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| **Title** | | **Year** | Semester |
| ‘‘International Relations of Russia’’ | | 2nd | 4th |
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| **Compulsory/Elective module** | Elective module | | |
| **Instructor(s)** | Revecca Pedi, Associate Professor  Konstantinos Zarras, Assistant Professor | | |
| **Language** | English | | |
| **Assessment** | Continuous assessment-  2 short papers (1.000 words) and one essay (5.000 words) | | |
| **1st week** | **Introduction to Russia's International Relations: From USSR to Russia**  Historical Context and Russia’s Initial Key Challenges and Foreign Policy in the 1990s  -Forsberg, Tuomas. "Power, interests and trust: explaining Gorbachev’s choices at the end of the Cold War." Review of International Studies 25.4 (1999): 603-621.  -Wohlforth, W. C. (2001). The Russian-Soviet empire: a test of neorealism. *Review of International Studies*, *27*(5), 213-235. | | |
| **2nd week** | **Russia and Key Global Actors: Russia’s relations with the US, the EU and China**  We will explore Russia's relations with key global actors, including the United States, the European Union, and China. The lecture provides insights into the multifaceted dimensions of these relationships, encompassing political, economic, and strategic aspects. It examines the ways in which Russia navigates its interactions with these major players, highlighting both areas of cooperation and contention.  -Korolev, A., & Portyakov, V. (2021). China–Russia relations in times of crisis: A neoclassical realist explanation. In Russia in the Indo-Pacific (pp. 15-34). Routledge  -Light, M. (2008). Russia and the EU: Strategic partners or strategic rivals. Journal of Common Market Studies, 46, 7.  -Meister, S. (2022). A paradigm shift: EU-Russia relations after the war in Ukraine. Carnegie Europe  -Wishnick, E. (2017). In search of the ‘Other’in Asia: Russia–China relations revisited. The Pacific Review, 30(1), 114-132.  -Wohlforth, W. C., & Zubok, V. M. (2017). An abiding antagonism: realism, idealism and the mirage of western–Russian partnership after the Cold War. International Politics, 54, 405-419. | | |
| **3rd week** | **Russia's Soft Power - the concept of the "Russian World" (Russkiy Mir)**  Russia's use of cultural, educational, and media tools to promote its image globally. Examination of How the “Russian World” concept Influences Russia's foreign policy, especially in Former Soviet States  -Feklyunina, V. (2016) “Soft power and identity: Russia, Ukraine and the ‘Russian world(s)’”, *European Journal of International Relations.* Vol. 22(4), pp. 773–796. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1177/1354066115601200.  -Rotaru, V. (2018) “Forced attraction? How Russia is instrumentalizing its soft power sources in the ‘near abroad’”, Problems of Post-Communism. Vol. 65(1), pp. 37–48. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1080/10758216.2016.127  6400. | | |
| **4th week** | **Disinformation and Information Warfare**  Russia's use of disinformation as a tool in international relations. Case studies, including interference in Western elections and propaganda efforts  -Kastner, J., & Wohlforth, W. C. (2021). A Measure Short of War: The Return of Great-Power Subversion. *Foreign Aff.*, *100*, 118.  -Geissler, D., Bär, D., Pröllochs, N., & Feuerriegel, S. (2023). Russian propaganda on social media during the 2022 invasion of Ukraine. *EPJ Data Science*, *12*(1), 35.  -Yevgeniy Golovchenko, Mareike Hartmann, Rebecca Adler-Nissen, State, media and civil society in the information warfare over Ukraine: citizen curators of digital disinformation, *International Affairs*, Volume 94, Issue 5, September 2018, Pages 975–994, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ia/iiy148> | | |
| **5th week** | **Russia and Ukraine**  Historical background and current status of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. Analysis of Russia's strategy and Ukraine's response  -Pedi, R. (2020) *Small states in Europe as a buffer between East and West* in Baldacchino, G. and Wivel, A. (eds.) *Handbook on the politics of small states*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781788112932.00018>.  -Sushentsov, A. A., & Wohlforth, W. C. (2020). The tragedy of US–Russian relations: NATO centrality and the revisionists’ spiral. *International Politics*, *57*, 427-450. | | |
| **6th week** | **Russia and Eastern Europe**  Invited lecture: An exploration of Russia's relationships with Eastern European countries in the post-Cold War era. Analysis of the historical, geopolitical, and cultural factors that influence these relations. Discussion of regional dynamics, security concerns, and the role of Western powers in the region | | |
| **7th week** | **Russia and the MENA – The War in Syria and Moscow’s comeback to the Middle East**  Historical background of Russia’s Middle Eastern policies from the Soviet era to the 21st century. The Russian intervention in Syria as a milestone in Moscow’s dynamic comeback in Middle Eastern international relations.  -Kozhanov, N. (ed.), (2022) Russian Foreign Policy Towards the Middle East: New Trends, Old Traditions, Oxford University Press.  -Wehrey F, Weiss, A. (2021), Reassessing Russian Capabilities in the Levant and North Africa, *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*.  -Phillips, C. (2022). The international system and the Syrian civil war. *International Relations*, 36(3), 358-381. | | |
| **8th week** | **Russia in the MENA – Moscow’s involvement in the Libyan civil war**  Russia’s relations with state and non-state actors throughout the MENA. Moscow’s involvement in the Libyan war. Interests, prospects and challenges.  - Wherey, F., (2018) The Burning Shores: Inside the Battle for the New Libya, Farrar, Straus & Giroux.  -Ishetiar S., (2019) “Echoes of Abstention: Russian Policy in Libya and Implications for Regional Stability,” *Journal of Public and International Affairs*. | | |
| **9th week** | **Russia in Africa – Reliable partner or disruptor of the regional order?**  Russia’s web of relations with governments and non-state actors in the Sahel and Sub-Saharan Africa.  -Duursma A.& Masuhr N. (2022) Russia’s return to Africa in a historical and global context: Anti-imperialism, patronage, and opportunism, *South African Journal of International Affairs*, 29:4  -Stronski P., (2023) Russia’s Growing Footprint in Africa’s Sahel Region, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace | | |
| **10th week** | **Russia as a Global Energy Power**  An overview of Russia’s energy map: resources, energy networks and market position. Hydrocarbons and nuclear energy. The transforming energy relationship with Europe and developments on energy connectivity with the East. Prospects and challenges.  Godzimirski, J. M. (2022). Energy, climate change and security: The Russian strategic conundrum. Journal of Eurasian Studies, 13(1), 16-31 | | |
| **11th week** | **Russia and the “Rest” (Brazil, South Africa, Turkey, Iran)**  Russia’s bilateral relations with key regional powers. Moscow’s position and policies within the narrative of the “West vs the Rest”.  -Balci B., Monceau N. (eds) (2021) Turkey, Russia and Iran in the Middle East Establishing a New Regional Order, Springer.  -Cheterian V. (2023) Friend and Foe: Russia–Turkey relations before and after the war in Ukraine, Small Wars & Insurgencies, 34:7, 1271-1294  -Duggan, N., Hooijmaaijers, B., Rewizorski, M., & Arapova, E. (2022). ‘The BRICS, Global Governance, and Challenges for South–South Cooperation in a Post-Western World’. *International Political Science Review*, 43(4), 469-480. | | |
| **12th week** | Presentations | | |
| **13th week** | Presentations, Summing Up, Conclusions and Reflections. | | |