

**Title of the course: Europe-Russia Relations**

**Dr. Andrea Giannotti**



## **Part I**

### **1.1 General Information**

- Full course title: Europe-Russia Relations
- Type of course: Compulsory
- Level of course: Master programme
- Year of study: 1st
- Number of ECTS credits allocated: 3
- Name of lecturer: Andrea Giannotti
- Number of hours: 21

### **1.2 Course aims**

The course aims to enable students to analyze the system of Russian-European relations in their general lines in a long-term historical perspective, knowing how to grasp certain elements of continuity that, in different eras, have characterized and continue to characterize the perception and, consequently, the Russian policy towards Europe. In particular, the causes of the alternating phases between East and West will be evaluated, to dwell on some aspects of Russian-British and Russian-German relations.

### **1.3 Learning outcomes**

Culture and Identity in the Foreign Politics, Russian and Pan-russian identity, National Questions, Imperialism, Spheres of Influence, Russian-German Relations, Russian-British Relations, Eurasian integration.

#### **1.4 Course requirements**

Students will be required to attend not less than 90% of classes and be prepared for class discussions. It is necessary to read in advance the assigned materials for each class given that the course is interactive.

Students are expected to take an active part to the course and to participate to the discussion in class; Students are invited to express their positions and to formulate hypotheses as to the development of the development of the Russian-European relations. Students will also have to prepare a short paper on a subject agreed with the teacher and present it in the classroom.

A knowledge of the basic elements of Russian and European modern and contemporary history is desirable. A high school handbook is appropriate.

#### **1.5 Grading plan**

- Class participation – 25%
- Final exam – 75%

### **Part II**

#### **2.1 Course content (topics)**

- Culture and Identity in the Foreign Politics
- Russian and Pan-russian identity
- National Questions in Europe
- Russian and European forms of imperialism
- Spheres of Influence in Eurasia
- Russian-German Relations in the XIX century
- Russian-British Relations in the XIX century
- Soviet (super)national identity
- Soviet collapse and re-integration of the Eurasian region
- Eurasian integration

#### **2.2 Course content (lectures) and readings**

##### **Part I**

##### **Russia and Europe: from the common origins to the birth of different identities**

Lesson 1.

1. Introduction to the course.
2. The ancient Rus', the Roman Heritage and the Christianization of Russia.
3. The great Schism and its consequences.

## Lesson 2.

1. The Mongol invasion and the development of Russia during the period of Western Renaissance.
2. "Society building" in Russia and Western Europe: ethnic and religious pluralism vs. homogeneity.
3. The Copernican Revolution of Peter I, the birth and Europeization of the Russian Empire.

### **Compulsory readings**

Iver B. Neumann, *Russia and the Idea of Europe: A Study in Identity and International Relations*, Routledge, London-New York, 2003, Chapter I.

## **Part II**

### **Love and diffidence: the crucial XIX century**

#### Lesson 3.

1. The Napoleonic Wars and the reaffirmation of a national Russian identity.
2. Europe vs. Russia?
3. The Crimea War: political and cultural fracture.
4. The strengthening of the Eurasian Identity.

#### Lesson 4.

1. Russia and the European balance: the German factor 1870-1914.
2. Russia and the world balance: the Great Game and the British factor.

### **Compulsory readings**

Iver B. Neumann, *Russia and the Idea of Europe: A Study in Identity and International Relations*, Routledge, London-New York, 2003, Chapters II-III-IV.

## **Part III**

### **Triumph and collapse of the international order**

#### Lesson 5.

1. The First World War and the end of the Russian Empire.
2. Marxism in Russia: tie or curtain towards Europe?

#### Lesson 6.

- a. Stalin and the Great Patriotic War. Once more the whole Europe against the Russian world?

### **Compulsory readings**

Iver B. Neumann, *Russia and the Idea of Europe: A Study in Identity and International Relations*, Routledge, London-New York, 2003, Chapter VI part I.

## **Part IV**

### **The Soviet Union: (communist) Eurasia vs. the West**

Lesson 7.

1. The Cold war: dialogue and confrontation.
2. The German question as quintessence of the East-West relations.

Lesson 8.

- a. The Gorbachev era and the Soviet collapse.
- b. The New Russia as a “Western style Russian”.

### **Compulsory readings**

Iver B. Neumann, *Russia and the Idea of Europe: A Study in Identity and International Relations*, Routledge, London-New York, 2003, Chapters VI part II.

K. Engelbrekt-B. Nygren, *Russia and Europe: Building Bridges, Digging Trenches*, Routledge, London-New York, 2010, Chapters II -IV.

## **Part V**

### **The new Russian power**

Lesson 9.

1. The Primakov Doctrine.
2. Eurasian integration: from CSI to EAEU.
3. President Putin and the new Eurasian identity.

Lesson 10.

- a. Europe and the European Union: different Russian approaches.
- b. Multilateralism, bilateralism and “information wars”: Moscow and Bruxelles 2008-2018.

Lesson 11.

Conclusion of the course

### **Compulsory readings**

K. Engelbrekt-B. Nygren, *Russia and Europe: Building Bridges, Digging Trenches*, Routledge, London-New York, 2010, chapters V-VI-VIII.

Other materials will be indicated to the students in the course of the lessons.

## **2.3 Exam questions**

### **Part I**

1. The Kievan Rus' and the Western Europe
2. Causes and consequences of the 1056 division
3. The Golden Horde
4. Western Humanism and Renaissance and Russia
5. Comparative analysis of the Russian and European societies
6. The creation of the modern Russian State as European power

### **Part II**

7. Russia and Europe and the aftermaths of 1789
8. Napoleonic invasion of 1812
9. The Crimea War
10. Russia as Christian power
11. The German unity
12. The British Empire and the struggle for Central Asia

### **Part III**

13. Crisis of Czarism
14. The spread of socialism in the Russian world
15. Stalinism, fascism and social-fascism
16. 1941-1945 and the new Soviet myth

### **Part IV**

17. The Iron curtain
18. Hallstein Doctrine and Brandt Ostpolitik
19. Brezhnev and the developed socialism
20. Perestrojka
21. The Russian Federation

### **Part V**

22. The Commonwealth of Independent States
23. The Primakov Doctrine
24. The new Eurasian integration
25. The Georgian crisis
26. Europe and Russia and the crisis in Ukraine