



Course Code – MA DLB 0684

Course Title: Russia, Central Asia: History, Political Economy, Foreign Policies

Program: JSIA Elective Course

MA DLB

Fall Semester, 2026 August to November 2026

Course Information

Course Duration: One Semester

Credit Hours: 3 hours per week

Meetings: Physical

Location: Classroom

Prerequisites: Interest in the subject

Equivalent Courses:

Exclusive Courses:

Instructor Information

Instructor: Professor Anuradha Mitra Chenoy

Biography: M.Phil. PhD Jawaharlal Nehru University and (Fullbright Fellow Columbia University 1983-84) former Professor and Dean, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Adjunct Faculty at the JSIA and Associate of the Transnational Institute (The Netherlands).

Email: amchenoy@jgu.edu.in

Phone: +919810102250

Office: WhatsApp and fix- I meet my students for an hour before and after my classes.

Office Hours: 1-2 hours a week before and after class

Homepage: -

1. Course Description

Instructor's additional course description.

This Course studies Russia, Central Asia and the former countries of the Soviet Union like Ukraine, Georgia and the Baltics. Beginning with understanding 18th Century empires and the Russian Empire that became the Soviet Union in 1917 and its historical transition to the Russian Federation and independent states of Central Asia. This course studies how Russia, Ukraine, the Central Asian Republics, the Balkans and

Caucasus became part of Soviet Union and then became independent republics in the 21st century, changing the map of the world and international relations. We will place these developments in historical, political economic and geopolitical contexts. The political nature of these countries, their economic strengths and dependencies, their relations with each other, the conflicts within, and their international relations will be studied as an integral part of international relations. This course will look at the evolving international system in relation to the foreign policies of Russia, Central Asia and Eurasia as a whole. A Course like this provides an understanding of World history and political economy from this region that extends from Europe to Asia

These themes will be studied with the help of maps, texts, documents, case studies and specificities, discussions and debates to uncover both the material basis and the narratives. We will focus on different historical periods, moving into contemporary times.

2. Course Intended Learning Objectives(Aim)

Course Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Activities	Assessments/ Activities
To investigate and understand Russia, Central Asia and former Soviet Union and its breakaway countries their politics, social, economic development	Lectures, Map work, PPTs, text analysis; videos	Quizzes, mid semester test, book reviews
To engage with the past and current geopolitics of these countries in the international system	Lectures, Map work, PPTs, videos, Class discussions and debates	Seminars and Class Presentations and Discussions and Debates
To study and understand historical trends with continuity and change, social and political structures, their relations to political economy and how these impact the foreign policies	Lectures, Map work, PPTs, planning documents analysis, policy and strategizing issues of foreign policies in these countries	End Semester Exam
To uncover narratives and relate empirical and historical data and behavior of states and material conditions	Reading of documents, discourse analysis, speeches and their meanings.	
<i>Add more lines as needed</i>		

3. Scheme of Evaluation and Grading 100 marks

Evaluation breakup

Internal breakup: 70 marks

Components: **30 marks for first mid semester Exam + 30 marks for seminar paper + 10 marks for class presentation and participation**

External breakup: **End Semester Exam 30 marks (for two questions to be done in closed book in class exam)**

Grade Definition

Grade Definition

<u>Grading and Comments</u>			
<u>Letter Grade</u>	<u>Percentage of Marks</u>	<u>Grade Points</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<u>O</u>	<u>80 and above</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>Outstanding: Exceptional knowledge of the subject matter, thorough understanding of issues; ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles and extraordinary critical and analytical ability.</u>
<u>A+</u>	<u>75 - 79</u>	<u>7.5</u>	<u>Excellent: Sound knowledge of the subject matter, thorough understanding of issues; ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles and critical and analytical ability.</u>
<u>A</u>	<u>70 - 74</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>Very Good: Sound knowledge of the subject matter, excellent organizational capacity, ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles, critically analyse existing material and originality in thinking and presentation.</u>
<u>A-</u>	<u>65 -69</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>Good: Good understanding of the subject matter, ability to identify issues and provide balanced solutions to problems and good critical and analytical skills.</u>

<u>B+</u>	<u>60 - 64</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>Fair: Average understanding of the subject matter, limited ability to identify issues and provide solutions to problems and reasonable critical and analytical skills.</u>
<u>B</u>	<u>55 - 59</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Acceptable: Adequate knowledge of the subject matter to go to the next level of the study and reasonable critical and analytical skills.</u>
<u>B-</u>	<u>50 - 54</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>Marginal: Limited knowledge of the subject matter and irrelevant use of materials, and poor critical and analytical skills.</u>
<u>P1</u>	<u>45 - 49</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>Pass 1: Pass with Basic understanding of the subject matter.</u>
<u>P2</u>	<u>40 - 44</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>Pass 2: Pass with Rudimentary understanding of the subject matter.</u>
<u>F</u>	<u>Below 40</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>Fail: Poor comprehension of the subject matter; poor critical and analytical skills and marginal use of the relevant materials. Will require repeating the course.</u>

4. Academic Integrity

Academic Honesty, Cheating, and Plagiarism.

Participation/Attendance Policy

Use of phone/ texting/ laptop

Plagiarism Penalty Structure

Section 12.1 – Penalties

- i. **Level 0:** Similarities up to 10% - Minor Similarities, no penalty.
- ii. **Level 1:** Similarities between 11% to 20% - Such student shall receive a reduction of 5 Marks
- iii. **Level 2:** Similarities between 21% to 29% - Such student shall receive a penalty of 10 marks.
- iv. **Level 3:** Similarities of 30% and above -Award of Fail Grade

JSIA Plagiarism Policy

25 Feb. 2021

Plagiarism is a serious breach of the most fundamental principles of academic ethics. Plagiarism does not simply consist of copy-pasting. The use of synonym substitution, or closely paraphrasing another person's work without properly attributing it, constitutes plagiarism and will be dealt with accordingly.

Please note the following changes to the JSIA plagiarism policy, effective from Spring 2021 onwards:

Repeat offences

1. The Academic Office, as well as the Executive Office headed by Ms. Swarnima Singh, will maintain a record of plagiarism cases. Normal penalties (zero marks for any assignment with plagiarism in excess of 30%, marks cut for plagiarism below 30%) will apply for a first offence only.

We already have a Penalty Structure in application as school policy, which the Examinations Office is aware of.

2. More than one instance of plagiarism above 30%, or repeated instances of plagiarism not exceeding 30%, will result in the parents/guardians being informed. Additional penalties may include referring to the JSIA Disciplinary Committee or the University Disciplinary Committee as may be deemed fit.

Self plagiarism and double submissions

Students may not submit the same material for two classes without prior permission from all faculty involved. Submitting the same assignment for two classes is not permissible under any circumstances. Where faculty permit some partial overlap between assignments (for example, allowing a portion of a term paper to be revised for a thesis), assignment parameters should be increased to ensure fairness to other students, and agreements should be communicated via email to ensure a paper trail exists in case any problems arise.

Communication with faculty in case you have been found plagiarising

Students may not ask faculty for Turnitin **or** any other Plagiarism Checker reports. Students may not use their own Turnitin reports, or reports generated by other software that detects similarity, to attempt to negotiate with faculty over plagiarism thresholds. Students may not ask faculty for an additional chance to redo finals, etc., if they have failed due to over 30% plagiarism.

If you have reason to believe that the plagiarism determination was inaccurate, you must follow up with the Examinations Office and adhere to the guidelines they issue.

Cheating or copying by classmates

If the faculty member discovers a case of two students submitting identical work, both students will get a zero. The responsibility to investigate who copied from whom is not the faculty's or the Academic Office's. Students are to ensure that they do not share their work and get it copied from.

Use of Spinbot and similar tools

Faculty may, at their discretion, penalise or fully disallow an assignment if they have reason to believe that a synonym substitution tool has been used to evade plagiarism detection. In cases where students disagree with the faculty's determination that a synonym substitution tool has been used, they may take it up with the faculty first and then with the Academic Engagement Committee.

Viva follow-up in case of suspected plagiarism

Faculty may, at their discretion, ask students to conduct a viva if they suspect plagiarism has occurred, to discuss the assignment material, arguments, drafting process, or any other questions that faculty see fit to use to assess whether plagiarism has occurred.

For final exams where the student has a F due to plagiarism, s/he should apply for a reevaluation or take a resit.

Retroactive plagiarism

If an assignment is given marks but subsequently found to have been plagiarised, marks for that assignment will be penalised or revoked, in line with existing policies.

The new JSIA plagiarism policy is applicable from Spring 2021 onwards.

Resources

Students are strongly encouraged to set up an appointment with the CWS in case you have any doubts about how to avoid plagiarism. Please refer to the following link for an example: <https://advice.writing.utoronto.ca/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize/>

5. Keyword Syllabus:

1. Russia's central role; the nationalities and identities in European history. Russian and other empires of the 18th Century. Eurasia.
2. Russian Revolution, Bolsheviks and the First World War
3. The Soviet Union under Lenin and Stalin, Planning and economic model and foreign policy with east and west. World War Two.
4. Soviet Government and federal system and the nationalities issues
5. Soviet reform and disintegration of the Soviet Union
6. Independent Russia and Central Asia, Ukraine, the Baltics, Georgia, Moldova
7. Russia under Putin, the changed political economy and foreign policies.
8. Russia-Ukraine war, relations with East, West, with US, China, India
9. Russia and the transition to multipolarity; its role in BRICS and Russia-India relations.

6. Course Material: Attached Below

Textbooks:

E.H. Carr, *The Bolshevik Revolution, and The World between the the Two World Wars*

Jones Luong, P (2002) *Institutional Change and Political Continuity in Post Soviet Central Asia. Power, Perception and Pacts*. Cambridge and New York, Cambridge University Press.

Chenoy, A and Kumar, R (2017), *Re-emerging Russia: Structures, Institutions and Processes*, Palgrave Macmillan.

Bobo Lo, *Russian Foreign Policy in the Post-Soviet Era: Reality, Illusion and Mythmaking*, Palgrave, 2002 (Entire Book)

Dawisha, Karen, and Bruce Parrot, *Conflict, Cleavage and Change in Central Asia and the Caucuses* (Cambridge University Press, 1997, 201-241)

Dobb, Maurice, *Soviet Economic Development 1917-1948*, Routledge, London.

Richard Sakwa, *Russian Government and Politics*.

Reference books:

Eric Hobsbawm, *Age of Empire; Age of Capital*

Glen Diesen, (2024) *The Ukraine War and the Eurasian World*

--*Russophobia* (2022)

Ian Barnes, *Restless Empire, A Historical Atlas of Russia*, Harvard University Press.

Journals / Business Magazines

Russia Today, Foreign Policy

Nicolai Petro on Ukraine

Articles will be given in class

Web Sources Web Resources: This is huge, and I will be guiding you.

Carnegie Institute: <http://www.carnegie.ru>

The Central Asia Caucasus Analyst: <http://www.cacianalyst.org>

The Eurasia Institute <http://www.eurasianet.org>

The Forum for Central Asian Studies, Harvard University,
<http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~casww/index.html>

7. Session Plan

Session (with Date)	General Topic	Readings	Approach/Pedagogy
August 1 st week	Russian Empire +18 th Century Empires	Attached and will be given	Lectures, Map reading, PPT, videos
August 2 nd week	Russian Revolution and The first World Wars	E. H. Carr the Russian Revolution	Lectures, Map reading, PPT, Text analysis, Discussions, Debates, Seminars
August 3 rd week	Lenin's period and Soviet State	Maurice Dobb, Soviet Economic Development 1917-1948 Chapter 1-4	Lectures, Map reading, PPT, document analysis, Discussions, Debates, Seminars
August 4 th week	Stalinist repression economic model	Maurice Dobb, Soviet Economic Development 1917-1948 Chapter 5-6	Lectures, Map reading, PPT, videos Discussions, Debates, Seminars
September 1 st week	Second world war and post war Soviet states	Maurice Dobb, Soviet Economic Development 1917-1948 Chapter: 6-8	Lectures, Map reading, PPT videos Discussions, Debates, Seminars
September 2 nd week	Soviet stagnation, reforms and collapse	Richard Sakwa – in readings	Lectures, Map reading, PPT videos Discussions, Debates, Seminars
September 3 rd week	Post Soviet Russia 1992-2001and Central Asia	Anuradha Chenoy and Rajan Kumar And Richard Sakwa-readings above	Lectures, Map reading, PPT videos Discussions, Debates, Seminars
September 4 th week	The Putin Period of Russia	Anuradha Chenoy and Rajan Kumar And Richard Sakwa-readings above	Lectures, Map reading, PPT videos Discussions, Debates, Seminars
October 1 st week	The political and economic systems of Central Asia	Ajay Patnaik, Central Asia	Lectures, Map reading, PPT videos Discussions, Debates, Seminars
October 2 nd week	Political and economic systems of Ukraine, Baltics, and others	Nicolai Petro on Ukraine	Lectures, Map reading, PPT videos Discussions, Debates, Seminars
October 3 rd week	Russia-Ukraine war	Nicolai Petro on Ukraine	Lectures, Map reading, PPT videos

	and geopolitics	Articles will be given in class	Discussions, Debates, Seminars
October 4 th week	Foreign policies of Russia and post-soviet states	As above and in readings	Lectures, Map reading, PPT videos Discussions, Debates, Seminars

1. Final Exam (1 ½ Hours) will cover the second half of the course
2. One Mid semester exam with half the course.
3. Research: Topic will be discussed in consultation with the Professor. Not more than 3000 words. With references, quotations, online properly spaced. With a short 150-word abstract. Introduction, arguments and conclusion. Rules of plagiarism will apply. Term Paper will be presented and defended in the classroom in 5th week.