

Politics in Russia

The course will introduce students to the politics of contemporary Russia. Following a brief review of the pre-1991 history the course will focus on the politics and government through the concepts and theories of the comparative politics and political economy. The students will get the systemic understanding of the formal structure of Russian political system, the institutions and their functions and also of the system-sustaining processes including political recruitment, socialization, policy formation and implementation.

The following topics will be covered:

- history of transformations in the XXth century, the rise and fall of communisms, the collapse of the USSR, Soviet and post-Soviet reforms.
- the political system of the present Russia, institutions, semi-presidentialism
- parties, elections, ideologies
- federalism , ethnicity and conflicts
- voters, public opinion, civil society
- economic reforms, oligarchs, resource curse
- political leadership
- domestic policy
- foreign policy