# History and Politics: Russia and Eastern Europe

## Prof. Pierluca Azzaro

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to illustrate the genesis and development of the cultural, political and economic relations between Western Europe, Eastern Europe and Russia in the 20th century from a historical and political perspective. On this basis, the purpose of the course is to analyse the developing relations between the EU, Eastern Europe and Russia at the beginning of the 21st century, within a series of phenomena ranging from inclusion (enlargement), to priority attention (proximity-based strategic policy) to the concept of relations with independent actors.

This course requires a basic knowledge of contemporary history, in particular of the aftermath of World War II, from the point of view of the European integration process.

*Knowledge and Understanding*

At the end of the teaching of the course, the student will know (starting from their genesis) the principal specific factors of a political, economic, and cultural character that determine the current relations between the Russian Federation, the countries of Eastern Europe and the countries of Western Europe, as well as the related contemporary questions and issues and the various policies that spring from those intertwining factors.

*Ability to Apply Knowledge and Understanding*

At the end of the course, students will be able to interpret and assess, also from a critical perspective, the political, economic, and cultural strategies of the Russian Federation towards Eastern and Western Europe countries (and vice versa), and identify the guidelines determining the current policies of the European Union towards Russia and Eastern Europe countries.

***COURSE CONTENT***

General trends in the history of the relations between Eastern Europe, Western Europe and Russia in the twentieth century.

Western Europe, Eastern Europe, and Russia during the Cold War (1945-1989): actors, interests, integration and cooperation policies, the role of Churches; the origins of the European energy policy oriented towards the East.

European Union policies towards Eastern Europe and Russia after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The current geopolitical and geocultural position of Russia compared to Europe: problems and perspectives.

***READING LIST***

For *attending students*

– Lecture notes and scientific material distributed during lectures.

– G. Recchi, *Nuove energie. Le sfide per lo sviluppo dell’Occidente,* Marsilio, Venice, 2014.

– Further readings will be indicated in class.

For *non-attending students*

– G. Recchi, *Nuove energie. Le sfide per lo sviluppo dell’Occidente,* Marsilio, Venice, 2014.

– G. Cella, *Storia e geopolitica della crisi ucraina. Dalla Rus′ di Kiev a oggi*, Roma, Carocci, 2021, pp. 352

– H. Carrère D’Encausse*, La Russia tra due mondi,* Salerno Editrice, Rome, 2011.

***TEACHING METHOD***

The course consists of lectures. The teaching material used during the course will be made available for attending students, who will have the possibility to give classroom presentations and attend supplementary practical classes.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

The examination is a written one, with the possibility of partial examiations for students who have attended the course. Exclusively for foreign-language students of the Erasmus programme who have attended the course, the possibility is envisaged of an oral examination. The examinatuon involves ascertaining the knowledege and skills of the student using a number of kinds of assessment: 1) testing the knowledge acquired by the student of the factors of a historical, political and cultual character which – in their genesis and development, in particular during the twentieth century and the twenty-first century – today determine the current relations between the Russian Federation, the countries of Eastern Europe the countries of Western Europe and the European Union as a whole. 2) Testing the knowledge acquired by the student of the most important schools of interpretation and of methodologies of analysis as regards the analysis of the political, economic and cultural relations between Russia, Eastern Europe and the European Union as a whole. 3) The capacity to take part in the debate underway on the relations between the countries of Eastern Europe, the countries of Western Europe and the counties of the European Union as a whole, with reference to specific cases such as the Ukraine, using the specific approach that characterises the course as well – the interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.