

Introduction to Eastern Europe (A005448)

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)

Dutch, English

Gent

peer teaching

lecture

seminar

independent work

Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Yudin, Aleksey

LW21

lecturer-in-charge

Troch, Pieter

LW21

co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

[Bachelor of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures](#)

5

A

[Bachelor of Science in Political Science](#)

5

A

[Preparatory Course Master of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures](#)

5

A

[Elective Set Languages of Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe](#)

5

A

Teaching languages

English, Dutch

Keywords

Eastern Europe, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Southeastern Europe, Romania, Moldova, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovenia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Caucasus, Central Asia, actuality.

Position of the course

This introductory course provides an introduction to current developments in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, as well as in less detail in the Caucasus and Central Asia, against a historical background. The aim is to get to know and understand the current political and social situation in the regions. The programme component aims to enable students to critically and adequately interpret current facts and events.

Contents

The course gives a brief overview of a selection of the following topics relating to Eastern and South-Eastern Europe:

1) geography, countries

2) Ethnicities, peoples and ethnic stereotypes,

3) population, demography and migration problems,

4) languages and dialects, language policy,

5) identities and their origin,

6) mythologies and religions,

- 7) State structures, leaders and influencers,
- 8) Wars, conflicts and frozen conflicts,
- 9) democracy, corruption, political protest and dissidence,
- 10) geopolitics, economy, transition, post-socialism

During the seminars, presentations are given on current issues of Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

Initial competences

No specific initial competences required.

Final competences

- 1 To have a global and critical knowledge of current developments in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.
- 2 To adequately interpret political, social and philosophical facts, ideas and events.
- 3 To use problem-solving knowledge of and insight into current events in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.
- 4 To understand current Eastern and South-Eastern European societies from their historical background and to detect questions and problems from the same background.
- 5 To gain an independent insight into current affairs in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe via news media.
- 6 Critical basic attitude towards and reflection on (dealing with) sources.
- 7 To give an oral presentation on contemporary Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

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

Access to this course unit via an exam contract is unrestricted

Teaching methods

Seminar, Lecture, Independent work, Peer teaching

Extra information on the teaching methods

Independent work: independently preparing a presentation on a topical issue concerning Eastern and/or South-Eastern Europe.

Study material

Type: Syllabus

Name: Introduction to Eastern Europe

Indicative price: € 22

Optional: no

Language : Dutch

Number of Pages : 105

Oldest Usable Edition : 2024

Available on Ufora : No

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : No

Available through Student Association : Yes

References

Course content-related study coaching

The teacher is available before and after the lessons and during consultation hours.

Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

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

Written assessment

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

Written assessment

Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Oral assessment

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

The student gives a presentation on a topical issue concerning Eastern and/or South-Eastern Europe.

Written exam

Calculation of the examination mark

Presentation: 20%

Exam 80%

Facilities for Working Students

1. Absence is allowed if making a replacement task (paper)
2. Possibility to take an exam at a different time within the regular exam period.
3. Possibility of feedback at a different time: by appointment.

For more information about flexible study: <http://www.flw.ugent.be/flexibelstuden>