

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 and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 1)	English	Gent	group work	0.0h
			independent work	0.0h

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Geerardyn, Tilde	LW21	staff member
Dhooge, Ben	LW21	lecturer-in-charge

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

	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
Virtual Mobility	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
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

Online course, problem oriented, Russia, West, East, identity, self-identification, multidisciplinary

Position of the course

This online course 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, provided that they are MA students (general requirement: exchange students can only take courses corresponding to their own study level). Also, 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 online course 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.).

By way of introduction, the online course starts with the Slavic tribes settling on the European continent and then zooms in on the 18th and 19th centuries. After that, the early 20th centuries, Stalin's era and the Khrushchev and Brezhnev years will be at the center of attention. The lion's share of the online course, however, focuses on the late 20th and early 21st century, more specifically on the 1980s and 1990s and Putin's (and Medvedev's) reign.

While the online course 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 online course 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.
- 3 To think independently and analytically about societal issues that are related to culture.
- 4 To design autonomously a proposal for a case study which is a valuable addition to the course, based on 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 reflect critically and comment in a constructive way on opinions of and papers by peers.
- 7 To make a scientifically substantiated, critical analysis of current social, political and cultural developments with regard to Russia, Russian society and Russian self-perception.
- 8 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 determined after successful competences assessment

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 online course 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.

Students can access the materials 24/7 during the week the module is active (no attendance required in synchronous sessions).

On the basis hereof, the students autonomously design a proposal for a case study.

This case study is related to the central issue of the course.

Study material

Type: Other

Name: Online modules

Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty

Optional: no

Available on Ufora : Yes

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : No

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : intensive

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : one-time

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : not

References

Course content-related study coaching

The lecturers monitor the online course 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 online course has two lines of testing.

1. The long-term line works towards the proposal for a case study. During the course, the students gradually prepare their proposal for a case study. 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 main task is to design a proposal for a new, concrete and substantiated case study for the online course, with pertinent links to the course. 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, on a weekly basis.

Calculation of the examination mark

a) Students earn 50 % of the total score with their proposal for a case study.

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 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 an online course, the student can go through the materials whenever them/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.

