University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	From Empire to Alliances: Russia in Relation to the Post-Soviet World and China, PG_00205921		
Field of study	Chinese Studies		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2026	Academic year of realisation of subject	2026/2027
Education level	Bachelor's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Optional subject group
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	1	Language of instruction	Polish
Semester of study	2	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit			
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Bianca Sadowska	
	Teachers		

Lesson types

Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30

E-learning hours included: 0.0

Learning activity and number of study hours

Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
Number of study hours	30	2.0	18.0	50

Subject objectives

The aim of the course is to familiarise students with the evolution of the Russian Federation's political relations with post-Soviet states and the People's Republic of China, with particular emphasis on historical, geopolitical, and strategic factors, mechanisms of cooperation and rivalry, and their impact on regional security and the contemporary international order.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[SINL3_U05] Is able to present various opinions and positions in both oral and written form, evaluate them, and engage in discussion.	Is able to present, compare, and evaluate different opinions and viewpoints on Russia's relations with post-Soviet states and China, both orally and in writing, and to participate in discussions on these issues.	[SU1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion
[SINL3_W03] Knows and understands, at an advanced level, the methodologies, theories, and terminology that constitute the fundamental general knowledge in the field of the humanities and related disciplines.	Knows and understands the fundamental theories, concepts, and terminology of international relations, history, and geopolitics required to analyse Russia's relations with post-Soviet states and China.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written [SW1] oral statement/ conversation/discussion
[SINL3_U08] Is able to plan and organize work both individually and as part of a team.	Student is able to independently prepare an analysis of a selected issue concerning Russia's relations with post-Soviet states and China, and to collaborate with a team in completing a joint task.	[SU8] observation of student's independent or team work
[SINL3_K01] Is ready to critically evaluate the knowledge acquired during Sinology studies and the content corresponding to that knowledge.	Is able to critically analyse and verify information concerning Russia's relations with China, drawing on the knowledge acquired during Chinese Studies.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion

Subject contents	**The Dissolution of the USSR and the Emergence of a New Political Order.** The origins and consequences of the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The emergence of independent post-Soviet states and the evolution of the Russian Federation's political relations with the countries of the region. Russia's response to geopolitical changes in the post-Soviet space. **Russia and the Member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).** The objectives and mechanisms of Russia's political cooperation with post-Soviet states. The significance of the CIS and other regional cooperation frameworks. Russia's policy towards Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and the countries of Central Asia. The diversity of political interests and foreign policy orientations among the countries of the region. **Russia and Conflicts and Tensions in the Post-Soviet Space.** The significance of regional conflicts for international relations. Territorial disputes, separatist movements, and unresolved conflicts. The Russo-Georgian War, the annexation of Crimea, and the Russo-Ukrainian War, as well as their consequences for European security and Russia's relations with the countries of the region. **Political, Economic, and Military Integration in the Post-Soviet Space.** The role of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the Eurasian Economic Union, and other regional cooperation structures. The significance of these organizations for Russia's international position. Competing approaches to integration and cooperation in the region. **Russia and the Countries of Central Asia and the South Caucasus.** The political, economic, and security factors shaping relations with Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Armenia, and Azerbaijan. Russia's competition and cooperation with other international actors, particularly China, Turkey, and the European Union. **Political Relations between the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China.** The historical background of Russian-Chinese relations. The evolution of bilateral relations from rivalry and tensions to a strategic partnership. The main foreign policy objectives of both countries, areas of cooperation, and potential sources of conflicting interests. **Russia and China in Geopolitical and Security Affairs.** Political and military cooperation, diplomatic consultations, and shared positions on selected international issues. The role of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the BRICS grouping. Both countries' attitudes towards the current international order and global institutions. **Economic and Energy Cooperation between Russia and China.** The significance of trade, energy resources, transport infrastructure, and investment in bilateral relations. The impact of international sanctions on the direction of Russia's economic cooperation. The asymmetry in the economic potential of the two countries and its political implications.
Prerequisites and co-requisites	
Assessment methods and criteria	

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
class participation	51.0%	25.0%
test	51.0%	75.0%

Recommended reading	Basic literature	• Rosja Putina. Leksykon, red. A. Głowacki, A. Stępień-Kuczyńska, Łódź 2004. • Systemy polityczne państw Europy Środkowej i Wschodniej, red. M. Barański, Katowice 2004. • Van Herpen M.H. Putinizm. Powolny rozwój radykalnego reżimu prawicowego w Rosji, Gdańsk 2014. • Wybrane akty prawne, dokumenty programowe wybranych partii. • Portale internetowe: www.president.kremlin.ru, www.government.gov.ru, www.smi.ru, www.gazeta.ru, www.inopressa.ru
	Supplementary literature	• Arutunyan A., Car Putin. Feudalizm, korupcja i Bóg w państwie patrymonialnym, Poznań 2013. • Curanović A., Kardaś S., Rosja w WikiLeaks, Warszawa 2011. • Kaczmarski M., Rosja na rozdrożu. Polityka zagraniczna Władimira Putina, Warszawa 2006. • Portnikow W., Dmitrij Miedwiediew. Władca z przypadku?, Wrocław 2009.
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed		
Work placement	Not applicable	

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