

Seminar Course

Title: Eurasia and the World

Program: MA PISM

Course Instructor: Dr Preeti D Das, CR&CAS/ SIS

Instruction Method: Lectures, Seminars, and Interactive sessions

Evaluation Method: Term Paper, Presentations, and sessional

Duration: One Semester (Monsoon)

Contact Hour: 3 per week

Credit: 4 (Four)

Course Description:

Course code: IS460

This seminar course aims to introduce the concept of Area Studies and its significance in the modern globalized world. The prime focus would be Eurasia and critical thinking on various issues of contemporary Eurasia. The course attempts to introduce students to understand the cultural traits of Eurasia, ideological inclination, and creating awareness about domestic issues which would help the students to understand the relevance of Eurasia and its engagements in world affairs.

Course Objective:

A. Research Oriented

1. to develop skills and understanding of Eurasia,
2. better understand and evaluate Eurasian culture, trends, and ideology,
3. identify strengths and weaknesses to have better outcomes at the policy level

B. Cultural Engagements

1. Developing Experience and understanding of the impact of cultural values in relation to the 'Other'
2. Engage in constructive discussion on the Eurasian Integration process

COURSE CONTENT:

Unit One: Conceptual Understanding of Eurasia and Eurasianism

During the first week, the discussion would be around the concept of Eurasia and the emergence of Eurasianism. It will provide a broad understanding of the civilisational aspects of the emergence of the concept as a historical-geographical entity. The unit primarily explores the

intersection of geography, societies, and culture This involves the discussion on classical Eurasian concepts and the evolution of Neo-Eurasianism.

Unit Two: Eurasia in the Globalized World

The focus of the unit would be on theoretical understanding of Eurasia – theories of classical and critical geopolitics. Detailed discussion on the contribution of geographical landscape i.e. topography, climate and environment to the Eurasian concept and key strategic choices. The discussion touches upon questions of whether Russia and the West are engaged in a zero-sum competition in Eurasia.

Unit Three: Socio-Cultural Aspects of Eurasia during the Post-Soviet Period

The unit focuses on the relationship between Russia and key players in the Eurasian region. This unit introduces the theories of classical and Neo-Eurasianist' including an introduction to the origin of Eurasia as a geographic and cultural space, where religion prominently figures in identity dynamics.

Unit Four: Ethno-National Issues – Economy and Societies of Eurasia

The Unit will touch upon the ethnic challenges, discussion on Nation Building travails, National and ethnic identity. The presentations will have detailed discussion on the Eurasian Integration discourses focusing on Eurasian ideology and cultural integration.

Readings:

Anceschi Luca (2020) *Analysing Kazakhstan's Foreign Policy: Regime neo-Eurasianism in the Nazarbaev era*, Routledge, London, pages – 209.

Bassin Mark, Suslov Mikhail (2016) (eds.) *Eurasia 2.0: Russian Geopolitics in the Age of New Media*, Lexington Books, London, pages - 273

Burchill, Richard and Ruta Karpauskaite (2018) "Regional Arrangements and Eurasian Security". In Piotr Dutkiewicz, Richard Sakwa, Fyodor Lukyanov, Richard Burchill and Timofei Bordachev

(eds.), *Eurasia on The Edge, Managing Complexity*. London: Lexington Books, pp. 21-34

Dugin, Alexander (2000) "From Sacred Geography to Geopolitics" *The Fourth Political Theory, under Geopolitics as "Intermediate" Science* available at <http://www.4pt.su/en/content/sacred-geography-geopolitics>

Dugin, Alexander (2014) *Eurasian Mission: An Introduction to Neo-Eurasianism*, Moscow: Arktos, pages – 139.

Duncun, Peter J.S. (2015) "Ideology and Interests in Putin's Construction of Eurasia". In David

Lane and Vsevolod Samokhvalov (eds.) *The Eurasian Project and Europe. Regional Discontinuities and Geopolitics*, Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 102-116

Ersen Emre (2013) *The Evolution of 'Eurasia' as a Geopolitical Concept in Post-Cold War Turkey*, *Journal Geopolitics*, Routledge homepage: <https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/fgeo20>

Geukjian, Ohannes (2016) *Ethnicity, Nationalism and Conflict in the South Caucasus, Nagorno-Karabakh and the Legacy of Soviet Nationalities Policy*, New York: Routledge

Gleason, Abbott (2010) "Eurasia: What is it? Is it?" *Journal of Eurasian Studies*, vol1, no 1, January, pp. 26-32

Gotz, Elias (ed.) (2019) *Russia, the West, and the Ukraine Crisis*, London: Routledge, pp 1-18

Ismailov Eldar & Papava Vladimer (2010) *Rethinking Central Eurasia*, Central Asia-Caucasus Institute & Silk Road Studies Program – A Joint Transatlantic Research and Policy Center, pages – 120.

Karaganov, Sergei (2016) "From East to West, or Greater Eurasia", *Russia in Global Affairs*,

Melvin, Neil (2021) "Russia and the Indo-Pacific Security Concept", RUSI, London at https://static.rusi.org/277_russia_ip.pdf

Mikhaylenko, Ekaterina (2019) "Eurasian Regionalism: Specifics, Problems and Prospects". In Maria Lagutina (ed) *Regional Integration and Future Cooperation Initiatives in the Eurasian Economic Union*, USA: IGI Global, pp 16-36

October 25, at <https://eng.globalaffairs.ru/pubcol/From-East-to-West-or-Greater-Eurasia-18440>

Polese Abel, Seliverstova Oleksandra, Pawlusz Emilia & Morris Jeremy, (2020) *Informal Nationalism After Communism: The Everyday Construction of Post-Socialist Identities*, Tauris I B, London, New York

The Eurasian Economic Union: Power, Politics and Trade (2016), Europe and Central Asia Report No 240, July at <https://css.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/specail-iinterst/gess>

Laruelle, Marlene (2008) *Russian Eurasianism: An Ideology of Empire*, Woodrow Wilson Center Press, John Hopkins University Press

Laruelle, Marlene (2015) (ed.) *Eurasianism and the European Far Right: Reshaping the Europe – Russia Relationship*, Lexington Books, Lanham, New York, London, pages – 294.

Laruelle, Marlene(2018) (ed.) *China's Belt and Road Initiative and Its Impact In Central Asia*, Washington, D.C.: The George Washington University, Central Asia Program, 2018

Mackinder, Halford J. (2004) "The Geographical Pivot of History", reprinted in *Geographical Journal* 170, no.4, pp. 298-321.

Markey S. Daniel (2020) *China's Western Horizon: Beijing and the New Geopolitics of Eurasia*, Oxford University Press, pages 334.