SA.710 (EUROPEAN AND EURASIAN STUDIES)

SA.710.701. European Security. 4 Credits.
The course is addressed to students with an interest in European and Transatlantic affairs, strategic studies and international relations. It provides students with a complete overview of historical evolutions and policy and academic debates on the theme of security on the European continent, with a focus on the period since the end of the Cold War. The course examines the role of regional military organizations and alliances as well as individual European states in shaping responses contemporary security challenges. The course covers the wide array of strategic issues, including the threat of terrorism?, nuclear deterrence, and military interventions abroad.

SA.710.702. Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova: Development and Security in Post-Soviet Eastern Europe. 4 Credits.
Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova lie in a strategically important region of the Euro-Atlantic space. In the more than 20 years since they gained their independence from the Soviet Union, these states have been alternately excluded from collective security and economic integration, and made instruments in conflict between East and West. Yet each has also developed along its own distinct and complex path, reflecting inherited challenges related to nationality, identity, and historical memory, as well as current disputes over security alliances, control of resources, and political systems. This course investigates domestic political, social and economic questions, including issues of identity; foreign policy orientations; relations with NATO, U.S. and the EU; the influence of Russia; and the successes and failures of reintegration of the East European borderlands into post-Soviet Eurasia.

SA.710.704. Germany, Europe and the Transatlantic Relationship. 4 Credits.
In the wake of the strategic shocks of the Ukraine crisis, Brexit and the election of Donald Trump as U.S. President, Germany has found itself as the de facto leader of Europe and the central European player in the transatlantic relationship. This course will examine the sources of German leadership, its limitations and strengths, the foreign policy process and its policies in a number of key areas including managing the Eurozone and trade policy, and relations with France, Poland, Russia, Turkey, China and the United States. Students will combine reading, case studies, lectures and class discussions and will write a policy oriented paper on one of Germany’s key bilateral relationships.

SA.710.705. Russia and the West After the Cold War. 4 Credits.
This course focuses on Russian foreign policy and Russia’s relations with the West since the Cold War. Immediately following the fall of the Soviet Union, Russia seemed to be heading toward integration into Western economic and political institutions. Today, that initial opening has closed, and Russia’s relations with the West are at their lowest point since 1991. The course traces how we got here by examining the evolution of Russia’s foreign policy from Gorbachev to Putin, with a heavy focus on Russian military and non-military interventions, including active measures, in the Putin era. We will also spend time on the domestic drivers of Russian foreign policy and US policy approaches to Russia since 1991.

SA.710.707. Politics of Protest in Europe and Eurasia. 4 Credits.
This class provides students with an in-depth exploration of the motivations behind, strategies of, and societal changes produced by various instances of collective mobilization across Europe. Some of the main questions we seek to answer throughout this course are: Along what lines of grievance do social movements form? Why do people choose to protest collectively given threats of reprisal? What explains the rise in support for populist outreaches by far-right parties in Europe’s most democratic countries? By examining a wide variety of movements, from labor mobilizations such as Poland’s Solidarity to ethnic nationalist campaigns by groups such as the Basques and the Kurds, we use comparative analysis to identify points of convergence and divergence across cases. We explore how mobilization strategies spill across borders in “waves” of protest, such as those prefiguring the collapse of the Soviet Union. We also investigate how developments in media and technology affect protest outcomes – and when they don’t, such as the “Twitter Revolution” that failed in Moldova. Students will gain both empirical insights into particular cases across Europe as well as the conceptual tools used by scholars of comparative politics to analyze the puzzling but highly topical questions above.

SA.710.708. Crises and Responses in Transatlantic Relations. 4 Credits.

SA.710.720. The Political Economies of Emerging Europe. 4 Credits.
Examines the relationship between the two most dramatic changes in Europe over the past half century of integration in the West and transition in the East. Argues that the relationship is both self-reinforcing and (at times) counterproductive. As a result, the fate of the European Union and the future of Pan-Europe are inextricably linked, and a truly continental system is emerging in Europe. How the European political and economic elites can harness that system for the general good remains to be seen. (Cross listed European & Eurasian Studies/International Development)

SA.710.722. European Union: Integration and Disintegration. 4 Credits.
This course is about the political economy of European integration and disintegration. The goal is to help students understand how European came together and why it might be falling apart. The approach is both historical and theoretical. Students will come away having familiarity with the broad narrative of the integration process, a general understanding of the roles played by key individuals and participating countries, and a clear sense of the challenges Europe faces today. Students will also be exposed to the main theoretical approaches used by economists and political scientists to explain the dynamics underlying the integration process, where those theoretical traditions have come up short, and how we might improve our basic understanding. Finally, students will acquire sufficient background and familiarity to understand and assess current debates about the future of the European project and the relationship between the progress of European integration and the future of the European nation state. (Cross listed European and Eurasian Studies/International Political Economy)
The course examines the relations between Europe and other regions (including historical and contemporary role as an actor in the world arena. The student's written work.

4 Credits. 

SA.710.738. History of European Integration. 4 Credits.

The course aims to provide students with an understanding of Europe's role on major contemporary global issues including North America, Russia, North Africa and the Middle East, and East Asia. It places the events in context and offers a critical perspective on the development of European integration.

4 Credits. 

SA.710.737. Writing for Policy: A workshop on the journal, Survival: Global Politics and Strategy. 4 Credits.

This seminar/workshop might also be titled "Writing and Editing for Policy Debate." Following short lectures and class discussion of fiction and non-fiction models for good writing, students will participate, in real time, in a 'shadow editorial process' putting together two issues of the bi-monthly journal, Survival: Global Politics and Strategy. More than half of class time will therefore be organized as editorial meetings where students, under the direction of the instructor (the Editor of Survival), will participate in all aspects of the process: commissioning articles, evaluating submissions, editing accepted copy, writing essays with an eye to publication, and laying out the issue. In addition, each student will meet with the instructor in 4 or 5 half-hour tutorial sessions to go over the student's written work.

Click here to see evaluations, syllabi, and faculty bios.

SA.710.729. Democracy, Dissidence and Dictatorship. 2 Credits.

What was the Soviet empire, and how did its ideology operate? To what degree was it successful? Why did that ideology ultimately fail? What was the role of dissidence? Why, and how, did the nations of the region choose democracy? What was the nature of the reforms, and why were they chosen? How did the Soviet Union/Russia, successive US administration and the European Union shape those choices? Are we now witnessing a backlash to the choices of the 1990s? How does the experience of the past two decades continue to effect political leaders – Putin, Kaczynski, Orban, Merkel – in the present? This seminar is designed to develop the skills to read, write and discuss history, and the relationship between history and current events, in a critical fashion. No background in the history of the region is required. Some general knowledge of European twentieth-century history will help, but this is not for specialists. Everyone is expected to contribute to all discussions.

SA.710.728. Contemporary European Politics (2 credits). 2 Credits.

Populism, xenophobia, soft-authoritarianism, electoral volatility, Brexit. This doesn't look like your grandparents' Europe. That Europe was famously engaged in a bold project to unify the continent under democracy and the rule of law. By most appearances, this Europe is not. But maybe it isn't so different. The purpose of this course is to put the contemporary politics of Europe into perspective. Sure, there are important changes in the pattern of electoral competition taking place across the Continent (and with the British Isles very much included). The pattern of European integration is changing as well. So is that complex political arrangement we call ‘democracy'. And so is the way European's promote their core values. But beneath all the turmoil bubbling away at the surface, we can easily trace line of continuity and progress. These lines are important to help us sort out where Europe is actually headed – meaning how far we should expect European politics to deviate from the path toward peaceful prosperity, and how seriously we should be concerned about the fate of the European project. The course mixes insights on national performance, both East and West, with a clear-eyed introduction to the institutions of the European Union and the compromises at the heart of that thing we call 'Europe'. The conclusions we draw are important not just for understanding contemporary European politics, but also for the transatlantic relationship and the future of world order.

SA.710.727. The Making (and Unmaking) of a Super Power. 4 Credits.

Far from expectations of partnership after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, Russia looms large in today's international security debates as a nuclear-armed opponent of the US-led world order. The course examines how the Soviet Union acquired and lost superpower status as a backdrop to current Russian efforts to reassert global leadership. The central premise of the course is that modern Russia, to paraphrase Mark Twain, does not repeat but rhymes with the Soviet era. The content is structured chronologically, to give the main sequence of events, and thematically, to enable students to draw comparisons between the Soviet and post-Soviet eras. Themes include state capacity and institutions, economic modernization, national identity and nationalism, and national security.

The content enables students to look beyond the headlines to historical factors shaping the current worldview of Russian elites and society.

SA.710.726. Russia Beyond the Headlines. 4 Credits.

Far from expectations of partnership after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, Russia looms large in today's international security debates as a nuclear-armed opponent of the US-led world order. The course looks beyond the headlines to examine why Russia became a revisionist power behind Russia's strategic posture and to formulate approaches for dealing with Russia in the Putin and post-Putin era.

4 Credits.

SA.710.725. State, Society, and Violence in Russia and Eastern Europe. 4 Credits.

Violence between, but especially within states is a critical and constant feature of Russian and Eastern European politics and societies, both in the past and nowadays. These events can be large scale, such as civil wars, ethnic conflicts, bloody terror campaign and genocides, but also less visible, such as criminal violence and assassinations. While some instances of political violence are well known and have been extensively studied, only recently have scholars of the region started paying serious attention to understanding the many forms of political violence in Russia and Eastern Europe. The goal of this class is to introduce students to the different types of political violence in Russia and Eastern Europe since 1945, their causes, forms and impact. The class will present the key academic research on various aspects of political violence in Russia and Eastern Europe, will discuss the similarities and differences between types and forms of violence, and will analyze the theoretical and methodological approaches to studying political violence in the region. We will end by discussing the impact of violence on the societies and the people of the region and the ways to prevent and manage violent conflicts in the post-communist world.

4 Credits.

SA.710.724. Europe and the World. 4 Credits.

The course aims to provide students with an understanding of Europe's historical and contemporary role as an actor in the world arena. It examines the relations between Europe and other regions (including North America, Russia, North Africa and the Middle East, and East Asia) as well as Europe's role on major contemporary global issues including peace and human rights, climate change mitigation, and migration. In so doing, the course covers both the role of regional organizations, and especially the European Union, in shaping Europe's external actions, as well as the foreign policies of major European states.
SA.710.740. The New Turkey. 4 Credits.
The primary objective of this class is to introduce students to Turkey's rapidly evolving domestic and external environment. The first part of the course will broadly cover Turkey's domestic dynamics. After an overview of the Ottoman legacy, the course will analyze the official ideology of the republic, Kemalism, and the role of the Turkish military as the guardian of this official ideology. The course will then focus on the Kurdish question and political Islam as Turkey's two major "identity" problems. The rise of the AKP (Justice and Development Party) in the last decade and the clash between Kemalism, the Kurdish question and political Islam will be a major theme of class discussions and presentations. The second part of the course will primarily deal with Turkish foreign policy and Turkey's evolving strategic vision and culture under the leadership of AKP. Although the main emphasis will be on relations with the Middle East, Turkish Foreign policy towards the European Union and Russia will also be analyzed. The domestic determinants of Turkish foreign policy will be a particularly important theme to explore.
Prerequisite(s): Students may not register for this class if they have already received credit for SA.860.796[C]

SA.710.763. Movement Towards European Unity. 4 Credits.
This course represents an introduction to the historical development of the European Community and the European Union. That said, the perspective I adopt is grounded more solidly in political science rather than history. My argument is that European integration can be explained as a function of three types of variables: Ideas, events, and ?unintended consequences?. The analytic claim is that European integration started and is perpetuated to shore up the weaknesses of individual nation-states and of the national state system. In other words, the course is grounded on a set of very specific (and very controversial) arguments and interpretations. These must be examined carefully, critically, comprehensively. They must be challenged. And, if necessary, they must be refuted. The material surveyed in the course should help you do all those things and more.

SA.710.771. Contemporary Russian Foreign Policy. 4 Credits.
Analyzes Russia's foreign and security policy as a resurgent great power in Eurasia with regional and global ambition and its evolution up to recent events. It also examines from a geopolitical and geo-economic perspective its interaction with Europe, the United States, and China with due consideration to hegemonic and nationalist impulses in the Post Soviet space.

SA.710.772. Central Asia Practicum: The Pivot of All Eurasia. 4 Credits.
If Eurasia is the "geographical pivot of history," as Halford Mackinder proclaimed in 1904, to what extent does Central Asia constitute the axis of this super continent -- the pivot of the pivot? The course examines this question through the analytical lenses of history, political economy and geopolitics. Strategically located at the crossroads of China, Russia, India, Turkey, and Iran, the region is pulsating with great power rivalries, developmental challenges, and social tensions. Our focus will be on the external influences and domestic drivers that shape the development paths of the five states of Central Asia (CA5)—Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan—with episodic examination of neighbors in the Caucasus and Afghanistan. The region is a thriving market for hydrocarbons, minerals and agricultural products, but also a crossroads of illicit drugs, terrorist groups, and weapons. At the same time, innovative educational and civil society organizations offer hope for a new developmental path. The course examines these contradictory trajectories, their implications for regional economic and political development, and the consequences for rivalries and connectivity in Eurasia. Enrollment in this class is by application.

SA.710.783. EU Foreign Policy. 4 Credits.
The course offers both a general introduction and a more in-depth approach to the way in which the European Union (EU) acts in international relations. It is meant to provide a balanced analysis of all the main issues involved ? inside as well outside Europe proper ? and to stimulate the students to address specific themes while giving them also a ?flavor? of how policy is actually made in and with Brussels. (Cross listed European Studies/International Relations) (T&H)

SA.710.786. The Caucasus. 4 Credits.
Examines the interaction of the small, ancient peoples of the Caucasus with more universal forces such as Christianity, Islam, the modern West, Russian state-building, communism and global capitalism. Concentrates on viewing the region from a security perspective from 1985 to the present. Emphasizes ethnicity and religion and their interaction with the nation-state; territorial conflict, migration and organized crime; energy and pipeline development; the role of the Caucasus in Eurasian strategic alignments; and the relationship of the Caucasus to Europe. Recommended for subfields 2, 4 and 6.

SA.710.792. Energy Transition in Europe: Systems, Innovation & Leadership. 4 Credits.
This course will provide students with insights into the complexity of decision making on energy transition in Europe. The course will focus specifically on: i) energy-system thinking, ii) business model innovation and financing and iii) public and private leadership. The current European energy system faces many pressing issues. Competition natural resources such as energy, water, and land has risen to the center national strategic concerns due to the emergence of new economic powers, especially China and India, a rapidly growing urban population and the impacts of climate change. Energy security concerns in Europe are growing but solutions focus mainly on securing supplies of foreign oil and gas and reducing dependence on their imports. The diversification of energy supply options and the efficient management of energy should be part of the energy security debate. In Europe, energy infrastructure, generation, transportation, and distribution systems are under tremendous pressure. National and state electricity grids are often outdated and constrained and in need of major investments. Current infrastructure is inadequate to facilitate the transition to a low-carbon energy future that will include a growing supply from renewable energy sources such as offshore wind and solar. Through this course students will gain a deeper understanding of the energy transition in Europe, the dilemma's business leaders and policy-makers face and the significance of system-level decision making. They will also develop skills to research and write concise policy papers focusing on innovative policy recommendations. The course will use tools such as the computer-simulation En-Roads and Harvard case studies.

SA.710.806. The EU and its Institutions. 4 Credits.
This course provides an introduction to the economic and political integration of the European Community and the European Union and its institutions. Originally designed as a simple economic arrangement, the evolution and expansion of the European Union represents an unprecedented attempt at supranational integration that has resulted in a body of institutions that exert profound influence in global economic and political affairs. The material covered in the class will consist of a blend of the historical context, the key ideas, events and unintended consequences that illuminate and inform various competing theoretical paradigms that try to explain Europe's dramatic transformation.

SA.710.810. Will the EU Survive Until 2025?. 4 Credits.
SA.710.817. Contemporary Russian Politics. 4 Credits.
This course explores the government and politics of Russia since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. It focuses on the major political and economic trends of recent years— the evolution of the political system and the executive branch, the transition to a market economy and the evolution of Russian capitalism, the politics of federalism and the recentralization of power under Putin, as well as the pressing challenges of corruption and imperatives of state-building. While grounded in the study of modern Russia, the course takes an implicitly comparative approach and also addresses questions relevant to other national contexts.

SA.710.907. European Financial Markets. 4 Credits.
The purpose of this course is to encourage students to develop a deeper understanding of European financial market integration. The course begins with the completion of the internal market in the late 1980s and ends with current efforts to form a European banking union. Along the way, it introduces both common institutions and distinctive national frameworks. It also looks at how regulations promulgated within Europe interact with those developed at the global level. Students should have a good understanding of Macroeconomics. Some background in international monetary theory and corporate finance would be advantageous but is not required.

SA.710.946. West European Political Economies. 4 Credits.
Introduces the national models for political and economic organization in Europe. The objective is to understand how Europe’s economic patterns have developed through the more recent period of globalization, European integration and the end of the Cold War.

SA.710.956. Europe and Islam. 4 Credits.
Introduces the complex interactions of European and Islamic civilizations from the time of the Prophet until the contemporary era. Draws heavily on the cultural, political and military aspects of early encounters between Islam and Christianity. Analyzes the contemporary presence of Islam and Muslims in Europe by focusing on France, Germany and Britain. Examines the relevance of different models of secularism and citizenship in these three countries. Also addresses Islam in the Balkans, Europe’s relations with Turkey and the Middle East. <a href="http://www.sais-jhu.edu/resources/administrative-offices/how-access-course-syllabi-and-evaluations" target="_blank">Click here to see evaluations, syllabi, and faculty bios</a>

SA.710.992. The Balkans: From Fragmentation to What?. 4 Credits.
Explores factors at work in the cycles of conflict and outside control that mark the region. Considers the competing narratives that shape the identities and “history” of the Balkan peoples. Also looks at the problems of shifting borders and populations as well as the definition of the Balkans as a region—including exploration of why an area marginal to greater powers repeatedly draws them into dangerous involvements. The former Yugoslavia’s formation and collapse is a central focus, along with the growing Albanian universe and the roles of Greece, Romania and Bulgaria. <a href="http://www.sais-jhu.edu/resources/administrative-offices/how-access-course-syllabi-and-evaluations" target="_blank">Click here to see evaluations, syllabi, and faculty bios</a>