



LUND
UNIVERSITY

Faculties of Humanities and Theology

EUHR07, European Studies: Russia and Eastern Europe - the Present and the Past, 15 credits

Europastudier: Ryssland och Östeuropa - nutid och dåtid, 15 högskolepoäng

Second Cycle / Avancerad nivå

Details of approval

The syllabus was approved by the programmes director by delegation from the pro-dean for first- and second-cycle studies on 2013-10-03 to be valid from 2013-10-03, spring semester 2014.

General Information

The course is part of the Master of Arts programme in European Studies. It can also be offered as a freestanding course. The course can normally be included as part of a first or second cycle degree.

Language of instruction: English

Main field of studies

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 student shall

Knowledge and understanding

- be able to account in depth for issues, theories and research concerning Russia and Eastern Europe from a humanities perspective
- be able to account for the historical development of Russia and Eastern Europe with a focus on the 20th century, and for the cultural traits and normative positions usually associated with this region
- be able to explain the meaning of key concepts such as identity, history, historical awareness and historical culture and how identity and historical culture are construed and manifested in present-day Russia and Eastern Europe

This is a translation of the course syllabus approved in Swedish

- be able to analyse the processes that have shaped Russian, Ukrainian and Belarusian identity and relate these national processes to regional processes and the process shaping European identity.

Competence and skills

- be able to summarise, interpret and critically review published research on Eastern European cultures, values and identities
- be able to place the development in Russia and Eastern Europe within the context of post-World War II global development and post-Cold War European development and the fall of Communism
- be able to communicate his or her knowledge and research findings in speech and writing to different audiences such as colleagues, conference participants and potential employers, within predetermined time frames
- be able to critically apply different definitions of Eastern European cultures, values and identities to concrete cases in the required reading and the media.

Judgement and approach

- be able to judge and assess the differences between the parliamentary and democratic development represented by the EU and its member states and the lingering authoritarian tendencies of Russia and Eastern Europe
- be able to reflect in speech and writing on the links between historiography, different uses of history and the establishment of democratic values in modern society.

Course content

The course focuses on the historical processes and their role in shaping identities in Russia and three neighbouring Eastern European countries (Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova) that prior to 1991 were included in the Soviet Union. Important identity-shaping events both before and after 1917 (such as the Russian Revolution, the famine and terror of the 1930s, World War II, the Cold War, the fall of Communism in 1989 and the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991) are discussed and analysed both within their historical context and from the new post-Soviet and post-Communist perspective. The key questions of the course are: What is the difference between the historical development of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova on the one hand and the rest of Europe on the other? What history – new or old – is worth retaining and what is to be ignored and forgotten? How are the most important events interpreted and how are they incorporated in historical narratives, the purpose of which is to assign different meanings to the historical development and to create different collective (national, religious, political, cultural and other) identities? Who are the main agents in these processes? How is the development in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova post-1991 related to the Europeanisation process, i.e. the ambition to create a common European identity?

Course design

The course consists of lectures and two compulsory seminars.

Assessment

The assessment is based on oral presentations at the compulsory seminars and a take-home exam.

Subcourses that are part of this course can be found in an appendix at the end of this document.

Grades

Marking scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction.

Entry requirements

To be admitted to the course, students must have passed 90 credits, of which at least 60 credits in European Studies, Central and Eastern European Studies, Russian specialising in literature and area studies, or the equivalent, and English B from Swedish upper secondary school.

Further information

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

Subcourses in EUHR07, European Studies: Russia and Eastern Europe -
the Present and the Past

Applies from H13

1301 European Studies: Russia And Eastern Europe, 15,0 hp
Grading scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with distinction