

RUSSIA and UKRAINE. PAST and PRESENT

Semester, Academic Year (Spring 2017/2018)

Course leader:	Maksym Yemelianov
Number of hours per semester	8 timeslots – interactive teamwork
Venue:	Classroom on the 4 th floor

Learning outcomes, topic:

Why did Russia's president Putin stealthily invade Crimea and instigate war in eastern Ukraine in March of 2014? How did he narrate these actions in historical terms? What was the international reaction? This course examines the causes and consequences of the recent conflict in Ukraine through a historical lens. It will explore how the past is casting a shadow over the present. By looking at Russian and Ukrainian history, placing it in an international context, and exploring concepts such as state, empire, nation, and the role of mass media, it provides a larger framework for understanding what is happening today.

Students are required to attend all classes, including participate actively in discussion, and will be asked to write one essay on a topic from a list that will be provided by the instructor. We offer that course to everybody who would like to deepen the existing knowledge and would like to adapt it to concrete cases and to those who are not economists (or not yet) but are interested in this way of thinking.

Detailed class schedule:

Week	Topics to be discussed, readings required for the class
1.	The ideological underpinnings of the Communist regimes.
2.	Dissidents: courage and sacrifice. Hungary 1956, Czechoslovakia 1968, Poland 1980, China 1989.
3.	Conceptualizing transitions to democracy I
4.	Conceptualizing transitions to democracy II.
5.	1989 - violent and peaceful transitions.
6.	Ukraine and Russia 1991-2014
7.	Contemporary Ukraine: Revolution, Elections, War.
8.	The International Response, The way ahead: Prospects for Peace

Assessment, grading:

There is no exam in the exam period – students get their mark based on their work during the course. Grades are **earned** by the students based on their class attendance, class participation and their presentations.

Class attendance:

Class attendance is mandatory. **Participation in lectures** is an important part of the process and understanding of the subject, and tutors have the right to make a so-called 'positive attendance sheet'.