

Course Description					
Name	Code	Semester	T+A Hour	Credit	ECTS
RUSSIAN and EURASIAN POLITICS	INT3114608	Fall Semester	3+0	3	6
Prerequisites Courses					
Recommended Elective Courses					
Language of Instruction	English				
Course Level	First Cycle (Bachelor's Degree)				
Course Type	Elective				
Course Coordinator	Assist.Prof. Osman Zeki GÖKÇE				
Name of Lecturer(s)	Assist.Prof. Osman Zeki GÖKÇE				
Assistant(s)					
Aim	This course aims to provide a framework for understanding and analyzing the collapse of the Soviet Union and its outcomes with special focus on Post-Soviet space. The new politics, transitions and transformations that have taken place since 1991 will be examined during the class. Strategic, political, economic, ethnic, global and regional changes in the Russia and the former Soviet space will be addressed. Moreover, influence of clans, networks and corruption in the new independent states will also be explored. Russian regional politics, particularly concerning energy and integration policies as well as the policies of international actors (such as NATO and the EU) toward Eurasia will be examined.				
Course Content	This course contains; Week 1: Identifying Main Issues in Eurasian Politics ,Week 2: Dissolution of the Soviet Union ,Week 3: Political & Economic Transformation Process of the Russian Federation and the Newly Independent States,Week 4: Economic and Political Developments in Russia During Putin Terms ,Week 5: Dynamics of the Color Revolutions in Post-Soviet Space ,Week 6: Politics, Conflicts, and 'Frozen' Conflicts in Eurasia ,Week 7: Integration Policies of the International Actors toward Post-Soviet Space ,Week 8: From Crisis to a War: Multi Level Analysis of Developments in Ukraine,Week 9: The Evolution of the Russia-NATO Relations Since 1991 ,Week 10: Russia-EU Relations in the Context of Eurasia,Week 11: Energy Politics in the Eurasia: Energy as a Foreign Policy Tool ,Week 12: Turkey-Russia Relations after the Cold War,Week 13: Overall Assessment of Eurasian Politics				
Course Learning Outcomes			Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods	
- Students will gain an understanding of Russia's foreign policy objectives and the strategies it employs to achieve them.			10, 13, 16, 19, 9	A	
- Students will examine the dynamics of power, competition, and cooperation in this strategic area.			10, 16, 19, 6, 9	A	
-Students will study Russia's interactions with key global actors.			10, 16, 19, 6, 9	A	
- Students will examine how energy diplomacy influences Russia's relationships with other countries and regions, as well as the geopolitical implications of its resource-rich status.			10, 16, 6, 9	A	
- Students will explore Russia's approach to crisis management and conflict resolution in various regional contexts, including conflicts in Ukraine, the Caucasus, and Central Asia.			10, 16, 6, 9	A	
Teaching Methods	10: Discussion Method, 13: Case Study Method, 16: Question - Answer Technique, 19: Brainstorming Technique, 6: Experiential Learning, 9: Lecture Method				
Assessment Methods	A: Traditional Written Exam				
Lecture Schedule					
Sequence	Topics	Preliminary Preparation			
1	Week 1: Identifying Main Issues in Eurasian Politics				
2	Week 2: Dissolution of the Soviet Union	*Stephen F. Cohen, "Was the Soviet System Reformable?," Slavic Review, Vol. 63, No. 3, 2004, pp. 459-488 *Archie Brown, "The Soviet Union: Reform of the System or Systemic Transformation?," Slavic Review, Vol. 63, No. 3, 2004, pp. 489-504 *Astrid S. Tuminez, "Nationalism, Ethnic Pressures, and the Breakup of the Soviet Union", Journal of Cold War Studies, Vol. 5, No. 4, Fall 2003, pp. 81-136			
3	Week 3: Political & Economic Transformation Process of the Russian Federation and the Newly Independent States	* Anders Aslund, "Why Has Russia's Economic Transformation Been So Arduous?," Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1999. * Michael McFaul, "Transitions from Postcommunism", Journal of Democracy, Vol.16, No. 3, 2005, pp. 5-19 * Sergei Guriev & Andrei Rachinsky, "The Role of Oligarchs in Russian Capitalism," The Journal of Economic Perspectives, Vol. 19, No. 1, 2005, pp. 131-150			
4	Week 4: Economic and Political Developments in Russia During Putin Terms	* Angela E. Stent, "Restoration and Revolution in Putin's Foreign Policy", Europe-Asia Studies, Vol.63, No. 6, 2008, pp. 1089-1106 * Natalia Morozova, "Geopolitics, Eurasianism and Russian Foreign Policy under Putin", Geopolitics, Vol. 14, No. 4, 2009, pp.667-686 * Andrei Tsygankov, "Vladimir Putin's Vision of Russia as a Normal Great Power", Post-Soviet Affairs, Vol. 21, No. 2, 2005, pp. 132-158 *Samuel P. Huntington, "Clash of Civilizations?," Foreign Affairs, Summer 1993			
5	Week 5: Dynamics of the Color Revolutions in Post-Soviet Space	* David Lane, "'Colored Revolution' as a Political Phenomenon," Journal of Communist Studies and Transition Politics, Vol. 25, No. 2-3, 2009, pp. 113-135. * Donnacha Ó Beacháin, "Roses and Tulips: Dynamics of Regime Change in Georgia and Kyrgyzstan," Journal of Communist Studies and Transition Politics, Vol. 2, No. 2-3, 2009, pp. 199-226. * Paul D'Anieri, "What Has Changed in Ukrainian Politics?: Assessing the Implications of the Orange Revolution", Problems of Post-Communism, Vol. 52, No. 5, 2005, pp. 82-91			
6	Week 6: Politics, Conflicts, and 'Frozen' Conflicts in Eurasia	* Stephen Blank, "Russia and Black Sea's Frozen Conflicts in Strategic Perspective", Mediterranean Quarterly, Vol. 19, No. 3, pp. 23-54 * Stefan Wolf, "A Resolvable Frozen Conflict? Designing a Settlement for Transnistria", Nationality Papers, Vol. 39, No. 6, 2001, pp. 863-870 * William H. Hill, "Reflections on Negotiation and Mediation: The Frozen Conflicts and European Security", Demokratizatsiya, Vol. 18, No. 3, (Summer 2010, pp. 219-227)			

School of Humanities and Social Sciences / Political Science and International Relations (English)

2024 - 2025 Academic Year

RUSSIAN and EURASIAN POLITICS

Syllabus

Lecture Schedule		
Sequence	Topics	Preliminary Preparation
7	Week 7: Integration Policies of the International Actors toward Post-Soviet Space	* Mark Kramer, "Russian Foreign Policy Toward the Commonwealth of Independent States: Recent Trends and Future Prospects", <i>Problems of Post-Communism</i> , Vol. 55, No. 6, 2008, pp. 3-19 * Marcin Lapczynski, "The European Union's Eastern Partnership: Chances and Perspectives", <i>Caucasian Review of International Affairs</i> , Vol. 3, No. 2, 2009, pp. 143-155 * George Christou, "European Union Security Logics to the East: The European Neighborhood Policy and the Eastern Partnership", <i>European Security</i> , Vol. 19, No. 3, 2010, pp. 413-430
8	Week 8: From Crisis to a War: Multi Level Analysis of Developments in Ukraine	* Volodymyr Kulyk, "National Identity in Ukraine: Impact of Euromaidan and the War", <i>Europe-Asia Studies</i> , Vol. 68, No. 4, 2016, pp. 588-608 * Taras Kuzio, "Euromaidan Revolution, Crimea and Russia-Ukraine War: Why it is time for a review of Ukraine-Russia Studies", <i>Eurasian Geography and Economics</i> , Vol. 59, No. 3-4, pp. 529-553
9	Week 9: The Evolution of the Russia-NATO Relations Since 1991	* Dmitry Polikanov, "NATO-Russia Relations: Present and Future", <i>Contemporary Security Policy</i> , Vol. 25, No. 3, 2004, pp. 479-497 * Oksana Antonenko & Bastian Giegerich, "Rebooting NATO-Russia Relations", <i>Survival</i> , Vol. 51, No. 2, 2009, pp. 13-21
10	Week 10: Russia-EU Relations in the Context of Eurasia	* Hiski Haukkala, "From Cooperative to Contested Europe? The Conflict in Ukraine as a Culmination of a Long-Term Crisis in EU-Russia Relations", <i>Journal of Contemporary European Studies</i> , Vol. 25, No. 1, 2015, pp. 25-40 * Fyodor Lukyanov, "Russia-EU: The Partnership That Went Astray", <i>Europe-Asia Studies</i> , Vol. 60, No. 6, 2008, pp. 1107-1119
11	Week 11: Energy Politics in the Eurasia: Energy as a Foreign Policy Tool	* F. Stephen Larrabee, "Russia, Ukraine, and Central Europe: The Return of Geopolitics", <i>Journal of International Affairs</i> , Vol. 63, No. 2, 2010, pp. 33-52 * Vera Tolz, "Rethinking Russian-Ukrainian Relations: A New Trend in Nation-Building in Post-Communist Russia?", <i>Nations and Nationalism</i> , Vol. 8, No. 2, 2002, pp. 235-253 * Dmitri Trenin, "The Ukraine Crisis and the Resumption of Great-Power Rivalry", <i>Carnegie Moscow Center</i> , 2014. * David A. Deese, "Energy: Economics, Politics, and Security", <i>International Security</i> , Vol. 4, No. 3, pp. 140-153 * Bertil Nygren, "Putin's Use of Natural Gas to Reintegrate the CIS Region," <i>Problems of Post-Communism</i> , Vol. 55, July/August 2008, pp. 3-15
12	Week 12: Turkey-Russia Relations after the Cold War	* Şener Aktürk, "Turkish-Russian relations after the Cold War (1992-2002)", <i>Turkish Studies</i> , Vol. 7, No. 3, 2006, pp. 337-364 * Ziya Öniş and Şuhnaz Yılmaz, "Turkey and Russia in a Shifting Global Order: Co-operation, Conflict and Asymmetric Interdependence in a Turbulent Region", <i>Third World Quarterly</i> , Vol. 37, No. 1, 2016, pp. 71-95
13	Week 13: Overall Assessment of Eurasian Politics	
Evaluation Methods		Weight(%)
Midterm Exam		40
General Exam		60

Resources
Archie Brown, ed., <i>Contemporary Russian Politics</i> , Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2001