

**Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies
School of International Studies, JNU**

Course:	M.A. (IRAS) COURSE
Course Title:	Society and Politics in Eurasia
Course Type:	Optional
Course Teacher:	Prof Sanjay Kumar Pandey, Prof Phool Badan, Dr Usha K.B. and Dr. Amitabh Singh
Credits:	Four
Course Duration:	One semester (winter)
Contact Hour:	Four hours per week
Course Credit	IA508

Course Objectives

The course examines the Social and Political Development of the fifteen post-Soviet states since 1991, which can be divided into four regions/groups i.e. (a) Russia, Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus, (b) Central Asia (c) Trans Caucasus and (d) Baltic States. Their development has followed different transition paths: from a considerably successful adoption of the institutions and processes of democracy to various forms of semi-authoritarian political systems. Some of these states, e.g.the Baltic States, have followed a western orientation and “return to Europe” approach in their transition to liberal democracy and market economy. They have joined NATO and the EU and adopted de-Sovietization to ensure national security, development and consolidation of democracy. Some others, e.g. Ukraine, Georgia etc. wish to adopt similar path, while others have either joined Russian-sponsored regional groupings (CSTO and Eurasian Economic Union). There are some which have adopted neutrality/non-alignment (Turkmenistan,

Azerbaijan) or wish to follow an autonomous approach for ensuring security and defending national interests. Regional and local politics have become a prominent focus of politics throughout the former Soviet Union, as have the dynamics of ethnic and group identities. There have been other events such as the so-called ‘colour revolutions’ which demonstrate that politics in this region continues to be unpredictable. The course will adopt a comparative approach, aiming to explore political and social patterns of development in the post-Soviet states, including the Russian Federation. The focus of the course will be on both grouping topics as well as countries region wise.

Learning outcomes:

- To help students acquire knowledge of key historical events, and the social, political, and economic transformation in the Eurasian region.
- To equip them with relevant methodologies, as well as comparative and interdisciplinary approaches to better understand the developments in the region.
- To inculcate basic competencies required for understanding the area studies.

Evaluation Method:

Term Paper/Seminar Presentation (10 percent), Mid-Semester Exam (20 percent), Class Participation (10 percent), and End Semester Exam (60 percent).

Course Content: Topics

- History, Memory, and Identity Politics;
- Socio-economic and Political Transition/ Transformation;
- Types of Political Systems; and Political Culture
- Civil Society And Social Development; Transnational Networks
- Nationalism, Ethnicity, and Minorities

- Ethnic conflicts and Colour Revolutions;
- Political Parties, Electoral Politics, and Women's Representation
- Pandemic, Changing Role of State and Public Health Security

Essential Readings:

- Annuk, Eve (2019), "Feminism in the Post-Soviet Space: The Geopolitics of Estonian Feminism", *Gender, Place & Culture*, 26(3): 405-426, DOI: 10.1080/0966369X.2018.1552925.
- Bacon, Elizabeth E. (1966), *Central Asia under Russian Rule*, New York: Ithaca.
- Badan, Phool (2001), *Dynamics of Political Development in Central Asia*, Delhi: Lancer's Books.
- Becker, Seymour (2004), *Russia's protectorates in Central Asia: 1865-1924*, London and New York: Routledge.
- Bolukbasi, Suha (2011), *Azerbaijan: A Political History*, London: I. B. Tauris and Company.
- Broers, Lawrence (2019), *Armenia and Azerbaijan: Anatomy of a Rivalry*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press Ltd.
- Davoliūtė, Violeta and Tomas Balkelis (2018), *Narratives of Exile and Identity Soviet Deportation Memoirs from the Baltic States*, Budapest: Central European University Press.
- Duvold, Kjetil, Sten Berglund, and Joakim Ekman (2020), *Political Culture in the Baltic States: Between National and European Integration*, Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Gorbachev, Mikhail (2015), *The New Russia*, Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Hunter, Shireen T. (2017), *The New Geopolitics of South Caucasus: Prospects for Regional Cooperation and Conflict Resolution*, New York: Lexington Books.
- Hutcheson, Derek S. (2018), *Parliamentary Elections in Russia: A Quarter-Century of Multiparty Politics*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Jones, Stephen (2013), *Georgia: A Political History since Independence*, I. B. Tauris and Co.
- Jurkynas, Mindaugas (2021), "Change in a time of pandemic: the 2020 parliamentary elections in Lithuania," *Journal of Baltic Studies*, 52(2): 269-278, DOI: 10.1080/01629778.2021.1901754.
- Kaushik, Devendra (1970), *Central Asia in Modern Times*, Moscow: Progress Publication.

- Khalid, Adeb (2011), *Central Asia: A New History from Imperial Conquest to the Present*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Mälksoo, Maria (2018), “A Baltic Struggle for a “European Memory”: The Militant Mnemo-politics of the Soviet Story”, *Journal of Genocide Research*, 20(4): 530-544. URL:<https://doi.org/10.1080/14623528.2018.1522828>.
- Remington, Thomas (2017), *Politics in Russia*, Oxon and New York: Routledge.
- Sakwa, Richard (2021), *Russian Politics and Society*, London and New York: Routledge.
- Sraders, Sandis (2021), *Small Baltic States and the Euro-Atlantic Security Community*, Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Usha, K. B. (2018), *Nation Building in Baltic States: History, Memory and Identity*, New Delhi: Adroit Publishers.
- Waal, Thomas De. (2018), *The Caucasus: An Introduction*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.
- Waal, Thomas De. (2012), “A Broken Region: The Persistent Failure of Integration Projects in the South Caucasus”, *Europe-Asia Studies*, 64 (9):1709-1723.
- White, Stephen (2012), *Understanding Russian Politics*, New York: Cambridge University Press.

Suggested Readings:

- Badan, Phool (2001), “Emerging Political System in Central Asia in the Post- Soviet Period”, *India Quarterly*, 57(3): 97-118.
- Badan, Phool (2012), “Political and Economic Reforms in Uzbekistan”, *Security and Society*, 7(1-2): 18-33.
- Badan, Phool (2016), “Evolution of Political Parties in Central Asian States”, in Sanjay Deshpandey (ed.) *Dynamics of Central Asia: Issues and Challenges*, New Delhi: G.B. Books Publishers.
- Barnes, Andrew (2014), “Three in One: Unpacking the “Collapse” of the Soviet Union”, *Problems of Post-Communism*, 61(5): 3-13.
- Biryukov, Nikolai, and Victor Sergeev (2018), *Russian Politics in Transition: Institutional Conflict in a Nascent Democracy*, London: Routledge.
- Bober, Serguusz (2020), “Introduction: Ethnic Issues in Central Asia”, *Journal of Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe*, 19(1): 1-5.
- Carr. E.H. (1992), *The Bolshevik Revolution*, Vol. 1 and 2, London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- d’Encausse, Helene Carrere (1980), “Soviet Nationality Policy in Central Asia”, *Journal of Area Studies*, 1 (1): 36-40.

- Dom, Ozge Oz (2017), “Soviet Nationalities Policy: The Impact on Central Asia”, *Journal of Social Science*, 10 (2): 195-216.
- Freni, Salvatore J. (2013), “The Soviet Nationality Policy in Central Asia”, *Inquiries Journal*, 5 (3): 1-3.
- Frye, Timothy (2021), “The Surprising Importance of Russia’s Manipulated Elections”, in *Weak Strongman: The Limits of Power in Putin’s Russia*, Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Giffen Janice and Lucy Earle with Charles Buxton (2005), *The Development of Civil Society in Central Asia*, The International Training and Research Centre (INTRAC), URL:<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/57a08c3de5274a27b200108f/R7649-report.pdf>.
- Gorbachev, Mikhail (1987), *Perestroika: New Thinking for Our Country and the World*, New York: Harper Collins.
- Greene, Samuel A., and Graeme B. Robertson (2019), *Putin v. the People: The Perilous Politics of a Divided Russia*, New Haven and London: Yale University Press.
- Hutcheson, Derek S., and Ian McAllister (2021), “Consolidating the Putin Regime: The 2020 Referendum on Russia’s Constitutional Amendments”, *Russian Politics*, 6 (3): 355-376.
- Karklins, Rasma (2021), Integration in Latvia: A Success Story?, *Journal of Baltic Studies*, 52 (3): 455-470.
- Kaskla, Edgar (2003), “The national woman: Constructing gender roles in Estonia,” *Journal of Baltic Studies*, 34(3): 298-312, DOI: 10.1080/01629770300000101.
- Klumbytė, Neringa and Kristina Šliavaitė (2021) “Sovereignty and Political Belonging in Post-Soviet Lithuania: Ethnicity, Migration, and Historical Justice”, *Journal of Baltic Studies*, 52 (3): 437-454.
- Koresaar, Ene and Kirsti Joesalu (2020), “From Museum as Memorial to Memory Museum: On the Transformation of Estonian Museum of Occupations”, in Stephen M.Norris, (ed.) *Museums of Communism: New Memory Sites in Central and Eastern Europe*, Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
- Jakštas, Tadas (2022), “The Klaipėda LNG Terminal and Its Impact on the Baltic States’ Gas Market”, in Kari Liuhto (ed.) *The Future of Energy Consumption, Security and Natural Gas: LNG in the Baltic Sea Region*, Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Jalalzai, Musa Khan (2021), *Security Challenges in the Baltic States, Ukraine and Belarus: Nord Stream-2 Pipeline and Russia*, New Delhi: Vij Books.
- Lemon, Edward and Antonov, Oleg (2020), “Responses to Covid-19 and the Strengthening of Authoritarian Governance in Central Asia”, *Central Asia Program*, 236, URL:<https://www.centralasiaprogram.org/responses-covid-19-strengthening-authoritarian-governance-central-asia>.

- Lewis, David (2020), “Democracy and the People”, in *Russia’s New Authoritarianism: Putin and the Politics of Order*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- Maarja Saar & Kadri Aavik (2022), “Negotiating Neo-liberalism in the Private Sphere: Narratives of Estonian Single Mothers”, *Journal of Baltic Studies*, 53(1):1-18, DOI:10.1080/01629778.2021.1980071.
- OECD (2020), COVID-19 crisis response in Central Asia, URL: <https://www.oecd.org/eurasia/competitiveness-programme/central-asia/COVID-19-crisis-response-in-Central-Asia-English-June.pdf>.
- Omelicheva, Mariya Y. and Lawrence P. Markowitz (2021), “COVID-19 in Central Asia: (De-) Securitization of a Health Crisis?”, *Problems of Post-Communism*, 69(1): 92-102, URL:<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10758216.2021.2009349?journalCode=mppc20>.
- Pierce, Richard A. (1960), *Russian Central Asia 1867-1917*, Berkeley & Los Angeles: University of California Press.
- Ruffin, M. Holt and Daniel Waugh (1999), *Civil Society in Central Asia*, United States of America: University of Washington Press.
- Rutland, Peter (2021), “Introduction: Nation-building in the Baltic States: Thirty Years of Independence”, *Journal of Baltic Studies*, 52(3): 419-424.
- Rywkin, Michael (1987), *Russian Colonial Expansion to 1917*, London and New York: Mansell Publishing Ltd.
- Sakwa, Richard, Henry E. Hale, and Stephen White (2018), *Developments in Russian Politics*, London: Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Shiraev, Eric (2020), *Russian Government and Politics*, United Kingdom: Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Sperling, Valerie (2018), *Building the Russian state: Institutional Crisis and the Quest for Democratic Governance*, Routledge.
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- Walker, Shaun (2018), *The Long Hangover: Putin’s New Russia and the Ghosts of the Past*, United States of America: Oxford University Press.

- Wheeler, Geoffery (1964), *The Modern History of Soviet Central Asia*, London: Weildenfelada and Nicolson.