NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

1. Course Code, Title and Credit:

‘RUSSIAN POLITICAL ECONOMY and EURASIAN AFFAIRS (3-0)3 ECTS: 8

2. Course Description:

The main aim of this course is to introduce master students with the political economy of Russia and Security Affairs in Eurasia after the dissolution of Soviet Union. Eurasia will be studied with a special focus on Russia and its role in the related security matters in Eurasia. The course is split into three parts: 1. Studying the modern Russian politics and economy as a factor of the change in Eurasia. 2. Evaluation of the geopolitics of Eurasia and the interests of the involved global actors 3. Understanding the security concerns of the regional states in Eurasia

Three hours weekly each Spring semester.

4. Given By:

Dr. Volkan Özdemir

5. Background Requirements (s):

No prerequisite courses.

6. Complementing/overlapping Courses:
There are no overlapping or complementary courses. The course will cover one of the untouched areas of the Eurasian Studies.

7. Course in Relation to the Programs:

This course is designed specifically for the students of Eurasian Studies and also opens to other social science students. It presents an interdisciplinary methodology that aims to analyze the one of the most important actor of the global affairs: Russia and its dynamics in order to grasp the issue areas in broader Eurasian region.

8. Course Objectives:

The main aim of the course is to teach the Russia and Eurasia with an interdisciplinary perspective. During the course, students will get familiar with the dynamic interaction of economic, strategic and geopolitical aspects of Eurasian affairs with a special reference to the structural changes in modern Russia.

Course Requirements:

- Term Paper 50%
- Presentation 25%
- Participation and Assignment 25%

9. Course Outline:

**WEEK I: COURSE INTRODUCTION: THE SOVIET HERRITAGE**


**PART-1 RUSSIA: ECONOMICS, POLITICS AND SOCIETY**

**WEEK II: TRANSITION PERIOD: BUILDING a MARKET ECONOMY**
• Myant, M. and Drahokoupil, J., Transition Economies: Political Economy in Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia (John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 2011). Chapters 1, 2, 3 (“The System of State Socialism”, “The Successes and Failures of Central Planning”, “From Reform to Breakdown”) (pp. 3-46)


• Bulatov A., Russian Direct Investment Abroad: History, Motives, Control and Planning / A. Bulatov // Economics of Planning. - № 34, 2001


WEEK III: 1990s: RUSSIA UNDER YELTSIN


• Boris Kagarlitsky, Russia Under Yeltsin And Putin: Neo-Liberal Autocracy (Pluto Press, 2002)


WEEK IV: THE FIRST PUTIN ERA: REVITALIZING THE OLD STATE


WEEK V: THE SECOND PUTIN ERA and MODERN RUSSIAN POLITICS

- Serghei Golunov, The “Hidden Hand” of External Enemies; the Use of Conspiracy Theories in Putin’s Regime” *PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo* No. 192 (June 2012).


WEEK VI: THE RUSSIAN ECONOMY AND ENERGY SECTOR


WEEK VII: RUSSIAN FOREIGN POLICY: PRIORITIES and CAPABILITIES


PART-2 ROLE of The GLOBAL ACTORS in EURASIA

WEEK VIII: EURASIAN GEOPOLITICS and US INVOLVEMENT


WEEK IX: RUSSIA and EURASIANISM


WEEK X: CHINA and CENTRAL ASIA

* Nicola Contessi, China, Russia and the Leadership of the SCO: A Tacit Deal Scenario, China and Eurasia Forum Quarterly, Volume 8, No, 4, 2010

* China in Central Asia: Rising China, Sinking Russia, 2013, The Economist


PART-3 REGIONAL ACTORS in EURASIA

WEEK XI: EU’s EASTERN PARTNERSHIP and BORDERLANDS

• Izotov, Alexander “Russia and the EU’s Eastern Partnership in the Context of the EU-Russia Relations” in The Post-Vilnius Challenges of the Eastern Partnership, The Eastern Partnership Review No/ 2013

• Dimitri Trenin, Alexey Malashenko, “The End of an Era in EU-Russia Relations” Carnegie Moscow Center, May 30, 2013 http://carnegie.ru/2013/05/30/end-of-era-in-eu-russia-relations/g7fw#


WEEK XII: INDEPENDENT STATES OF CENTRAL ASIA

• Volkan Özdemir, The Energy Security and Gas Pipelines in the Caspian: Limits to Cooperation, VDM, 2011: Berlin

• Luca Anceschi, Integrating domestic politics and foreign policy making: the cases of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, Central Asian Survey, Volume 29, Issue 2, 2010

**WEEK XIII:** The CAUCASUS and EMERGING ENERGY CORRIDOR

• Charles King and Rajan Menon, The Prisoners of the Caucasus: Russia’s Invisible Civil War, Foreign Affairs July-August, 2010

• Svante Cornell and Niklas Nilsson (eds.) Europe’s energy security: Gazprom's dominance and Caspian Supply Alternatives, Washington-Stockholm-Nacka: Central Asia Caucasia Institute/ Silk Road Studies, 2008

• Kristopher D. White, Power Games in the Caucasus: Azerbaijan's Foreign and Energy Policy towards the West, Russia and the Middle East, Asian Affairs, Volume 44, Issue 1, 2013

**WEEK XIV:** STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

10. Textbooks:

Reading material is listed below for each week separately.

11. Reference Material:

The reference material is listed below for each week separately.

12. Course Conduct:
The course will consist of lectures, class discussions, reading assignments, a critical review of the weekly required readings, individual presentations and individual term papers. Students are highly encouraged to attend the lectures each week. It is essential that students prepare for class by reading the required readings each week.

13. Grading:

Attendance will be compulsory. This will count for 10% of the final course mark. Each student will have to present one of the assigned readings in class, which will account to 15% of the final grade. The students have to write an individual term paper. The term paper will constitute 50% of the total grade. The papers will be presented in class (weeks 13 and 14). The presentation will constitute 25% of the final grade.

14. Effective Date:

Fall Semester of 2014-2015

15. Faculty Member:

Dr. Volkan Özdemir

Course accepted by Graduate Committee / Departmental Academic-Board in meeting held on

Assoc. Dr. Pınar Akçalı

Head of Department