

## Russia between East and West (A005385)

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits 5.0**

**Study time 150 h**

**Course offerings in academic year 2024-2025**

A (semester 1)

English

Gent

**Lecturers in academic year 2024-2025**

Geerardyn, Tilde

LW21

staff member

Dhooge, Ben

LW21

lecturer-in-charge

**Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025**

**crdts**

**offering**

Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject East European Languages and Cultures)

5

A

Master of Science in Teaching in Languages(main subject Oriental Languages and Cultures)

5

A

Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject China)

5

A

Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject India)

5

A

Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Japan)

5

A

Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures(main subject Middle East Studies)

5

A

Master of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures

5

A

Master of Arts in Global Studies

5

A

Master of Arts in Global Studies

5

A

Exchange Programme Cultures and Languages in Context

5

A

Exchange Programme East European Languages and Cultures

5

A

Exchange Programme Global Studies and World Societies

5

A

Exchange Programme in Political and Social Sciences

5

A

**Teaching languages**

English

**Keywords**

MOOC, Russia, West, identity, multidisciplinary

**Position of the course**

This Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) zooms in on an issue which has induced many heated discussions in Russia in the past and which continues to (co)determine Russia's (cultural) politics until today: is Russia a Western, Eastern or a self-contained culture / civilization? Insight into this matter allows not only to understand the past, but also provides us with the necessary toolkit to understand Russia's position and behavior, today.

Exchange students may take up this course unit, but they are expected to contact the lecturers in advance to check whether they have the necessary competences. For this course no prior knowledge of Dutch or Russian is required

**Contents**

The MOOC consists of 11 modules. Each module is divided into separate case studies. Each case study can consist of video fragments (film, music, documentary, ...), audio files, written texts (primary and secondary, academic and non-academic), photo materials, exercises (for example, an interactive map, a quiz, a forum discussion, etc.), etc.

By way of introduction, the MOOC starts with the Slavic tribes settling on the European continent and then zooms in on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. After that, the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, Stalin's era and the Khrushchev and Brezhnev years will be at the center of attention. The lion's share of the MOOC, however, focuses on the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> century, more

specifically on the 1980s and 1990s and Putin's (and Medvedev's) reign.

While the MOOC is organized chronologically, it is multidisciplinary in scope: a large variety of themes and aspects of Russian society is being tackled from different fields: history, culture in the broadest sense of the word, linguistics, politics, sociology, law, economics, media studies, translation studies, etc.

### **Initial competences**

No specific preliminary knowledge is required. All information is provided in the course.

Students should have acquired a Bachelor's degree, have acquired the necessary research skills and have a critical-analytical mindset.

Proficiency in English is mandatory.

Proficiency in Russian is not needed. However, students who have a command of Russian will be able to use their language skills.

### **Final competences**

- 1 To acquire insight into the central issue of the problem oriented MOOC in an autonomous way.
- 2 To get acquainted with and acquire critical insight into different disciplines in the humanities that allow to tackle the central topic of the course in different, complementary ways, in an autonomous way (multidisciplinary).
- 3 To think independently and analytically about societal issues that are related to culture.
- 4 To design autonomously a research project on the basis of the acquired knowledge and in close discussion with peers.
- 5 To report on one's own research and solutions and on those of others to experts and non-experts in written form and in a constructive manner.
- 6 To present one's own research proposal correctly in a scholarly appropriate format.
- 7 To reflect critically and comment in a constructive way on opinions of and papers by peers.
- 8 To make a scientifically substantiated, critical analysis of current social, political and cultural developments with regard to Russia, Russian society and Russian self-perception.
- 9 To take an informed, critical position in current social, political or cultural debates with regard to Russia, Russian society and Russian self-perception.

### **Conditions for credit contract**

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

### **Conditions for exam contract**

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

### **Teaching methods**

Group work, Independent work

### **Extra information on the teaching methods**

The students get insight into the central issue of the MOOC via electronic modules. They fulfill additional activating tasks and assignments. They are stimulated to participate actively and to interact with each other and the course coordinators through peer review assignments and forum discussions.

On the basis hereof, the students set up a small research project proposal on their own with regard to the central issue of the course.

### **Study material**

None

### **References**

### **Course content-related study coaching**

The lecturers monitor the MOOC and provide assistance and feedback whenever needed.

### **Assessment moments**

continuous assessment

### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period**

### **Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period**

### **Examination methods in case of permanent assessment**

Participation, Peer and/or self assessment, Assignment

### **Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment**

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

### **Extra information on the examination methods**

As this is an interactive course, students are graded both for their participation and for their end paper.

The MOOC has two lines of testing.

1. The long-term line works towards the research proposal. During the course, the students gradually prepare their research proposal. At specific moments, students are asked to look for sources, to discuss them in group, write a tentative abstract, to review each other's work etc. Finally, the students submit a research proposal (incl. a bibliography). The main task is to design a proposal for a new case study for the MOOC, preferably of the last 10-15 years. The proposal contains one or more concrete examples, a theoretical framework, sufficient links to the course, etc. Provocative, but nuanced argumentation is most welcome. The evaluation criteria are made explicit by the course organizers.
2. The short-term line focuses on separate modules and cases. Students will be asked to fulfill several assignments.

### **Calculation of the examination mark**

- a) Students earn 50 % of the total score with their research proposal.
- b) Students earn 30 % of the total score based on their participation (tasks and assignments).
- c) Students earn 20% of the total score with peer review reports (writing peer review reports and evaluating assignments and reactions of their peers).

If the student does not pass the non-periodical evaluation, a second chance is offered by means of a compensatory task between the first and second examination period.

### **Facilities for Working Students**

As this is a MOOC, the student can go through the MOOC whenever she/he finds time. Every week, one module needs to be completed. There are also several other deadlines. In general the student will have enough time to choose their/her/his own pace.

Possibility of feedback at a different time: please make an appointment.