



Course Title: Soviet and Russian Foreign Policy Course Coordinator: Dr Pete Duncan

Course Code: SESS 3102 Course Prerequisites: None Academic Level: Advanced

Course Unit Value: 1.0 Runs in (2013/14): Terms 1 and 2 Weekly Contact Hours: 2

Open to: Final year students of Politics with East European Studies; Russian Studies; History; Economics with Business and East European Studies

Affiliate students

Course Outline

This course deals with Russian foreign policy from 1917 to the present day. The aim of the course is to offer the student a basic grounding in the aims and results of Russian foreign policy, in the context of changes within Russia and in international politics. Particular attention will be given to the role of Gorbachev's 'new thinking', and to the foreign policy of the Russian Federation as it has developed under El'tsin, Putin, Medvedev and Putin again. The course also aims to develop the student's skills in assimilating a substantial literature, to be demonstrated through essays and seminars. There are no prerequisites, but it is anticipated that students will have some background in twentieth- and twenty-first-century Russian or European government or history.

At the end of the module you should have fulfilled the following aims and objectives

Aims:

- to describe and analyse the aims, policy-making processes and results of the foreign policy of the Soviet government from 1917 to 1991 and of the Russian Federation since 1991
- to analyse the roles of history, ideology, nationalism, geopolitics and economics in the making of foreign policy over this period
- to contribute towards the development of the intellectual, analytical and critical powers of the student

Objectives:

- to acquire an understanding of international relations in the twentieth century and up to the present
- to acquire the capacity to analyse the impact of leadership, regime and ideological change on Soviet and Russian foreign policy
- to acquire improved abilities in data assimilation, logical argument and oral and written communication

Assessment Methods

Assessment Style: One three-hour unseen written examination

Assessment Weighting: 100%

All students are required to submit one essay of 1,500-2,000 words by the set deadline in order to complete the course. The mark for this course will not form part of the course assessment.

Feedback

Coursework: Verbal/written feedback on non-assessed coursework.

Examination: Students will normally receive generic feedback on examination papers and/or model answers and be permitted access to markers comments on individual scripts in line with the SSEES Policy on Examination Feedback.

Preliminary Reading

Robert H Donaldson & Joseph L Noguee, *The Foreign Policy of Russia: Changing Systems, Enduring Interests*. 4th edn, M E Sharpe 2009

Andrei P. Tsygankov, *Russia's Foreign Policy: Change and Continuity in National Identity*. 3rd edn, Rowman & Littlefield 2013

Both are available in paperback