

Course Faculty

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MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

Graduate School of Social Sciences

Department of Eurasian Studies

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

- Gregory P. and Stuart, R., *Russian and Soviet Performance and Structure* (Addison Wesley, seventh edition, 2001). Chapter 18 (pp. 424-459)

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)
- Gros, D. and Steinherr, A., *Winds of Change. Economic Transition in Central and Eastern Europe* (Longman Group UK Limited, 1995). Chapter 16 (pp. 486-527)
- Bulatov A., *Russian Direct Investment Abroad: History, Motives, Control and Planning* / A. Bulatov // *Economics of Planning*. - № 34, 2001
- Margot Light, ‘The Export of Liberalism to Russia’, in *After Liberalism? The Future of Liberalism in International Relations*, edited by Rebekka Friedman, Kevork Oskanian, and Ramon Pacheco Pardo (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012)

WEEK III: 1990s: RUSSIA UNDER YELTSIN

- Gustafson T., Yergin D., *Russia 2010: And What It Means for the World*, New York: Vintage Books, 1994 (Chapters 3, 6, 7)
- Boris Kagarlitsky, *Russia Under Yeltsin And Putin: Neo-Liberal Autocracy* (Pluto Press, 2002)
- Peter Rutland, “Putin's Path to Power,” *Post-Soviet Affairs* 16, no. 4 (October-December 2000): 313-354
- Bulatov A, *Similarity and Differences of the Economic Crisis in the United States and Russia* / A.S. Bulatov // *Problems of Economic Transition*. - August 2008- Vol.53. #4. - P. 5-16.

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

- *Olga Kryshchanovskaya and Stephen White, “Putin’s Militocracy” *Post-Soviet Affairs*, Vol. 19, No. 4 (2003): 289-306.
- William Clark: “Russia at the Polls: Potemkin Democracy” *Problems of Post-Communism* (March/April 2004): 22-29.

- Angela Stent, “Restoration and Revolution in Putin’s Foreign Policy” *Europe-Asia Studies* (August 2008): 1089-1106

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).
- Lilia Shevtsova and David Kramer, “The Authoritarian Surge” *The American Interest*, July 3, 2013 <http://www.the-american-interest.com/article.cfm?piece=1459>
- Putin v Medvedev Tandem: *The Economist*, 2011 <http://www.economist.com/node/18530041>
- Richard Sakwa, *Power and Policy in Putin’s Russia*, Routledge, 2011.

WEEK VI: THE RUSSIAN ECONOMY AND ENERGY SECTOR

- Stefan Hedlund, “Rents, Rights and Service: Boyar Economic and the Putin Transition,” *Problems of Post-Communism*, vol. 55, no. 4, 2008.
- Bulatov A. Geographical Aspects of Russia's Participation in the International Movement of Capital // *Regional Research of Russia*. - 2012. - Vol. 2, No. 3. - P. 187–193.
- Leon Aron, 2013 The political economy of Russian Oil and Gas, <http://www.aei.org/outlook/foreign-and-defense-policy/regional/europe/the-political-economy-of-russian-oil-and-gas/>
- Andrei Belyi, Institutional Trends in Russia’s Oil and Gas Sectors, *World Energy Law and Business* (2013) 6 (3): 163-178.

WEEK VII: RUSSIAN FOREIGN POLICY: PRIORITIES and CAPABILITIES

- Andrew Monaghan, (2013), *The New Russian Foreign Policy Concept: Evolving Continuity*, Chatham House Press, http://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/files/chathamhouse/public/Research/Russia%20and%20Eurasia/0413pp_monaghan.pdf

- Sergey Karaganov, “Russia’s Asia Strategy” *Russia in Global Affairs* (2 July 2011). <http://eng.globalaffairs.ru/pubcol/Russias-Asian-Strategy-15254>
- * Steve Melito, “Understanding Russia’s Reaction to the Arab Spring” *Defence and Security Networks*, February 5, 2013. <http://defsecnet.com/understanding-russias-reaction-to-the-arab-spring/>
- Stanislav Z. Zhiznin, *Energy Diplomacy*, East Brook, 2007, ch.3,5

PART-2 ROLE of The GLOBAL ACTORS in EURASIA

WEEK VIII: EURASIAN GEOPOLITICS and US INVOLVEMENT

- Anita Sengupta, (2009) *Heartlands of Eurasia: the Geopolitics of Political Space, 2009: Plymouth: Lexington Books*
- *The Heartland Theory and the Present Day Geopolitical Structure of Central Eurasia*, <http://www.silkroadstudies.org/new/docs/publications/1006Rethinking-4.pdf>
- The Russia-China-US Triangle and its post-Cold War Fate, in Robert E. Bedeski and Niklas Swanstrom (eds), *Eurasia's Ascent in Energy and Geopolitics*, Routledge, 2012
<http://www.chathamhouse.org/about-us/directory/190407#sthash.y4BnWLPM.dpuf>
- *Alexander Cooley, The New Great Game in Central Asia: Geopolitics in a Post-Western World, *Foreign Affairs*, July-August 2012

WEEK IX: RUSSIA and EURASIANISM

- Alexandr Dugin, Behind the Ukrainian Crisis: Alexander Dugin, Eurasianism, and the Nouvelle Droite, 2014, <http://www.4pt.su/en/content/behind-ukranian-crisis-alexander-dugin-eurasianism-and-nouvelle-droite#sthash.tS1zvC3e.dpuf>

- Jacques Levesque, “Moscow’s Evolving Partnership With Beijing: Countering Washington’s Hegemony” in *Russia After 2012*, pp.184-201.
- The Geopolitics of Eurasian Economic Integration, LSE Special Report, 2014: available at: <http://www.lse.ac.uk/IDEAS/publications/reports/SR019.aspx>

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*
- *Mirzokhid Rakhimov, The Institutional and Political Transformation of the SCO in the Context of Geopolitical Changes in Central Asia in Michael Fredholm (ed.) *The SCO and Eurasian Geopolitics*, NIAS: Kopenhagen, 2013

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#>
- Aslund, A. “Ukraine’s Choice: European Association Agreement or Eurasian Union.” Policy Brief Peterson Institute for International Economics, PB13-22, 2013 <http://www.piie.com/publications/pb/pb13-22.pdf>

WEEK XII: INDEPENDENT STATES OF CENTRAL ASIA

- Gregory Gleason, Central Asian States: Comparing Strategic Visions, Security Responses: US, Russia, China, With Zhang Jia Dong, in Sharyl Cross, Paul Bolt, Igor A. Zevelev and Su Changhe, editors. (Greenwood Press, 2008), pp. 139-157.
- 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 Caucasasia 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