

Russia, EU and the Change of Global Politics

Faculty: Linas Kojala (linas.kojala@tspmi.vu.lt or via Facebook)
Office hours: by appointment
Class room and time: 305, Th. 16:45 – 18:15

Course Description

This course introduces students to the main aspects of the relationship between the European Union and Russia. It will be divided into three parts; the first will focus on the historic development of Russia's relationship with Europe as well as long-lasting points of contention; the second will analyze the main global trends shaping EU-Russia dialogue, as well as the current stage of EU's foreign policy integration; the third will seek to explore several case studies determining the current state of affairs.

Upon the successful completion of this course, students will acquire:

- Understanding of historic trends in Russian – European Union relations;
- Understanding of Russia's perception of European integration process, with a special emphasis on Central and Eastern Europe and Eastern Partnership countries;
- Understanding of the main aspects of EU foreign policy and the role of Russia;
- EU-Russia relations in the context of other global powers.

Grade Breakdown

- 30%: participation and discussions
- 30%: op-ed (draft + final version)
- 40%: group presentations

Assignments

- Each seminar will begin with a discussion about recent events related to Russian-EU relations (please use politico.eu; bbc.com; euronews.com; france24.com; dw.com and other relevant sources);
- Guest speakers (former and current decision makers, diplomats, experts) will join the majority of seminars to share their thoughts and knowledge. Each of these occasions will begin with a short introduction from the guest speaker, followed by discussion with students.
- Students will submit an op-ed article related to EU-Russia relations. The topic is the student's choice. Requirements to an op-ed article will be discussed during the first seminar. Students

must submit a draft version of an op-ed to the lecturer; and final version after a review by the lecturer. Students are encouraged to submit their op-eds throughout the course (afppapers@yahoo.com); however, no later than before the seminar of November 4th, 2021;

- Students will form groups and take up a role to lead an interactive seminar on a given topic at the final phase of the course. The topic of these student-led seminars will be agreed during the course.

Class Schedule

	Date	Topics	Readings
PART I: The Evolution of the Relationship			
I	Sept 16	Course Introduction Is Russia a Part of Europe? (Guest Speaker Vladimiras Laučius)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bret Stephens, “Opinion Tips for Aspiring Op-Ed Writers,” <i>The New York Times</i>, January 20, 2018, sec. Opinion, https://www.nytimes.com/2017/08/25/opinion/tips-for-aspiring-op-ed-writers.html • CEPOW, “Tips & Tricks for Op-Ed Writing,” <i>Centre for Policy Writing</i> (blog), March 5, 2017, http://www.cepow.org/tips-tricks-for-op-ed-writing/ • Vladimir Baranovsky, “Russia: A Part of Europe or Apart from Europe?,” <i>International Affairs</i> 76, no. 3, 2000, 443–458. • Larisa Deriglazova, How Much ‘Europeaness’ Remains in Contemporary Russia? <i>Anthropological Journal of European Cultures</i>, Vol 26, no. 1, 2017, p. 75-97. • Mikhail Nosov, Russia between Europe and Asia. <i>Rivista di Studi Politici Internazionali, Nuova Serie</i>, Vol 81, No 1 (321), 2014, p. 15-34

II	Sep 23	<p>Op-Ed Writing</p> <p>Russia's relationship with Europe: Historic and Institutional Perspectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iver B Neumann, "Russia as a Great Power, 1815–2007," <i>Journal of International Relations and Development</i> 11, no. 2, 2008, p. 128–151. • Konstantin Khudoley, Maciej Raś, "The history of Russia-European Union relations", p. 15-25 in Tatiana Romanova, Maxine David (ed), <i>The Routledge Handbook of EU-Russia Relations: Structures, Actors, Issues</i>. Routledge, 2021 • Andrei Kortunov, Will Russia Return to Europe? Russian International Affairs Council, November 6, 2018 https://russiancouncil.ru/en/analytcs-and-ccomments/analytcs/will-russia-return-to-europe/
III	Sep 30	<p>Points of Contention: EU, Russia and the Policy of Enlargement (Guest Speaker Gediminas Kirkilas)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Russia and the politics of EU eastern enlargement" in Anna-Sophie Maass, <i>EU–Russia Relations, 1999–2015: From courtship to confrontation</i>. Routledge, 2017, p. 57-83; • Mark Kramer, "The Myth of a No-NATO-Enlargement Pledge to Russia." <i>The Washington Quarterly</i> (vol 32, issue 2), 2009, p. 39-61.
IV	Oct 7	<p>Change of Global World Order: A View from Russia and Europe</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elias Götz, Camille-Renaud Merlen, "Russia and the Question of World Order," <i>European Politics and Society</i> 20, no. 2, 2019, p. 133–153. • Sergey Karaganov, Dmitry Suslov, "A new world order: A view from Russia.," <i>Russia in Global Affairs</i>. Foreign policy research, 2018 < https://eng.globalaffairs.ru/pubcol/A-new-world-order-A-view-from-Russia--19782> • Bobo Lo, <i>Global Order in the Shadow of the Coronavirus: China, Russia and the West</i>. Lowy Institute, July, 2020

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maxine David, Whose Multilateralism? EU-Russia Relations in the Diminished World Order. Carnegie, November 2019
Part II: Global Trends and EU's Foreign Policy			
	Oct 14	No Class	
V	Oct 21	A New Decade of Eastern Partnership Policy (Denis Cenusu)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Giselle Bosse, Ten years of the Eastern Partnership: What role for the EU as a promoter of democracy? European View, Vol 18(2), 2019, p. 220-232 • Laure Delcour, Dealing with the elephant in the room: the EU, its 'Eastern neighbourhood' and Russia. Contemporary Politics (Vol 24, Issue 1), 2017, p. 14-29. • Balkan and Eastern European Comparisons: Building a New Momentum for the European integration of the Balkan and Eastern European associated states. CEPS Policy Contribution 25 Feb 2021 http://aei.pitt.edu/103311/
VI	Oct 28	<p>Students' Presentation of the Op-Ed Articles</p> <p>ONLINE:</p> <p>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83707080993?pwd=WkxQdW5YQWl3NlA0dE15OG9NMDNBQT09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 837 0708 0993</p> <p>Passcode: 163533</p>	
Part III: Case Studies			

VII	Nov 4	<p>Handling the Clash of World Views (Guest Speaker Eitvydas Bajarūnas)</p> <p>ONLINE:</p> <p>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83707080993?pwd=WkxQdW5YQWl3N1A0dE15OG9NMDNBQT09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 837 0708 0993</p> <p>Passcode: 163533</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marco Siddi, The Role of Power in EU–Russia Energy Relations: The Interplay between Markets and Geopolitics. <i>Europe-Asia Studies</i> (Vol 70, Issue 10), 2018, p. 1552-1571. • Nicu Popescu, Why a new Yalta wouldn't end the malaise between the West and Russia. Council on Foreign Relations, June 2020 https://www.ecfr.eu/article/commentary_w_hy_a_new_yalta_wouldnt_end_the_malaise_between_the_west_and_rus • Andrey Kortunov, How the Pandemic Will Change EU-Russian Relations. Carnegie, July 2020 https://carnegie.ru/2020/07/08/how-pandemic-will-change-eu-russian-relations-pub-81894
VIII	Nov 11	<p>EU, Russia and Ukraine (Guest Speaker Linas Linkevičius)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrei Tsygankov, “Vladimir Putin’s Last Stand: The Sources of Russia’s Ukraine Policy,” <i>Post-Soviet Affairs</i> (Vol 31, Issue 4), 2015, p. 279-303. • Vlad Mykhnenko, Causes and Consequences of the War in Eastern Ukraine: An Economic Geography Perspective. <i>Europe-Asia Studies</i>, Vol 72, Issue 3, 2020, p. 528-560 • Igor Gurak, Perspectives of the EU Membership for Ukraine: the Main Challenges and Threats. <i>Journal of the Human and Social Science Researches</i>, 2021, 10 (1): 775-800. http://lib.pnu.edu.ua:8080/bitstream/123456789/9740/1/Thor%20Hurak%20%282021%29.%20Perspectives%20of%20the%20EU%20Membership%20for%20Ukraine%20the%20Main%20Challenges%20and%20Threats.pdf

IX	Nov 18	EU, Russia and Belarus (Guest Speaker Jakob Wollenstein)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Support for Lukashenka. Russia's response to the migration crisis. OSW, November , 2021 https://www.osw.waw.pl/en/publikacje/analyses/2021-11-09/support-lukashenka-russia-as-response-to-migration-crisis ● Russia-Belarus Integration: Why Moscow Gained So Little. Carnegie, October, 2021 https://carnegiemoscow.org/commentary/85749 ● Russian-Belarusian military merger accelerates on NATO's eastern flank. Atlantic Council, September, 2021 https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/belarus-alert/russian-belarusian-military-merger-accelerates-on-natos-eastern-flank/
X	Nov 25	Russia, China and the EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Vsevolod Samokhvalov, Russia and its shared neighbourhoods: a comparative analysis of Russia-EU and Russia-China relations in the EU's Eastern neighbourhood and Central Asia. Contemporary Politics, Vol. 24, No. 1, 2018, p. 30-45. ● Nurlan Aliyev, Military Cooperation Between Russia and China: The Military Alliance Without an Agreement? ICDS, July 2020 https://icds.ee/en/military-cooperation-between-russia-and-china-the-military-alliance-without-an-agreement/ ● Jonathan E. Hillman, China and Russia: Economic Unequals. CSIS, July 2020 https://csis-website-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/publication/200715_ChinaandRussia.pdf ● Alexander Lukin, Have We Passed the Peak of Sino-Russian Rapprochement?. The Washington Quarterly, 44(3), September, 2021 https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/0163660X.2021.1970904

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sergey Radchenko, Driving a Wedge Between China and Russia Won't Work. Wor on the Rocks, August, 2021 https://warontherocks.com/2021/08/driving-a-wedge-between-china-and-russia-wont-work/
XI	Dec 2	Student-led Seminar I	Topic to be provided
XII	Dec 9	Student-led Seminar II	Topic to be provided
XIII	Dec 16		

Groups for presentations:

Group 1: Valdemar Baran, Modesta Vanesa Viskontė, Viktorija Bylaitė, Vincentas Botyrius, Nathan Vifflin (presentation on Dec 2)

Group 2: Maximilian Panten, Faustas Norvaiša, Ignas Dainys, Kornel Mate Denes, Domantas Mikelevičius, Laurin Schulze (presentation on Dec 2)

Group 3: Milda Leonavičiūtė, Shotaro Saso, Annamaria Cantore, Beatriz Conceicao, Karolina Panto, Beatriz Costa (presentation on Dec 9)

Group 4: Angela Henriques, Felix Haering, Audrius Gudavičius, Mathieu Sylvain Jean Duclaux, Mariana Duarte (presentation on Dec 9)

Topics to choose from:

- Russia and China: a short-term partnership or a long-term alliance? Implications for Europe.
- Is there a way to reignite the Eastern Partnership Policy?
- Putin personally makes all the most important decisions in Russia. Discuss.
- Belarus has a path to democracy. Agree or disagree
- “We must seek dialogue with Russia”. Is the EU’s mantra still valid?
- Russia is a part of Europe. Discuss

Please write in the topic of your group's choice on the right side of the table (no earlier than Nov 11, 18.30 pm)

Group No	Chosen topic (first come, first served)
Group 1	"We must seek dialogue with Russia". Is the EU's mantra still valid?
Group 2	Russia and China: a short-term partnership or a long-term alliance? Implications for Europe.
Group 3	Putin personally makes all the most important decisions in Russia. Discuss.
Group 4	Is there a way to reignite the Eastern Partnership Policy?