

Study course title	“Politics & Government in the Former USSR”
Study course code (DUIS)	JurZ3014
Credits	2
ECTS credits	3
Total number of contact hours	32
Number of lecture hours	16
Number of hours for seminars	16
Number of hours for practical assignments	-
Number of hours for laboratory assignments	-
Independent study hours	
Course developer (-s)	
Professor, Dr.iur., Vitolds Zahars, Professor, Dr.iur., Janis Teivans-Treinovskis	
Prerequisite knowledge	
Study course abstract	
<p>Development of the economy and the political system, dynamics of military expenditures in the countries of the former USSR, participation in military conflicts, etc.), identify the most serious problems and contradictions, and propose ways to solve them.</p> <p>The course is designed for students of the academic bachelor program “East European Culture and Business Relations”.</p>	
Course plan	

Course structure: lectures – 16 hours, seminars – 16 hours

Lectures:

1. Economic preconditions for the collapse of the Soviet Union.
2. Political preconditions for the collapse of the Soviet Union.
3. External and internal factors that precipitated the collapse of the Soviet Union.
4. State and inter-state formations on the territory of the former Soviet Union. in the early 90s.
5. Development of statehood in the former Soviet Union after the collapse of the USSR.
6. The emergence of territorial disputes in the former Soviet Union and the role of the Russian Federation in their dynamics.
7. Reasons for a return to authoritarianism in the countries of the former USSR.
 8. The ideological basis of the current models of the state management in the former Soviet Union.

Seminars:

1. Problems of the inefficiency of the USSR command economy.
2. The beginning of the market economy.
3. The role of the individual in promoting democratic processes in the Soviet Union.
4. The influence of Western values and a positive example on development of the democracy in the Soviet Union
5. Development of democratic institutions in the European part of the USSR

6. The influence of the mass media on the formation of public opinion in the former Soviet Union.
7. Activities of civil institutes.
8. Prospects of the Russian Federation and other countries of the former Soviet Union to participate in the global integration processes.

Permanent job:

- preparation of presentations;
- preparation for tests and exam.

Learning outcomes

Assimilated the course students will learn and be able to demonstrate

■ knowledge:

1. on the development of post-Soviet domestic and foreign policy;
2. on the basic principles of state administration formation and functioning in the territory of the former USSR;
3. on interethnic and their solutions. ■ skills:

1. Analyze, critically evaluate and interpret post-Soviet political processes;
2. Assess specific situations and make the right decisions.

demonstrate an understanding of the logic of development of the main cultural and information vectors of the modern world; ■ competence:

Identify the most important problems in the process of management and control and offer solutions.

Requirements for awarding credits

Lecture and seminar attendance (20%)

3 intermediate tests - 30%

Course test - test with mark - 50%

Course content

1. Economic preconditions for the collapse of the Soviet Union.

- Problems of the inefficiency of the command economy.
- Dependence of economic growth on world prices for raw materials.
- The development of private initiative in the sphere of trade and light industry.

Type of class: 2 hour lecture, 2 hour seminar

2 Political preconditions for the collapse of the Soviet Union.

- The development of freedom of thought in the Soviet Union.
- The role of the individual in promoting democratic processes in the Soviet Union (M. Gorbachev, B. Yeltsin)
- The influence of Western values and a positive example on development of the democracy in the Soviet Union

Type of class: 2 hour lecture, 2 hour seminar

3. External and internal factors that precipitated the collapse of the Soviet Union.

- The war in Afghanistan
- The 1991 Soviet coup d'état attempt

Type of class: 2 hour lecture, 2 hour seminar

4. State and inter-state formations on the territory of the former Soviet Union in the early 90s.

- The Belavezha Accords

- Exit of the Baltic States from the USSR
- The creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)
Type of class: 2 hour lecture, 2 hour seminar
- 5. Development of statehood in the former Soviet Union after the collapse of the USSR.
 - Development of democratic institutions in the European part of the USSR
 - Dynamics of centrifugal processes in the politics of the countries of the former USSR
 - The problems of the formation of democracy in the Central Asian and Transcaucasian republics
Type of class: 2 hour lecture, 2 hour seminar
- 6. The emergence of territorial disputes in the former Soviet Union and the role of the Russian Federation in their dynamics.
 - Nagorno-Karabakh issue in the relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan- Forcible rejection of Abkhazia and South Ossetia from Georgia
 - Relations between Moldova and internationally unrecognized Transnistrian region
 - Territorial Conflict between Ukraine and the Russian Federation over the Crimea and support of separatism in Ukraine
 - Prospects for the emergence of territorial disputes in post-Soviet Republics with the Russian-speaking population
Type of class: 2 hour lecture, 2 hour seminar
- 7. Reasons for a return to authoritarianism in the countries of the former USSR.
 - Central Asian republics
 - Russian Federation, Belarus and Ukraine
 - Transcaucasian Republics
Type of class: 2 hour lecture, 2 hour seminar
- 8. The ideological basis of the current models of the state management in the former Soviet Union. The influence of the mass media on the formation of public opinion.
Type of class: 2 hour lecture, 2 hour seminar.

Compulsory reading list

Harrison S. S. How The Soviet Union Stumbled into Afghanistan. Out of Afghanistan: The Inside Story of the Soviet Withdrawal. Oxford University Press. ISBN 9780195362688, 1995.

Drobizheva L., Rose G. eds. Ethnic Conflict in the Post-Soviet World: Case Studies and Analysis. M.E. Sharpe. ISBN 978-1563247415, 1998.

Ishiyama, J.T., Kennedy, R. (2001). Superpresidentialism and Political Party Development in Russia, Ukraine, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan. Europe-Asica Studies, Vol. 53, No.8, pp. 1177.-1191.

Kotz D., Weir F. The Collapse of the Soviet Union was a Revolution from Above. In The Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union, edited by Laurie Stoff, 155–164. Thomson Gale, 2006.

Ledeneva, A.V. How Russia Really Works. New York: Cornell University, pp. 45. – 46. 2006

Mayer T. The Collapse of Soviet Communism: A Class Dynamics Interpretation. Social Forces 80.3, 2002.

Mätksoo L. Illegal Annexation and State Continuity: The Case of the Incorporation of the Baltic States by the USSR. Leiden – Boston: Brill. ISBN 90-411-2177-3, 2003.

Minahan J. The Former Soviet Union's Diverse Peoples: A Reference Sourcebook (Ethnic Diversity Within Nations). Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO. ISBN 978-1576078235, 2004.

Plochy S. The Last Empire: The Final Days of the Soviet Union. Oneworld. ISBN 978-178074-646-3, 2014.

Riggs, J.W., Schraeder, P.J. Russia's Political Party System as an Impediment to Democratization. Demokratizatsiya: The Journal of Post-Soviet Democratization, Vol.12, No.2, pp. 265.-293. 2004

Stoner-Weiss K. Central Governing Incapacity and the Weakness of Political Parties: Russian Democracy in Disarray. Publius 32 (2), pp. 125.-146. 2002

Walker E. W. Dissolution: Sovereignty and the Breakup of the Soviet Union. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, ISBN 978-0-74252-453-8, 2003

Bulgakova I. Izmeklēšanas izpratne un saturs pirmstiesas procesā. – Rīga: Multineo, 2006.

Further reading list

<p>Alexander, J. Political Culture in Post-Communist Russia: Formlessness and Recreation in a Traumatic Transition. London: Macmillan Press Ltd. 2000</p> <p>Acton E. Russia, The Tsarist and Soviet Legacy, Longmann Group Ltd. ISBN 0-58208922-0, 1995.</p> <p>Becker, J. Lessons from Russia: A Neo-Authoritarian Media System. European Journal of Communication. Vol.19, No.2, pp. 139.-163. 2004</p> <p>Brubaker R. Nationalism Reframed: Nationhood and the national question in New Europe. United Kingdom: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 0521576490, 1996.</p> <p>Ellman M. Socialist Planning. Cambridge University Press. ISBN 1107427320, 2014.</p> <p>Gates R. From the Shadows: The Ultimate Insider's Story of Five Presidents and How They Won the Cold War. Simon & Schuster. ISBN 9781416543367, 2007.</p> <p>Goodson P. L. Afghanistan's Endless War: State Failure, Regional Politics, and the Rise of Taliban. ISBN 9780295980508, 2001.</p> <p>Ishiyama, J.T., Kennedy, R. Superpresidentialism and Political Party Development in Russia, Ukraine, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan. Europe-Asica Studies, Vol. 53, No.8, pp. 1177.1191. 2001</p> <p>Kennedy P. The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers. New York: Random House, ISBN 0394-54674-1, 1987.</p> <p>Nove A. Planned Economy, The New Palgrave: A Dictionary of Economics, v. 3, 1987.</p> <p>Ensuring Deterrence against Russia: The View from NATO's Front-Line. States/https://us.boell.org/sites/default/files/ensuring-deterrence-against-russia.pdf</p> <p>Russia's Secret Weapon to Invade the Baltics and Crush NATO: Soldiers Falling from the Sky. http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/russias-secret-weapon-invade-the-balticscrush-nato-soldiers-19083</p> <p>Kudors, A. et.al. "Humanitarian Dimension" of Russian Foreign Policy toward Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, and the Baltic States. 2010. http://politika.lv/index.php?f=1571</p> <p>Kramer, M. "NATO, the Baltic States and Russia: A Framework for Sustainable Enlargement" International Affairs Royal Institute of International Affairs 1944-. Vol. 78, No. 4</p> <p>Why NATO Expected to Lose Most of Europe to Russia /http://nationalinterest.org/feature/why-nato-expected-lose-most-europe-russia-15267</p> <p>Военная доктрина Российской Федерации /http://static.kremlin.ru/media/events/files/41d527556bec8deb3530.pdf</p> <p>Авченко, В. (n.d.) Теория и практика политических манипуляций в современной России. Skatits on-line (21.08.2010.): http://psyfactor.org/polman1.htm</p> <p>Жирохов М. Семья распада: войны и конфликты на территории бывшего СССР БХВ-Петербург, 2012 – 688с</p> <p>Национальная идея России. Коллектив авторов. 2017. г. N 5. Москва. Научный эксперт.</p>
<p>Токарев А. Жизнь не по-советски. Журнал "Коммерсантъ Власть" № 5 от 10.02.2014, стр. 9. https://www.kommersant.ru/doc/2400983</p>
<p>Periodicals and other sources</p>
<p>Журнал "Коммерсантъ Власть"</p>