****

**HELLO AND WELCOME TO THE COURSE!**

The course will focus on the role art, design, fashion and visual culture play in politics, particularly, how they re-shape what we understand as ‘the political’. The course will help the students to appreciate new areas of cultural production. In terms of conceptual frameworks, the students will learn about the discipline of popular geopolitics. They will also engage in the discussion of artworks and popular culture artefacts coming from different cultures in Europe, Russia, South America and South East Asia.

**Teaching format**

This is a short course and so instruction and discussions will be quite intense. Classes will consist of lectures and seminar discussions. For seminar discussions, students will be asked to familiarise themselves with some theoretical and cultural material and to take part in a critical analysis of these materials. **Students will carry out all work in class**. The only exception is the final assignment—a group presentation—which they should prepare outside class.

Discussions will be informal however students should observe the staff-student-University partnership, that is, an agreement to respect opinions and rights of students, teaching staff and University administrative personnel.

The course will be taught in the Russian language with some terms provided in English.

**Attendance and Assessment**

Students will be evaluated on the basis of their attendance and participation in the seminar discussion and on the basis of the final presentation. Students will pass the course if they attend a minimum of 60% of sessions and participate in the final presentation. So the final mark—pass or fail—will be based on attendance (50%) and in-class presentation (50%).

If students do not meet these criteria, they will be required to submit an essay (3,000 words) on the topic set by the course leader.

**Final assignment**

In groups of 3-4, make an in-class presentation on a topic to be assigned by the course leader.

Presentations should be between 12 and 15 mins long, followed by a 10-15 mins discussion / Q&A.

Presentations should include students’ reflection on the materials presented during the course such as lecture and seminar materials, as well as the information collected during the site visit.

Presentations should consist of a (a) theoretical discussion, (b) an analysis of collected material and (c) reflection on the seminar discussion.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

**Monday**

1-2 Introductory lecture

3-4 Seminar discussion & introduction to the final assignment (due on Thursday)

**Tuesday**

1-2 Introductory lecture

3-4 Seminar discussion & assignment for the site visit (due on Wednesday)

**Wednesday**

1-2 Site visit / Multi-media art museum

3-4 Discussion and Individual consultations

**Thursday**

1 Course summary

2-3 Group presentations

4 Feedback session