University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	From Empire to Alliances: Russia in Relation to the Post-Soviet World and China, PG_00205952		
Field of study	Eastern Studies		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2025	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	2	Language of instruction	Polish
Semester of study	4	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	academic	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit	Division of Russian Language Pragmatics, Communication and Didactics -> Institute of Russian and Eastern Studies -> Faculty of Languages -> Rector		
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 course aims to familiarise students with the evolution of the Russian Federation's political relations with the 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 configuration of international relations.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification
[SWSCHL3_K01] Is aware of the scope of their professional knowledge and skills, as well as understands the need for further, continuous development of professional, personal, and social competencies	The student is aware of the scope of their knowledge and skills concerning Russia's relations with the post-Soviet states and China and understands the need to keep them up to date and to continuously develop professional, personal and social competencies in response to changes in the international situation.	[SK1] oral statement/conversation/ discussion
[SWSCHL3_W01] Has knowledge of the subject-specific and methodological specifics of the scientific sub-disciplines constituting the field of Eastern Studies, primarily humanities disciplines such as cultural and religious studies, linguistics, and history	The student knows and understands the subject scope and methodological characteristics of research on Russia's relations with the post-Soviet states and China, with particular emphasis on the historical perspective and the analysis of political and geopolitical factors.	[SW4] test/exam - oral or written
[SWSCHL3_U16] Can work in a group, assuming various roles within it	The student can work in a group, taking on different roles when analysing Russia's relations with the post-Soviet states and China and jointly preparing and presenting the findings of this analysis.	[SU5] implementation of a problem task

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 the 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 Central Asian states. 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, and 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 organisations for Russia's international standing. Competing visions of integration and cooperation in the region. Russia's Relations with the States of Central Asia and the South Caucasus. Political, economic and security factors shaping relations with Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Armenia and Azerbaijan. Russia's rivalry and cooperation with other international actors, particularly China, Türkiye and the European Union. Political Relations between the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China. The historical context of Russian–Chinese relations. The evolution of relations from rivalry and tensions to a strategic partnership. The principal foreign policy objectives of both states, areas of cooperation and potential sources of diverging interests. Russia and China: Geopolitical and Security Dimensions. Political and military cooperation, diplomatic consultations and shared positions on selected international issues. The role of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and the BRICS framework. Both states' attitudes towards the existing 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 between the two states' economic capacities and its political consequences.
Prerequisites and co-requisites	

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
performing tasks assigned by the instructor	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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