

ÖCKR08, Central and Eastern European Studies: Russia and Eastern Europe - the Present and the Past, 15 credits

Öst- och centraleuropakunskap: Ryssland och Östeuropa - nutid och dåtid, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by The pro-dean for First-Cycle Studies at the Faculties of Humanities and Theology on 2023-12-12 (U 2023/1016). The syllabus comes into effect 2024-03-01 and is valid from the autumn semester 2024.

General information

The course is included in the master's programme in East and Central European Studies. It can also be given as a freestanding course. It can normally be included in a general degree at both first and second cycle level.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of study

Specialisation

Central and Eastern European Studies

A1N, Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, students shall be able to

Knowledge and understanding

- in an advanced way, from a humanist perspective, give an account of questions, theories and research that concerns Russia and Eastern Europe
- give an account of the historical development of Russia and Eastern Europe's historical development, above all during the 20th century, and for the culturally distinctive features and normative positions that are considered to be specifically connected to this region

- explain the meaning of main concepts as identity, history, historical awareness and historical culture; explain how identity and historical culture are constructed and how they are manifested in present-day Russia and Eastern Europe
- analyse the processes that have shaped the Russian, Ukrainian and Belarusian identities and be able to relate these national processes to regional processes and to the European identity process

Competence and skills

- summarise, interpret and critically review scientific literature about these Eastern European cultures, values and identities
- relate developments in Russia and the rest of Eastern Europe to global development after the Second World War and European development after the end of the Cold War and the fall of communism
- within given time frames, communicate their knowledge and research results both orally and in writing, to different types of audience for example colleagues, conference participants or potential employers
- in a critical way, to apply different definitions of Eastern European cultures, values and identities to concrete cases from the reading list and mass media

Judgement and approach

- assess and evaluate differences between the parliamentary democracy development that EU and its member states represent and advocate and the authoritarian tendencies that remain in present-day Russia and other Eastern Europe countries
- orally and in writing, reflect on the connections between historical science, different uses of history and the creation of democratic values in modern society.

Course content

The course focuses on historical processes and their role in the identity formation in modern Russia and its Eastern European neighbouring countries (e.g. Ukraine, Belarus and Moldavia) which before 1991 were included in the Soviet Union. Important identity forming events both before and after 1917 (for example the Russian Communist revolution, the period of starvation and the terror of the 1930s, the Second World War, the Cold War, the fall of communism in 1989 or The Soviet Union's dissolution in 1991) are discussed and analysed both in their historical context and from the new post-Soviet and post-communist perspective. Among the main question of the course are: What is the difference between the historical development in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldavia and others on the one hand, and the rest of Europe on the other? Which history – new and old – is worth remembering and which should instead be ignored and forgotten? How are the most important events interpreted, and how are they framed in different historical statements whose aims are to give historical development different meaning and create different collective (national, religious, political, cultural and so on) identities? Who are the key figures behind these processes? How do developments in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldavia and elsewhere since 1991 relate to the Europeanisation process, i.e. ambition to create a joint European identity?

Module 1: Russia, 7.5 credits

Module 2: The other post-Soviet states, 7.5 credits

Course design

The teaching consists of lectures and seven compulsory seminars. If, due to circumstances beyond their control, such as accidents, sudden illness or similar, students are unable to carry out a compulsory component, the University is responsible for ensuring that an equivalent alternative or another time for the component is offered. This also applies to students participating in activities in an elected position as a student representative.

Assessment

Module 1 is examined through three written assignments in connection with three compulsory seminars.

Module 2 is examined through four written assignments in connection with four compulsory seminars.

The examiner, in consultation with Disability Support Services, may deviate from the regular form of examination in order to provide a permanently disabled student with a form of examination equivalent to that of a student without a disability.

Grades

Grading scale includes the grades: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction

For the grade of Pass on the whole course, the student must have been awarded this grade for all modules. For the grade of Pass with Distinction on the whole course, the student must have been awarded this grade for all modules.

Entry requirements

Admission to the course requires 90 credits, of which at least 60 credits are in East and Central European Studies, European studies, Russian with a literary/cultural specialisation or equivalent knowledge and English 6.

Further information

- The course is offered by the Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University.
- The course overlaps with the course European Studies: Russia and Eastern Europe - the Present and the Past (EUHR07).
- The credits allocated for course content that in whole or in part is shared with another course can only be credited once for a degree.
- For further details, see current registration and information materials.
- Module names in English:

1. Russia
2. The Other Post Soviet States