Europe in the Global Context

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Office hours immediately before and after class, and by arrangement via e-mail

Course description:

The overriding goal of this course is to reach an understanding of the key strategic issues facing Europe in today’s global context. We will track how Europe has reached the present critical juncture in its history and consider where it is headed, including the options available to European policy-makers amid the on-going crisis in the EU. To this end, we will examine the key events of the 19th and 20th centuries that led to the foundation of the EU and have shaped contemporary Europe. At the same time, we will consider Europe’s relations with the US as today’s sole superpower, the challenges posed by the resurgence of China and Russia and Europe’s role as a major player in the resource-rich Eurasian continent, where a new round of great power competition is unfolding.

The course is interdisciplinary: it draws on political economy, history, international relations and geopolitics. It aims to raise questions and stimulate discussion rather than provide clear-cut answers.

Grading policy

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<td>Class participation</td>
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<td>Mid-term paper</td>
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<td>Final paper</td>
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MIDTERM PAPERS ARE DUE IN WEEK 7
FINAL PAPERS ARE DUE IN WEEK 13

TOPICS AND READING LIST

Week 1 -- UPCES Orientation Lecture Series

Week 2

Topic I – Introduction
Setting out the aims and methodology of the course. An introduction to the theory of geopolitics: Mackinder (and others): The struggle for control of the East European “Heartland” and Eurasian “World-Island”. The current crisis of the European Union.
Required reading (included in the reader)

Recommended (source) reading

Topic II – Balance of Power in Europe in the 19th Century
The defeat of Napoleon and the establishment of the Concert of Europe (1815-1914). The concept of the balance of power: its strengths and weaknesses. The unraveling of the Concert in the run-up to World War I and the emergence of the US as a global player.

Required reading (included in the reader)
“Events leading to the formation of the Concert of Europe (1815 – 1914)”;

Recommended (additional) reading

Week 3

Topic III – The Unification of Germany
The drivers of German unification: the struggle with Napoleonic France. The Prussian-Austrian conflict: why Prussia gained the upper hand; assessing Bismarck’s role and actions.

Required reading (included in the reader)

Recommended (additional) reading
**Topic IV – The Unification of Italy; the Austro-Hungarian Empire**
The unification of Italy: further destabilization in Europe. The Austrian Empire/the Austro-Hungarian Empire: a modern multi-ethnic integration model. The disintegration of the Empire: self-determination, fragmentation and the further advance of the nation-state.

**Required reading (included in the reader)**

**Recommended (additional) reading**

**Week 4**

**Topic V – Russia in the 19th Century: Its Emergence as a Major European Player**
Russia’s role in defeating Napoleon and in the Concert of Europe. Reforms under Tsar Alexander II; Tsar Nicholas II and the Bolshevik revolution. The foundation of the USSR.

**Required reading (included in the reader)**

**Recommended (additional) reading**

**Topic VI – China in the 19th Century: Its ‘Century of Humiliation’**
The Qing Dynasty. The Opium Wars. The First Sino-Japanese war (1894-95); China’s further humiliation at the hands of Japan as the rising regional power. The Chinese revolution of 1911 and the early years of the Republic.

**Required reading (included in the reader)**

**Recommended (additional) reading**

**Week 5**

**Topic VII – The World Wars and their Consequences**
The Concert of Europe breaks down. The conduct and outcome of World War I. The emergence of new multi-ethnic states: Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia. The Treaty of Versailles and the League of Nations. The causes and conduct of World War II. The final resolution of the tensions created by German unification. The post-War settlement: paving the way for the EU and NATO.

**Required reading (included in the reader)**

**Recommended (additional) reading**

**Topic VIII – The Cold War: The Soviet Occupation of Central and Eastern Europe**
The East-West confrontation: the Cold War and the Berlin Wall. How Stalin engineered control over Central and Eastern Europe.

**Required reading (included in the reader)**
**Recommended (additional) reading**


Week 6

**Topic IX – The Economics of Communism**


**Required reading (included in the reader)**


**Recommended (additional) reading**


**Topic X – The Re-emerging Eurasian Giant: China, 1945-89: From Communist Victory to Market Reforms**


**Required reading (included in the reader)**


**Recommended (additional) reading**


*Week 7*
Topic XI – The European Union
From modest beginnings to monetary union; widening and deepening over a half a century. The Union’s key institutions and main operational principles.

**Required reading**

**Recommended (additional) reading**

Topic XII – The Failure of East European Integration under Communism
Khrushchev’s de-Stalinization, Gorbachev’s perestroika and Reagan’s realpolitik; the collapse of the USSR. Anti-communist uprisings in Eastern Europe. The fall of the Berlin Wall and the demise of the Soviet bloc.

**Required reading (included in the reader)**

**Recommended (additional) reading**

**MIDTERM PAPERS ARE DUE**

Week 8

Topic XIII – EU/NATO Enlargement into Eastern Europe: The New Cold War
The EU as the anchor for political and economic transition. The US/NATO as the regional guarantor of stability. NATO-Russia relations.

**Required reading**
Full text of President Putin’s speech in Munich, February 2007.
**Recommended (additional) reading**

**Topic XIV – Russia: From Yeltsin to Putin 2.0**
The Yeltsin years (1990s): the rush to establish democracy and the market; the financial crisis of 1998 and post-crisis recovery. The Putin era (from 2000 to the present day).

**Required reading (included in the reader)**
Full text of President Putin’s speech in Munich, February 2007.

**Recommended (additional) reading**

**Week 9**

**Topic XV – Russia and the EU Today**
The structurally divergent but complementary economies of the EU and Russia. The foreign policy of Putin’s Russia; The US-oriented foreign policy of new EU members from Eastern Europe. Prospects for improved relations.

**Required reading (included in the reader)**

**Recommended (additional) reading**

**Topic XVI – China’s Internal Transformation, 1989 – Present**
How China functions today: towards capitalism under the banner of communism. The sources of its continued rapid growth; economic and political risks; the prospects for democracy.

**Required reading (included in the reader)**

**Recommended (additional) reading**

**Week 10 --- SEMESTER BREAK**

**Week 11**

**Topic XVII – China in the Global Context: The Enduring ‘Civilization State’**
China’s “peaceful rise” and the changing balance of global power. China’s role in supporting the global economy. The impact of China’s resurgence on the globe and specifically on the European Union.

**Required reading (included in the reader)**

**Recommended (additional) reading**

**Topic XVIII – The Rise of New Global Players and Its Impact on Europe**
Looking beyond China: The BRICs and N-11. The geopolitical power of the BRICs. “Beijing Consensus” and the “World without the West”; how Europe is likely to cope/adjust.

**Required reading (included in the reader)**
Flynt Leverrett and Hillary Mann Leverett, “China looks West: What is at Stake in Beijing’s New Silk Road Project”, January 2015

**Recommended (additional) reading**

**Week 12**

**Topic XIX – Resource Constraints and the Significance of Eurasia**
Trends in global population growth. Resource constraints and Eurasian resources. Russia’s role in Eurasia and its proposals for the reintegration of the former Soviet space; Russia-US rivalry in Central Asia.

**Required reading (included in the reader)**

**Recommended (additional) reading**

**Topic XX – Eurasia and the New Global System**
Economics – the main driver shaping the new global system. “Central Eurasia” as an integral part of the global system. Russia’s vision of a “Eurasian Union”.

**Required reading (included in the reader)**
President Vladimir Putin’s proposals for a “Eurasian Union”, Izvestia, 4 October 2011.

**Week 13**
Topic XXI – The Eurozone Crisis and Europe’s Evolution Beyond That Crisis
The structural flaws of the Eurozone and how they will likely be dealt with.
“Pan-European integration” as a response to the new global environment?

Required reading (included in the reader)

Recommended (additional) reading

Topic XXII - Summary of the course

FINAL PAPERS DUE

Week 14

Class discussion of questions such as the following:
- Do geopolitical and balance of power theories stand up to scrutiny?
- What are the ramifications of the (re-)emergence of China?
- What are the implications for Europe and Central Europe in particular?
- For the United States?
- And for US relations with Europe?
- How will the EU overcome its present crisis?

Vlad Sobell, 24 January 2017