Course Description:
In this course, we mainly focus on the post-soviet countries and China, but, whenever relevant, we include other countries in the continent and also European Union (EU) and NATO. While our major interest is contemporary international relations in the area, we cover the period since the collapse of the Soviet Union or the end of the Cold War.

Learning Objectives:
This course is designed to enhance the students’ knowledge of multilateral and bilateral engagements in the region, which often stays outside of the mainstream studies of international relations. In our weekly sessions, we take different countries or specific issues in the region one by one to understand the dynamics in this area.

Career Relevance:
In the increasingly global interdependent world, understanding of the dynamics in the post-soviet space and also extending it to ever-significant China, is essential for a wide range of careers, may it be at national governments, international organizations, NGOs, or international corporations.

Course Context or Rationalization:
This course puts international relations in the post-soviet space and China in a wider context of international relations also considering the implication for the EU and NATO, rather than offering study of isolated bilateral or multilateral interactions in the region.

Delivery Methods:
The course is based on interactive lectures, followed by seminars. The seminars are organized around students’ presentations and presenter-led class discussions afterwards.

Assessment:
Class participation: 20%
Presentation and follow-up class discussion: 30%
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<tr>
<th>Textbook(s)</th>
<th>Required:</th>
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| 16.        | Lukyankov, Fyodor. “Russian Dilemmas in a Multipolar World.” *Journal of International*


Reference books/Journal Articles:


### Class Outline

1. Course introduction and requirements.
2. Comparative overview of the countries studied in the course: how are they similar or different?
3. Understanding Russia through the realist lens (1): domestic debate in Russia on its place in the international system; Russia’s foreign action as a function of its identity.
5. Russia-China relations: strategic partnership or friendship of convenience?
6. Silk Road and Economic Belt: Chinese strategy in Central Asia; China’s reach toward Eastern and Central Europe.
7. Russia and China in Central Asia: energy security.
8. Energy security in Eastern Europe: Russia’s energy card and the Baltic countries, Russia-Belarus, Russia-Ukraine energy disputes.
9. Fight with terrorism in Russia and beyond.
10. Forced cooperation: fighting separatism and terrorism in Central Asia and beyond (the “Three-Evils” Shanghai Cooperation Organization; Caucasus Emirate).
15. Russia’s relations with the EU, selected countries in Western Europe, and NATO.
17. Military modernization and armament (2): military reform in Russia; the role of Kaliningrad.
18. Military modernization and armament (3): China’s military modernization; military cooperation with Russia.
19. States of limited recognition (1): Transnistria War in 1992 and remaining issue of its sovereignty; Russia’s presence in and influence over Transnistria, relations with Moldova; impact of Ukraine crisis.
20. States of limited recognition (2): Abkhazia, South Osetia, Nagorno-Karabakh;
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Others (if any)</th>
<th>Suggested readings for further study:</th>
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