



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

ÖCKR10, Central and Eastern European Studies: Understanding Belarus and Ukraine, 15 credits

*Central and Eastern European Studies: Understanding Belarus and
Ukraine, 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 2021-03-05 to be valid from 2021-03-05, autumn semester 2021.

General Information

The course is part of the Master of Arts programme in ÖCK. The course can also be offered as a free-standing course for eligible students. It can normally be included as part of a first- or second-cycle degree

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

Central and Eastern European Studies

Depth of study relative to the degree requirements

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

Learning outcomes

On completion of the course the students shall

Knowledge and understanding

- be able to give an in-depth account of issues, theories and research applied to Belarus and Ukraine from a humanist and social science perspective,
- be able to discuss the relevance of the postsocialist and postcolonial perspectives in the analysis of Belarus and Ukraine,
- be able to perceive processes in Belarus and Ukraine in broader socio-political contexts and draw parallels with other countries in Eastern Europe,

Competence and skills

- be able to interpret and critically review scholarly work on Belarus and Ukraine,
- be able to identify and explain tensions between aspirations to join the European Union and associate with Russia,
- be able to independently carry out information searches on the subject and, using relevant sources, be able to present, in a professional manner and within specified time limits, his or her knowledge and research findings, orally and in writing, to different kinds of audiences, such as colleagues, conference participants, potential employers etc.,

Judgement and approach

- be able to approach the course material critically and identify his or her need for further learning,
- be able to critically apply different approaches, theories, and constructs of and about Belarusian and Ukrainian societies, cultures etc. to specific cases in the course literature or the mass media,

Course content

The course critically reflects on theoretical approaches and concepts applied in studies of Belarus and Ukraine, such as postsocialism, postcolonial space, democratisation, and neoliberal transformations. It looks at how events and processes in Belarus and Ukraine are shaped by tensions between "the West" and "the East", while also focusing on the local, regional and national subjectivities. It also relates Belarus and Ukraine to transnational challenges and themes such as migration, authoritarianism, and memory politics. Furthermore, the course deals with specific social and political themes characterising contemporary Belarus and Ukraine. On the one hand, it focuses on socio-cultural processes and phenomena such as nation-building, the development of civil society, social stratification and inequality, and the issue of minorities. On the other hand, it inquires into political developments in Belarus and Ukraine such as the politics of security, protests and revolutions.

The course contains the following three modules:

1. Introduction: Background and Concepts, 3 HP
2. States, Nations and Political Transformations in Belarus and Ukraine, 6 HP
3. Society and Culture in Belarus and Ukraine, 6 HP

Course design

The course consists of lectures and compulsory seminars.

Assessment

Examinations take the form of one take-home exam.(Module 1) and eight compulsory seminars (Modules 2 and 3).

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

Marking scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have 90 credits in Humanities or Social Sciences subjects.

Further information

The course is offered at the Centre for Languages and Literature, Lund University.