

COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States studies	RNVS3126

Lecturer(s)	Department(s) where the course unit (module) is delivered
Coordinators: dr. Laurynas Jonavičius	Institute of International Relations and Political Science

Study cycle	Type of the course unit (module)
First cycle	Elective

Mode of delivery	Period when the course unit (module) is delivered	Language(s) of instruction
Lectures, seminars, self study	7 semester	Lithuanian

Requirements for students	
Prerequisites: None	Additional requirements (if any): None

Course (module) volume in credits	Total student's workload	Contact hours	Self-study hours
5	130	32	98

Purpose of the course unit (module): programme competences to be developed

The purpose of this course is to provide students with knowledge on the topicalities of modern-day Russian Federation, its political and economic system, institutional structure and performance as well as domestic and international/foreign policy priorities. In addition, the course strives to equip students with skills and abilities for an independent analysis of the current economic and political developments in the Russian Federation.

This course aims to develop subject specific competences, such as the ability to understand and explain contemporary Russia, the peculiarities of its development, logic and specifics of political decision-making, the economic development model, as well as the ability to identify and explain the foreign policy goals and priorities of Russian Federation, ability to interpret post-soviet environment in a culture-sensitive manner; also, generic competences: ability to work and study individually and in groups, ability to present findings in a coherent manner, ability to respond promptly and comprehensively to questions raised by colleagues or professors.

Learning outcomes of the course unit (module)	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Will be able to understand and explain the peculiarities of the development of contemporary Russia, specifics of political decision-making, economic development model, policy goals and priorities	Face-to-face lectures, discussions	Assessment of work during seminars
Will be able to analyze foreign policy goals and priorities of the Russian Federation	Independent reading , exam	Assessment of exam
Will be able to interpret post-soviet environment	Research methods (texts analysis, preparation for presentation)	Assessment of presentation

Content: breakdown of the topics	Contact hours				Self-study work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Contact hours	Self-study hours	Assignments
1. What you Can and What You Need to Know About Russia	1		1	2	5	Compulsory reading and analysis of: S. Fischer (Ed.), Russia: Insights from a Changing

						Country, Paris: European Union Institute for Security Studies, 2012, p. 19-65.
2. The Collapse of the USSR and Creation of the Russian Federation	1		1	2	5	Compulsory reading and analysis of: R. Sakwa, Russian Politics and Society 4 th ed. New York: Routledge, 2008, p.9-59.
3. Russia's Political System Overview (1) President, Parliament, Government	1		1	2	5	Compulsory reading and analysis of: R. Sakwa, Russian Politics and Society 4 th ed., New York: Routledge, 2008, p.105-127, 188-203.
4. Russia's Political System Overview (2) Informal Power Centres and Key Players	1		1	2	6	Compulsory reading and analysis of: R. Sakwa, The Crisis of Russian Democracy: the Dual State, Factionalism, and the Medvedev Succession, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2011, p.85-130.
5. Russian Economic System Overview (1) Yeltsin's Economic Reforms (Shock Therapy, Privatization, Liberalization and their Consequences. Oligarchs, State and Business Relationship)	1		1	2	5	Compulsory reading and analysis of: R. Sakwa, Russian Politics and Society 4 th ed., New York: Routledge, 2008, p.287-313.
6. Russian Economic System Overview (2) Putin and Medvedev's Economic Policy (Centralization, Role of Energetic, Modernization, National Champions, (no) opening up to the world)	1		1	2	5	Compulsory reading and analysis of: P. Rutland, The Oligarchs and Economic Development, In S. K. Wegren, D. R. Herspring (eds.) After Putin's Russia: Past Imperfect, Future Uncertain 4 th ed., Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2010, p. 159-182.
7. Russian Identity (Internal and External Self-Perception, Conception of Friends and Enemies)	1		1	2	5	Compulsory reading and analysis of: R. Sakwa, The Problem of the 'International' in Russian Identity Formation, International Politics, 49, 2012, p. 449-465. R. Sakwa, Putin: Russia's Choice, New York: Routledge, 2005, p. 317-328.
8. Russia's Foreign Policy Review (Foreign Policy Stages and Driving Forces)	1		1	2	5	Compulsory reading and analysis of: R. Sakwa, Russian Politics and Society 4 th ed., New York: Routledge, 2008, p. 366-391. K. Dawisha, Is Russia's Foreign Policy That of a Corporatist-Kleptocratic Regime?, Post-Soviet Affairs, 27 (4), 2011, p. 331-365.
9. Russia Today – Evaluation of Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Situation, Possible Development and Change Scenarios.	1		1	2	5	Compulsory reading and analysis of: D. Treisman, The Return: Russia's Journey from Gorbachev to Medvedev, New York: Free Press, 2011, 340-389.
10. Collapse of the USSR and Evolution of Post-Soviet Space (Chronology and Key Moments).	1		1	2	6	Compulsory reading and analysis of: L. Belousov, A. Vlasov, The Post-Soviet Space: A Transition Period, Transition Studies Review, 17, 2010, p. 108-122. V. L. Hesli, Governments and Politics in Russia and the Post-Soviet Region, New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2007, p. 257-288.
11. Significance of Post-Soviet Space for Russia and Centralization Initiatives (CIS, CSTO, Customs Union, the Eurasian Union)	1		1	2	5	Compulsory reading and analysis of: M. A. Molchanov, Eurasian Regionalisms and Russian Foreign Policy, A paper prepared for the UACES Convention Exchanging Ideas on Europe 2012, Passau, Germany, 2012, p. 1-16. http://events.uaces.org/documents/papers/1201/molchanov.pdf

						V. L. Hesli, Governments and Politics in Russia and the Post-Soviet Region, New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2007, p. 134-159.
12. Political Situation in Post-Soviet Space	1		1	2	5	Compulsory reading and analysis of: A. Wilson, Virtual Politics: Faking Democracy in the Post-Soviet World, London: Yale University Press, 2005, p. 41-57. B. R. Rubin, J. Snyder (Eds.), Post-Soviet Political Order: Conflict and State Building, New York: Routledge, 1998, 54-86.
13. Economic Situation in Post-Soviet Space	1		1	2	6	Compulsory reading and analysis of: E. Vinokurov, A. Libman, Post-Soviet Integration Breakthrough, 2012. http://eng.globalaffairs.ru/number/Post-Soviet-Integration-Breakthrough-15580 P. Dillon, F. C. Wykoff, Creating Capitalism: Transitions and Growth in Post-Soviet Europe, Northampton: E. Elgar, 2002, p. 22-40.
14. Security Situation in Post-Soviet Space	1		1	2	5	Compulsory reading and analysis of: Y. Nikitina, Regional Security Cooperation in the Post-Soviet Space, Security Index: A Russian Journal on International Security, 17 (4), 2011, p. 47-53. G. P. Herd, European Security and Post-Soviet Space: Integration or Isolation?, Sandhurst: Royal Military Academy, 2000, p. 52-86.
15. Europe, USA and China in Post-Soviet Space	1		1	2	5	Compulsory reading and analysis of: S. Fischer, The European Union and the Insiders/Outsiders of Europe: Russia and the Post-Soviet Space, Review of European Studies, 4(3), 2012, p. 32-44. S. Charap, M. Troitskiy, U.S.-Russia Relations in Post-Soviet Eurasia: Transcending the Zero-Sum Game, 2011, p. 1-33. http://www.scribd.com/doc/65184772/U-S-Russia-Relations-in-Post-Soviet-Eurasia-Transcending-the-Zero-Sum-Game
Presentation		2		2	20	Preparation for the presentation
Total	15	2	15	32	98	

Assessment strategy	Weight,%	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Evaluation of work during the seminars	20%	Throughout the semester	Active participation in seminars (5%), Essential and relevant comments (5%), Ability to refer to assigned academic literature (5%), Critical thinking and ponderable argumentation (5%)
Exam (10% test + 40% open questions)	50%	During session time	Comprehensiveness of the answers (20 %) Ability to base the answers on the academic literature that was provided throughout the course (15%) Critical thinking (10%) Style: clearness, consistency, academic vocabulary (5%)
Presentation	30%	End of semester	Ability to employ theories and methods discussed throughout the course (10%), Depth of analysis of the topic (10%); Ability to present results in an appropriate coherent form and to respond to colleagues comments efficiently (10%)

Author	Year of publication	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing place and house or web link
Compulsory reading				

Belousov, L., A. Vlasov	2010	The Post-Soviet Space: A Transition Period	Vol. 17	Transition Studies Review
Charap, S., M. Troitskiy	2011	U.S.-Russia Relations in Post-Soviet Eurasia: Transcending the Zero-Sum Game		http://www.scribd.com/doc/65184772/U-S-Russia-Relations-in-Post-Soviet-Eurasia-Transcending-the-Zero-Sum-Game
Dawisha, K.	2011	Is Russia's Foreign Policy That of a Corporatist-Kleptocratic Regime?,	Vol. 27 No. 4	Post-Soviet Affairs
Dillon, P., F. C. Wykoff	2002	Creating Capitalism: Transitions and Growth in Post-Soviet Europe		Northampton: E. Elgar
Fischer, S.	2012	The European Union and the Insiders/Outsiders of Europe: Russia and the Post-Soviet Space	Vol. 4 No. 3	Review of European Studies
Fischer, S. (Ed.)	2012	Russia: Insights from a Changing Country		Paris: European Union Institute for Security Studies
Herd, G. P.	2000	European Security and Post-Soviet Space: Integration or Isolation?		Sandhurst: Royal Military Academy
Hesli, V. L.	2007	Governments and Politics in Russia and the Post-Soviet Region		New York: Houghton Mifflin Company
Molchanov, M. A.	2012	Eurasian Regionalisms and Russian Foreign Policy	A paper prepared for the UACES Convention Exchanging Ideas on Europe 2012	http://events.uaces.org/documents/papers/1201/molchanov.pdf
Nikitina, Y.	2011	Regional Security Cooperation in the Post-Soviet Space	Vol. 17 No. 4	Security Index: A Russian Journal on International Security
Rubin, B. R., J. Snyder (Eds.)	1998	Post-Soviet Political Order: Conflict and State Building		New York: Routledge
Rutland, P.	2010	The Oligarchs and Economic Development	Wegren, S. K., D. R. Herspring (eds.) After Putin's Russia: Past Imperfect, Future Uncertain 4 th ed.	Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers
Sakwa, R.	2005	Putin: Russia's Choice		New York: Routledge
Sakwa, R.	2012	The Problem of the 'International' in Russian Identity Formation	Vol. 49	International Politics
Sakwa, R.	2011	The Crisis of Russian Democracy: the dual State, Factionalism, and the Medvedev Succession		New York: Cambridge University Press
Sakwa, R.	2008	Russian Politics and Society 4 th ed.		New York: Routledge
Treisman, D.	2011	The Return: Russia's Journey from Gorbachev to Medvedev		New York: Free Press
Vinokurov, E. A. Libman	2012	Post-Soviet Integration Breakthrough		http://eng.globalaffairs.ru/number/Post-Soviet-Integration-Breakthrough-15580
Wilson, A.	2005	Virtual Politics: Faking Democracy in the Post-Soviet World		London: Yale University Press
Optional reading				
Bassin, M. (ed.)	2010	Space, Place, and Power in Modern Russia: Essays in the new Spatial History		DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press

Feklyunina, V., S. White	2013	The international economic crisis and the Post-Soviet States		New York: Routledge
Kolstø, P.	2000	Political Construction Sites: Nation-building in Russia and the Post-Soviet States		Oxford: Westview
Ledeneva, A. V.	2006	How Russia Really Works :the Informal Practices that Shaped post-Soviet Politics and Business		London: Cornell University
Shevel, O.	2011	Russian Nation-building from Yel'tsin to Medvedev: Ethnic, Civic or Purposefully Ambiguous	Vol. 63 No. 2	Europe -Asia Studies
Stoner-Weiss, K.	2006	Resisting the State: Reform and Retrenchment in Post-Soviet Russia		Cambridge: Cambridge University Press