and others.

Security is an inherent concern for any nation. In the case of Russia it has been exacerbated by the nation’s historic experience as it suffered numerous foreign invasions and asserted itself in bitter and devastating struggle for its own survival – the latest one being the World War II in which the country lost more than 30 million of its sons and daughters.

Russia’s security concerns will be discussed from different perspectives, including the eastward expansion of NATO and US plans to deploy forward-based antiballistic missile defense systems in European countries bordering on Russia.

In 1996 Russia became a member of the Council of Europe where it cooperates with its members in pursuing the goals of improving its democratic institutions. Russia recognizes the authority of the European Court of Human Rights.

EU is Russia’s one of the most important dialogue partners. Relations with Germany, France, United Kingdom, Italy, Poland and other European powers will be discussed.

Since Russia is an Asia-Pacific state, Russia's relations with major powers in the Pacific – Peoples' Republic of China and Japan, with both Koreas, will be explored.

Relations of Russia with Arab states and Israel, with Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan, as well as Russia's growing involvement in the Middle East Peace process, will be analyzed.

Fighting international terrorism is a multidimensional mission in Russia's politics. It presents domestic, regional and international challenges for Russia.

“Empirical Study of Russian Politics (Political Process in Contemporary Russia)”

This course will provide a glimpse into the Russian history of the 20th century and familiarize you with political, social, economic, and cultural foundations of the Soviet system, the role of ideology in the Soviet Union. It will concentrate on the events of 1917 and the Civil war in Russia, on Josif Stalin's dictatorship, his five-year plans, collectivization and industrialization of the USSR, political repressions of the 1930s and their impact on the political elites, army, and the society; Khrushchev's rise to power and Brezhnev's rule; degradation of the political elites and the rule of Andropov and Chernenko as a proof of the need for political and economic reforms; Gorbachev's reforms, the “August” Republic (1991-1993), October 1993 events, modifications to the Russian political system, the Russian political process in the 2000s; Putin's goals and challenges.

This course is designed to highlight main trends of Russia's political process, to show its major actors as well as possible scenarios of its development, taking into account how it all is presented in latest Russian and foreign publications. The course is aimed at studying the Russian political process through the prism of institutionalism, as well as using the theories of modernization, democratic transition, and certain other theoretical frameworks. While considering works on Russia by noted Western and other scholars, this course, at the same time, provides an in-depth knowledge of various aspects of functioning of the Russian political system, avoiding labels like “an Upper Volta armed with missiles”, “an empire of evil”, “a Third World failure”, as well as stereotypes presenting Russia as an aggressive autocracy threatening the World or a country alien to democratic values. Such an approach allows to fix many important nuances and behind-the-scene aspects of the Russian political process.

On this course, you will examine a number of recent historical events that have impacted global politics and international relations today. It will help you to get more out of watching the news or reading the newspapers, and provide you with a deeper and broader background knowledge of the events that have shaped the issues that recur in the news today.