



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

EU1151 Critical Perspectives on Russia and Eastern Europe: Past and Present, 15 credits

Kritiska perspektiv på Ryssland och östra Europa: dåtid och nutid, 15 högskolepoäng
First Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by Department of Political Science on 2023-06-20 and was last revised on 2023-11-09 to be valid from 2024-01-15, spring semester of 2024.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: Department of Political Science

Position in the educational system

The course is a core course, study pace 50% online and is given as a single subject course. The course is also elective within the European Studies Program. The course is also available for exchange students.

The course can be part of the following programme: 1) European Studies Program (S1EUR)

Main field of studies

European Studies

Specialization

G1N, First cycle, has only upper-secondary level entry requirements

Entry requirements

General entrance requirements.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- Evaluate different explanatory models for the historical development in Eastern Europe and Russia

Competence and skills

- Analyze different implications of historical factors for the long-term development in Eastern Europe and Russia
- Critically discuss and evaluate explanations to the fall of communism in Eastern Europe and the dissolution of the Soviet Union
- Critically scrutinize different perspectives and theories about the developments in Eastern Europe and Russia
- Independently produce text in accordance with good academic practice, including proper citation technique and use of references
- Communicate clearly and proficiently in English both orally and in writing.

Judgement and approach

- Evaluate different explanatory models for the historical development in Eastern Europe and Russia
- Evaluate and critically discuss the communist and post-communist developments in Eastern Europe and Russia

Course content

The course deals with Eastern Europe and Russia with a long historical perspective from early kingdoms to the post-communist development and the present day. The course deals with different aspects of economic, cultural, political, and social development. The contents are divided into a first part covering the history up to the Second World War, and a second part that focuses on the development to the present. The historical background is important for understanding the development of recent decades. A recurring theme during the course is the relations between Russia and neighbouring East Central European countries, not the least Belarus and Ukraine, which have been conflict-ridden and includes different historiographies.

Sub-courses

- 1. Kingdoms and Empires to the Second World War** (*Kungadömen och imperier fram till andra världskriget*), 6 credits
Grading scale: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U)
- 2. From the Cold War to the Present** (*Från kalla kriget fram till idag*,), 9 credits
Grading scale: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U)

Form of teaching

The form of teaching is online lectures.

Language of instruction: English

Assessment

Students will be evaluated based on their performance on written assignments. Each sub-course is assessed through a written student assignment.

Students can be asked to re-work graded assignments and re-submit them. If the student does not re-submit the reworked assignment on time, the student will be failed on the assignment.

A student who is not able to attend a compulsory part of the course can do an alternative assignment. The assignment will be described in the course guide.

If a student, who has failed the same examined component twice, wishes to change examiner before the next examination, a written application shall be sent to the department responsible for the course and shall be granted unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6, Section 22 of Higher Education Ordinance).

If a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg for special educational support, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, the examiner may decide to allow the student to sit an adjusted exam or alternative form of assessment.

At least five occasions shall be offered the students to pass a course or part of a course (Chapter 6, Section 21 of Higher Education Ordinance).

In cases where a course has been discontinued or has undergone major changes, the student shall normally be guaranteed at least three examination occasions (including the ordinary examination) during a period of at least one year from the last time the course was given. This may not be in conflict with Chapter 6 Section 21 of Higher Education Ordinance.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U).

For a pass grade (G) on the whole course, all course work must be graded with a pass.

For pass with distinction grade (VG) on the whole course, at least 9 of the course's 15 credits must have the grade pass with distinction.

For a pass grade (G), the student's work shall demonstrate the ability to link theoretical analyzes to empirical results, an independent analytical ability, and that the written assignments shall meet the basic academic requirements in terms of structure and language. For a pass with distinction grade (VG), the student's work shall demonstrate a very good ability to link theoretical analyzes to empirical results, a good independent analytical ability, and that the written assignments meet high academic requirements in terms of structure and language.

Course evaluation

The student will be given the opportunity to do a course evaluation. The results of and possible changes to the course will be shared with students who participated in the evaluation and students who are starting the course.