MODULE DESCRIPTION

Module title	Code
Contemporary Politics of Central Eurasian Countries and Regions	

Teacher(s)	Unit
Co-ordinating: Dr. Konstantinas Andrijauskas **Other(s):**	Institute of International Relations and Political Science

Cycle of studies	Level of module	Type of module
2nd cycle	1/1	Elective

Mode of implementation	Period of instruction	Language(s) of instruction
Lecture, Seminars	1 semester	English

Requirements for students	
Prerequisites: none	**Additional requirements (if any):** none

Module volume in credits	Total student workload	Contact hours	Independent study hours
5	133	34	99

Aim of module: competences developed by the study programme		
The purpose of the course is to study contemporary domestic and foreign policies of the principal state and non-state actors in Central Eurasia, loosely defined as the territorial sum-total of Russia and post-Soviet Central Asia (the "five -stans") along with several neighbouring, culturally, historically and strategically intimately related geographic regions: China's (northern and western) autonomous regions, Afghanistan and South Caucasus. The seminar-based course is divided into three principal parts, where the first (I) analyses Russia's ethnic, ideational, geographic and political features that allow to call it a "model Eurasian state"; the second (II) deals with the main other states (and regions within some states) that are located within the Central Eurasian landmass, and finally the third (III) covers five crucial security-related case-studies that have largely brought this region back into the global political agenda and discourse.		
Learning outcomes of the module	**Study methods**	**Assessment methods**
- Would demonstrate knowledge about the principal features of Russia's non-Slavic demographic and non-European territorial complexity, its impact on the whole country's domestic and foreign policies, especially towards its southern and eastern neighbours. - Would be capable to delineate the most important differences among Central Asian states, and understand the underlying complexity of heterogeneous Chinese, Afghanistani and South Caucasian societies and polities with particular focus on their larger geo-strategic implications. - Would gain thorough knowledge about the principal present-day security issues and challenges east of our country and region.	Lecturing and demonstration (multimedia), active study methods (group discussions, simulations), research methods (search for information, preparation of presentations).	Exam (in-class, closed-book, open-question)
- Would become capable to employ knowledge for explanation of foreign and domestic policies and strategic differences among the primary countries of the Central Eurasian landmass. - Would be able to evaluate their success in becoming active foreign and security policy subjects instead of passive objects both within their regions and on the global scale.	Research methods (search for information, literature analysis, preparation of essay and presentation).	Essay

- Would be able to gather and systematically prepare information through individual and collective efforts: find, evaluate and present data about the selected domestic, foreign policy and strategic phenomenon related to the course.	Research methods (search for information, literature analysis, preparation of essay and presentation).	Group presentation

Topics	**Contact hours**							**Independent study time and assignments**	
	Lectures	Consultations	Seminars	Exercises	Laboratory work	Practice	Total contact hours	Independent work	**Assignments**
Introduction: Defining Central Eurasia	2						2		
1. Russia's Eurasian Identity: Eurasianist Thought			2				2	4	Laruelle 2010, introduction
2. Russia's Eurasian Spaces I: Volga Region			2				2	4	Simons & Wester-lund (eds.), ch. 5
3. Russia's Eurasian Spaces II: Siberia & the Russian Far East			2				2	4	Crump 2007, ch. 13
4. Russia's Eurasian Spaces III: Northern Caucasus			2				2	4	Mahapatra 2013 (ed.), ch. 3 & 6
5. Russia's Eurasian Foreign Policies: Main Interests & Multilateral Integration Projects			2				2	4	Cooley 2014, ch. 4
6. China's Eurasian Identity and Spaces: Non-Han Autonomous Regions			2				2	4	Mahapatra 2013 (ed.), ch. 10
7. China's Eurasian Foreign Policies: Main Interests & Multilateral Integration Projects			2				2	4	Cooley 2014, ch. 5
8. Kazakhstan's Eurasian Identity and Foreign Policies: Multi-Vectoral Soft Authoritarianism			2				2	4	Omelicheva 2014 (ed.), ch. 1
9. Uzbekistan's Eurasian Identity and Foreign Policies: Multi-Vectoral Hard Authoritarianism			2				2	4	Omelicheva 2014 (ed.), ch. 7
10. Comparative Analysis of Central Asian Minors: Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan & Turkmenistan			2				2	4	Cooley 2014, ch. 2; Andrijauskas 2016
11. Central Eurasian Security Issues I: Energy Security and the "New Great Game"			2				2	4	Cooley 2014, ch. 1 & 10
12. Central Eurasian Security Issues II: Ferghana Valley and the Challenge of Islamic Radicalism			2				2	4	Khalid 2007, introduction & ch. 1
13. Central Eurasian Security Issues III: The Multi-Dimensional Challenge of Afghanistan			2				2	4	Mahapatra 2013 (ed.), ch. 9
14. Central Eurasian Security Issues IV: "Frozen Conlicts" in the South Caucasus			2				2	4	Coene 2010, ch. 5
15. Central Eurasian Security Issues V: The Eurasian Side of the Conflict in Ukraine			2				2	4	Andrijauskas 2015
Preparation of presentations, essays and exam								41	
Total	**2**		**30**				**32**	**101**	

Assessment strategy	**Weig ht, %**	**Assessment time**	**Assessment criteria**
- Presentation	20	During semester	1. Content: - answer to the question; - consistency of the argument / structure of presentation; - quality of literature / sources/ data; - depth of analysis. 2. Delivery: - clear and comprehensible production of information; - tempo of presentation;

			- length of presentation; - ability to use notes; - visual data.
- Essay	30	During semester	- answer to the question; - consistency of the argument / structure of assignment; - quality of literature / sources/ data - depth of analysis; - style of writing.
- Exam	50	During examination period	- answer to the question; - consistency of the argument; - demonstration of literature knowledge / quality of data; - depth of analysis; - style of writing.

Author	**Year of publication**	**Title**	**Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication**	**Publishing place and house or a web link**
Compulsory reading list				
Andrijauskas, Konstantinas	2016	Introduction to Central Asian Politics		Vilnius: Vilnius University
Andrijauskas, Konstantinas	2015	The Concept of Power in International Relations: Lessons from the Ukrainian Crisis		Official Proceedings of the Asian Conference on the Social Sciences 2015, Kobe, Japan. Nagoya, IAFOR 2015
Coene, Frederic	2010	The Caucasus: An Introduction		Abingdon & New York: Routledge
Cooley, Alexander	2014	Great Games, Local Rules: The New Great Power Contest in Central Asia		Oxford & New York: Oxford University Press
Crump, Thomas	2007	Asia-Pacific: A History of Empire and Conflict		London & New York: Humbledom Continuum
Khalid, Adeeb	2007	Islam after Communism: Religion and Politics in Central Asia		Berkeley, Los Angeles & London: University of California Press
Laruelle, Marlène	2008	Russian Eurasianism: An Ideology of Empire		Baltimore: The Johns Hopkings University Press
Mahapatra, Debidatta Aurobinda (ed.)	2013	Conflict and Peace in Eurasia		Abingdon & New York: Routledge
Omelicheva, Mariya Y. (ed.)	2015	Nationalism and Identity Construction in Central Asia: Dimensions, Dynamics, and Directions		Lanham & London: Lexington Books
Simons, Greg and David Westerlund (eds.)	2015	Religion, Politics, and Nation-Building in Post-Communist Countries		Farnham & Burlington: Ashgate
Additional reading list				
Abazov, Rafis	2008	The Palgrave Concise Historical Atlas of Central Asia		New York & Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan
Bellacqua, James A. (ed.)	2010	The Future of China-Russia Relations		Lexington: The University Press of Kentucky
Cummings, Sally N.	2012	Understanding Central Asia: Politics and Contested Transformations		London & New York: Routledge
Dash, P. L., Anita Sengupta and Murat M. Bakhadirov (eds.)	2014	Central Asia and Regional Security		New Delhi: KW Publishers
Friere, Maria Raquel and Roger E. Kanet (eds.)	2010	Key Players and Regional Dynamics in Eurasia: The		Hampshire & New York: Palgrave Macmillan

		Return of the 'Great Game'		
Hiro, Dilip	2011	Inside Central Asia: A Political and Cultural History of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Iran		New York & London: Overlook Duckworth
Kavalski, Emilian (ed.)	2010	The New Central Asia: The Regional Impact of International Actors		Singapore: World Scientific
Peimani, Hooman	2009	Conflict and Security in Central Asia and the Caucasus		Santa Barbara, Denver & Oxford: ABC-CLIO
Shambaugh, David and Michael Yahuda (eds.)	2014	International Relations of Asia	2nd edition	Lanham & Plymouth: Rowman & Littlefield
Wooden, Amanda E. ir Christoph H. Stefes (sud.)	2009	The Politics of Transition in Central Asia and the Caucasus: Enduring Legacies and Emerging Challenges		London & New York: Routledge