

ID7008 EU-Russia Relations

Module type Option (Identities and Cultures of Europe, Comparative Literature)

Term / hours Hilary / 22

ECTS 10

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Module description

This module aims to present students with a comprehensive analysis of the complexity of relations between the EU and Russia over the past 70 years.

In addition, it will provide students with up-to-date information about recent developments in Russia's foreign policy towards the EU, its reevaluation of external security and its strengthening of military and defence capabilities.

The module will focus not only on EU-Russia relations but will also give students the opportunity to broaden their knowledge of the former Soviet Union countries which play a pivotal role in EU-Russia relations, particularly regarding the EU search for alternative energy suppliers to bypass Russia.

Assessment

The module is assessed through a 3,500 -word essay (80%) and a 15-minutes in-class presentation on the essay, followed by a 15-minute Q&A session (20%).

Module Content – Topics for Discussion

- Week 1:** The overview of EEC/Soviet Union relations from the Cold war period to Gorbachev's perestroika. The policy of "New thinking". "Europe is our Common Home".
- Week 2:** A new stage of the EU/Russia relations after the dissolution of the USSR. The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.
- Week 3:** The Concept of Four Common Spaces. The "Road Maps" programme implementation. Cross-border cooperation- benefiting from borders.
- Week 4:** Enlargement to the East and Russia's complex relations with the "New Europe"
- Week 5:** Kaliningrad– to be Putin's Hong Kong? Russia and the Baltic States. Russian-speaking minorities in Estonia and Latvia.
- Week 6:** The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and its relations with the EU.
- Week 7:** Study week.

- Week 8:** From Prague 2009 to Brussels 2021: Implementation of the Eastern Partnership programme and Russia's reaction to it.
- Week 9:** "Frozen conflicts" in the post-Soviet space: Transnistria, South Ossetia, Abkhazia, Nagorno-Karabakh.
- Week 10:** Annexation of Crimea and the introduction of economic sanctions. The EU key guiding principles of relations with Russia.
- Week 11:** Creation of the Eurasian Economic Union and its relations with the EU.
An evaluation of Russia-EU relations based on recent opinion polls.
- Week 12:** EU-Russian energy relations: a critical analysis. Who owns the North Pole?
Potential challenges and scenarios for future development.

Indicative bibliography

- Antonenko Oksana, Pinnick Kathryn (eds.), *Russia and European Union: Prospects for a New Relations* (Routledge, 2004).
- Cower, Jackie, and Timmins, Graham (eds.), *Russia and Europe in the Twenty-First Century: An Uneasy Partnership* (Anthem Press, 2009).
- Engelbrekt, Kjell, and Nygren, Bertil, (eds.), *Russia and Europe. Building Bridges Digging Trenches* (Routledge, 2012).
- European Union External Action Service (EEAS). "The European Union and Russia: Close Neighbours, Global Players, Strategic Partners", Office for Official Publications of the European Communities 2007, <https://eeas.europa.eu>
- The European Union and the Russian Federation, EEAS (European External Action Service), 2017, <https://eeas.europa.eu/>
- Haukkala, Hiski, *The EU-Russia Strategic Partnership: The Limits of Post-Sovereignty in International Relations*, (Routledge, 2010)
- David Lane, David, and Samokhvalov, Vsevolod (eds.), *The Eurasian Project and Europe*", Basingstoke, (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2015).
- LSE IDEAS, *Avoiding a New "Cold War". The Future of EU-Russia Relations in the Context of the Ukraine Crisis*, The London School of Economics and Political Science, LSE IDEAS, Dahrendorf Forum-Debating Europe, Special Report, SR020 March 2016.
[<http://www.lse.ac.uk/ideas/publications/reports/new-cold-war>]
- Lucas, Edward, *The New Cold War. How the Kremlin Menaces both Russia and the West* (Bloomsbury, 2008)
- Maass, Anna- Sophie, *EU-Russia Relations:1999-2015: From Courtship to Confrontation*, (Routledge, 2016)
- Wilson, Andrew, *Ukraine's Orange Revolution* (Yale University Press, 2005)
- Ross Smith, Nicolas, *EU- Russian Relations and the Ukrainian Crisis*, (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2016).

Elmuradoav, Aziz, *Russia, and EU in the New World Disorder. Revisiting Sovereignty and balance of Power in the Study of Russian Foreign Policy*. (Routledge, 2023),

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- LO1 Discuss and evaluate the complexity of EU-Russia relations.
- LO2: Examine and critically analyse the relevance and potential benefits from the implementation of key EU policies towards Russia and its neighbours.
- LO3: Debate the challenges facing EU-Russia relations.
- LO4: Assess the implications of any broader geo-political and socio-economic issues which Russia and the EU could encounter in the near future.
- LO5: Research and present a paper and write an essay, identifying a research question, structuring an oral presentation, using visual aids as appropriate, structuring an analysis and discussion, responding critically to primary and secondary sources, and providing references as appropriate.