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%
Mid-term exam: 20%
Final assignment (take-home exam): 30%

Prerequisite:
General basic knowledge of IR.

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<th>Textbooks/Journal Articles:</th>
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<td>Required: N/A</td>
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Reference books/Journal Articles:
For readings suggested for each topic see the weekly schedule below.

15. White, Stephen, Ian McAllister and Valentina Feklyunina. “Belarus, Ukraine and Russia:
### Class Outline

**WEEK 1**
1-2. Course introduction and requirements. Comparative overview of the countries studied in the course: how are they similar or different?

**WEEK 2**
3-4. Foreign policy making in Russia: domestic debate on Russia’s place in the international system; Russia’s foreign action as a function of its identity. Determinants of Russian foreign policy.


**Additionally:**

**WEEK 3**


**Additionally:**
2. Adomeit, Hannes. “Inside or Outside? Russia’s Policies towards NATO.” In Elana
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Reading and discussion topics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td>7-8. China-Russia relations against the background of Central Asia: how could they be defined? Russia’s engagement of Central Asia through multilateral frameworks (CISFTA; Eurasian Economic Union, CSTO) and China. Silk Road and Economic Belt: Chinese economic strategy in Central Asia. Other drivers of China’s engagement with the region (SCO – security cooperation).</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>9-10. Energy in Russia’s foreign policy’ Russia’s energy card and the Baltic countries, Russia-Belarus, Russia-Ukraine energy disputes. Energy relations between other EU member states and Russia. China’s entrance to the Central Asian energy markets and China-Russia relations. Other economic tools in Russian foreign policy strategy.</td>
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| | 1. Newnham, Randall. “Oil, Carrots, and Sticks: Russia’s Energy Resources as a

Additionally:

**WEEK 6**


Additionally:

**WEEK 7**


Additionally:


**WEEK 8**


**WEEK 9**

15-16. Fieldtrip. Visit to (1) the Embassy of Russian Federation and (2) the Embassy of Armenia.

**WEEK 10**


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<th>Others (if any)</th>
<th>Suggested readings for further study:</th>
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