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| Title of the course | **Postcommunist Politics and Society** | | |
| Title of the Academic Programme | Comparative Politics of Eurasia (MiCPEA) | | |
| Type of the course | core | | |
| Prerequisites | none | | |
| ECTS workload | 6 | | |
| Total indicative study hours | Directed Study | Self-directed study | Total |
| 56 | 172 | 228 |
| Course Overview | The course intends to provide an introduction into comparative study of political transformations in Postcommunist societies. Its geographical focus is to be countries of the former Soviet Union and Soviet bloc in East/Central Europe. It develops conceptual understanding of how political institutions and social practices work to produce Postcommunist societal settings. Special attention will be given to comparative study of Russia's social and political development. | | |
| Intended Learning Outcomes (ILO) | * Demonstrate a good knowledge of contemporary democratization, regime change and political development scholarship - the assumptions, 'tools' and limitations. * Critically evaluate and apply the core arguments of Postcommunism scholarship to political and policy situations. * Demonstrate how similar processes may work in entirely different historical settings. * Provide a more effective rationale for the politics that we encounter. * Understand and contribute to policy making debates. | | |
| Indicative Course Content | Course is organized into four parts. They cover theory of totalitarianism and Leninist/Stalinist model of the historical development, current literature on democratization, regime change and regime performance (with a focus on hybrid patterns of contemporary authoritarianism), social and cultural conditions of the Postcommunist transformation, Postcommunist institutional politics and political economy of Postcommunism. | | |
| Teaching and Learning Methods | The course consists of interactive lectures and seminars comprised of diverse learning tools: literature discussion, student presentations (in small groups), and the individual assignments (projects). | | |
| Indicative Assessment Methods and Strategy | Final grade for the course will be based on the following criteria: class attendance, preparation and participation (30% of the final grade), research essay (40%), final exam (written test, 30% of the final grade). | | |
| Readings / Indicative Learning Resources | Mandatory  White Stephen, Richard Sakwa, and Henry E. Hale, eds.  Developments in Russian politics 8. Durham: Duke University Press, 2014.  Optional  Dutkiewicz Piotr, Richard Sakwa and Vladimir Kulikov, eds. Social history of post-communist Russia. Abingdon, Oxon; New York, NY: Routledge, 2016.  Remington, Thomas F. Politics in Russia. Boston: Pearson Longman, 2012.  Sakwa Richard. Postcommunism. Buckingham [England]; Philadelphia: Open University Press, 1999. | | |
| Course Instructor | Professor Dmitry Goncharov, Department of Political Science | | |