# Logo for Georgetown University, Center for Eurasian, Russian, and East European Studies

# Fall 2020 MAERES Courses

## Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies

REES 410 – Law and Disorder from Socialism to Post-Socialism - 32093

Western media frequently portray the former Communist states of Europe and Eurasia as being mired in a peculiar mix of corruption, crime and chaos. The objective of this course is to familiarize students with the legal cultures, institutions, and practices fostered under Soviet style socialism and then analyze with them current efforts to establish new legal systems. We will address the role of law (and criminality) in both the emerging democracies and new illiberal regimes among the states of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. We will give special attention to corruption, the influence of Western ideas and institutions, and popular attitudes toward law as an element of consolidating democracy.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Distribution: Government

REES 454 – Information Wars: How Nations Wage Online Combat - 38819

This course will examine how information - and disinformation - have become key elements of domestic politics and modern foreign policy**.** Massively cheaper than military weapons and hardware, weaponized information can be extremely effective not only in promoting a country's soft-power influence, but in undermining enemy states. The course will include discussions with officials from several countries both employing - and  countering -  weaponized information.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Distribution: Government

REES 480 – Protest and Politics in Russia - 36276

What kind of political participation is possible under a strong state? With brief interludes of openness, the Soviet and post-Soviet leaderships have sought to limit and control popular feedback. Electoral mechanisms in Russia in particular have been shaped and manipulated to manage participation. Therefore, this course explores non-ordinary politics—from petitions to demonstrations--from the post-Stalin years to the present with an emphasis on various forms by which citizens have attempted to influence shifting political regimes. Topics include dissent, social movements, media and social media, channels of protest, and state responses. Students will conduct independent research on protest manifestations.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Distribution: Government

REES 500 – Introduction to Area Studies - 12924

REES-500 is a seminar course designed to enhance CERES students’ ability to write and conduct research at the graduate level and introduce a variety of disciplinary lenses used to study the region. We will begin with a discussion of the development of ‘area studies’, turn to the disciplinary approaches that economics, history, political science, literary/cultural studies, and anthropology/sociology use and then focus on individual research projects. Students should end the course with a better understanding of the study of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), the former Soviet Union (FSU) and Eurasia and enhanced skills for rigorous thinking and writing according to the traditions of the disciplines listed above.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Distribution: Core Course

REES 515 – Foundations of Data Visualization - 38830

**MEETS DURING SESSION 1 (8/26-10/14)**

Data management, analysis, and communication is becoming an expected skillset throughout the public, private, and nonprofit sectors. This course will teach fundamental principles and toolsets needed to accurately and effectively analyze and report on data in the workplace. Foundational analytics and reporting tools, such as data cleaning methods on Excel and Python, data visualization best practices through Tableau and Power BI, and context-driven data storytelling techniques, will allow students to be prepared to dive deeper into their specific professional and academic data analytics opportunities.

Credits: 1.5

Prerequisites: None

Distribution: General elective

REES 516 – Career and Leadership Design Toolkit - 38831

**MEETS DURING SESSION 2 (10/15-12/18)**

The tools you use in building your career are the same tools you use to build your role and reputation as a leader. Your experience, value proposition, emotional intelligence and communication skills are tools you can leverage in interviews, managing your network, or as you lead a project or a team meeting. The course will allow you to assess what tools are in your toolkit, and which ones you need to add as you establish your role as a leader in your next role.

Credits: 1.5

Prerequisites: None

Distribution: General elective

REES 525 – Security Issues in Russia/Eurasia - 38763

The security challenges facing Russia and the Eurasian states appear to be increasing in number and in complexity. This course seeks to examine how these states are addressing such concerns, either individually or through collective approaches. In order to better understand the security dynamics of the broader Eurasian space, we will review how “security” was framed during the Soviet period and at the end of the 20th century. We will then look at how the respective states have adapted and/or altered this approach; specifically, Russia, the Western states (Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova), the Caucasus (Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan), and Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan). The latter part of the course will evaluate how current threats and issues are being addressed in the region, including energy and economic security, military development, terrorism and trafficking, and the presence of external powers in the region. There will be two written assignments and a final examination in the course.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Distribution: Government

REES 550 - Conflict Resolution in the Former USSR - 36322

The USSR broke up in December, 1991 in a largely peaceful fashion. An important exception was the South Caucasus where the three states, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, experienced ethno-territorial conflicts which have defied solution and retarded political and economic progress. Moldova experienced a similar pattern. Georgia and Russia fought a brief but politically significant war in 2008 and more recently, Russia has annexed Crimea from Ukraine and supported a strong separatist movement in Eastern Ukraine. The course will examine why the USSR broke up, what contributed to peaceful resolution of most issues among the successor states and why conflict developed in the South Caucasus, Moldova and later Ukraine. Readings on conflict resolution will be included. Case studies will include the Nagorno-Karabakh war between Armenia and Azerbaijan, the separatist wars of Georgia with South Ossetia and Abkhazia, the 2008 Georgian-Russian war, Moldova and the current Ukraine conflict. The course will conclude with a simulation exercise in which the class will be given a hypothetical, but realistic, potential conflict situation in the South Caucasus and then asked to resolve the problem before the outbreak of hostilities.

The course aims to provide students with in-depth knowledge of these conflicts and to apply CR theory and methods to see what is most useful and practical in the former USSR. The simulation exercise will seek to develop skills in negotiation, teamwork, and diplomatic writing style.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Distribution: Government

REES 615– Economics of Transition - 38762

This course is concerned with an empirical understanding of postcommunist economic transformations, especially in the former republics of the Soviet Union, Central and Eastern Europe. A theoretical framework of the transition policy will be reflected in the context of globalization. The objectives of the course are 1) to understand goals, ways and forms of transition from the centrally planned economy to a market economy and 2) to understand main drivers, successes and failures of reforms, challenges and achievements of the transition process. It offers a broad empirical and thematic overview of post-soviet economic transformation. It will discuss why and how communism collapsed, alternative reform programs, the development of output, liberalization, financial stabilization, privatization, corruption and governance, social developments and policy, and the role of the outside world.

The course is designed for graduate students in various social sciences with a regional focus on Eurasia. An understanding of economic reasoning is required. Knowledge of Russian language is welcome but not necessary. After this course, a student should understand what post-Soviet economic transformation was about, which were the main issues and disputes, and what the main differences between the transition countries were. This knowledge should facilitate perception and evaluation of the on-going economic and political development across the region.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Distribution: Economics

## German and European Studies

GEST 582 – Politics of European Security - 34896

The course explores the current state of European security and security institutions (e.g. EU, NATO, and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)), the new European strategic environment, and the future of NATO as well as the Common European Security and Defense Policy (CSDP) of the European Union. With a focus on the development and execution of the European Security Strategy, security issues in the Eastern Neighborhood, such as the cases of Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova, where Russia and the EU have been on a collision course, as well as developments in the Southern Neighborhood and the Mediterranean Union, in particular the security implications of the Arab Spring and its aftermath, will be discussed. In this respect, the refugee crisis that has challenged Europe will be discussed as well in all its aspects. The debate over engagement in Afghanistan, Africa, the former Yugoslavia, Libya, Syria as well as other deployments will be reviewed with respect to the politics, operations and strategy for European security.

The course will also address European relations with the United States, Russia and other actors in the international arena. Topics include the debate over Iraq and Syria as well as European policies with respect more generally to the Middle East, in particular Iran and the Middle East Peace Process. Emerging defense institutions since the Lisbon Treaty (EU crisis management, battle groups, etc) and European defense capabilities and roles both in NATO and in the EU will be analyzed. The politics of NATO transformation and NATO- and EU-enlargement, as well as new global threats for European security such as terrorism and weapons of mass destruction will also be major issues for class discussion.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Distribution: Government

## Government

GOVT 443 – Russian Foreign Policy – 27027

This course focuses on Russian foreign policy since the Soviet collapse. Topics covered include: the legacy of the Cold War and how it ended; domestic sources of Russian foreign policy; U.S-Russian relations; Russia’ s relations with Europe; Sino-Russian relations and Russia as an Asian power; Russian energy and geopolitics; Russia’s relations with its neighbors and future scenarios for Vladimir Putin’s fourth Presidency.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Distribution: Government

GOVT 558 – Politics of Energy: Russia and Europe- 34575

A quarter-century after the fall of the Berlin wall and the end of the Soviet empire, the West faces what it thought it would never see again—a quasi-Cold War in a redivided Europe. The vision that inspired the 1990s and the early 2000s, of a modern Russia integrated into the world economy and aligned in peaceful partnership with a reunited Europe, has abruptly vanished. Instead, a new line of conflict is being drawn across the map. This seminar is intended to introduce graduate students to analysis and research on the strategic issues linking Russia and Europe in the field of energy. The course will cover three broad topics: energy policy-making and structure in Russia and Europe (with special emphasis on Germany); the politics of major fuels (with special emphasis on oil and gas); major international issues arising out of energy relations between Russia and Europe.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Distribution: Government/Economics

## History

HIST 360– Islam and War – 35872

This course examines Islamic warfare from the earliest Muslim conquests through WWI. After discussing classical Islamic conceptions of war and peace, the course examines the early Muslim conquests, the Crusades, the Mongol invasion of the Islamic world, and the wars of the Mamluk, Ottoman, and Safavid Empires. In the second part of the course we consider topics such as land, naval, and siege warfare, military manpower and military slavery in Islam, war financing, military technology, weapons and tactics, logistics and provisioning, fortresses and border defense, and the impact of war upon societies. The last phase of the course studies military modernization attempts of the Ottoman Empire and Egypt in the nineteenth century, and the ultimate defeat of modernized Muslim armies by the combined forces of ethnic nationalism and Great Power imperialism. In this section we also consider the increased destructiveness of modern warfare for non-combatants and the displacement of civilian populations.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Distribution: History

HIST 372– Topics: Global History of the USSR – 38290

One of the most significant events of the 20th century was the second Russian revolution of 1917, which brought to power the first Marxist government in history. Within little more than a generation, the socialist governments of Lenin and Stalin had transformed a largely agrarian country into one of the great industrialized world powers. In this class, we will look at the Soviet relationship with the wider world: its goals and aspirations; the methods with which it pursued these; and the outcomes it faced. Combining aspects of political and cultural history, the class will address these issues beginning shortly after the Revolution through to perestroika and the war in Afghanistan, moments of weakness and imperial overreach that exposed fatal flaws in the Soviet system.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Distribution: History

HIST 374 – The Russian Roots of Terrorism – 38391

Also crosslisted as RUSS 384.

This course is team–taught in English to bring together history and fiction as a way to understand Russian terrorism. The topic in terms of both Poetics and History and Political thought entails a two-fold benefit for students. On the one hand, the students will see the historical background for mental and ethical premises all-too relevant today for the world as a whole, audacious as these premises may seem or be. On the other hand, given the importance of the history of Terrorism as ideology, they will also learn what Poetics, the specifically artistic discourse, can convey about a political mentality which they may otherwise find not merely unbearable but incomprehensible even in purely mental terms. Fiction, after all, is capable to convey the ineffable and to model the incomprehensible as no other discourse can.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Distribution: History/Culture

HIST 629 – Empires at War 1911-1923 - 38399

In 1914 Europe and the world were dominated by empires. From imperial Russia and Japan to republican France and the United States all the great powers that participated in World War I were either empires in name or in fact. From the eve of the Balkan wars in 1911 to the establishment of the Turkish republic in 1923, this course will use empire as its leitmotif to examine not only why and how the war began and changed Europe, but what its impact was on the non-Western peoples who either voluntarily or involuntarily participated in it. Accordingly, the course will involve several members of the Department of History whose expertise will complement the trans-regional character of the course. Like World War I itself, this course is not just a European affair.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Distribution: History

HIST 674 – Approaches to Russian/Soviet History - 38400

Course description not yet available.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Distribution: History

## International Affairs

INAF 465 – Government and Politics of Turkey – 22737

This course proposes to examine in depth some of the major debates and issues faced by the citizens of the Turkish Republic at the present time. In doing so this course will briefly examine the origins of the modern Turkish State with a focus on the origins of Kemalism and will give particular emphasis to the interplay of domestic and international agendas in the larger framework of the current Turkish debates on such topics as accession negotiations to join the European Union, the Kurdish Opening, and other key domestic political changes during the multiparty era.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Distribution: Government

INAF 741 – Data Analytics for Regional Studies – 36799

This practical, skills-based course aims to give students a solid foundation in the acquisition, analysis, interpretation and presentation of quantitative data. The course begins by taking a step back from data to discuss the nature of the social scientific enterprise, with a special focus on causal inference. After building a solid foundation in descriptive statistics, we’ll discuss the challenges of research with observational data. We’ll spend a lot of time discussing and thinking about the central problem of endogeneity, and after diving into probability theory, we’ll begin to develop the tools to develop and test hypotheses. While we’ll be engaging with some of the most fundamentally bedeviling questions of social science, the focus throughout the course will be on conceptual understanding and applied, practical skills.

Prerequisites: None

Distribution: Sociology

## Persian

PERS 201 – Advanced Persian - 12545

This course is designed to enable the student to reach higher levels in the various language skills a stage where they use Persian in wider arrays of cultural, professional and social contexts. Students will prepare newspaper and journal articles, short stories, reports and presentations. Students will be expected to argue and debate extensively, paraphrase and summarize texts, and to express points of view in both speaking and writing. Emphasis will be placed on understanding nuances, idiomatic expressions, and rhetorical devices. By the end of the course, it is expected that students will be able to converse in a clear and concise participatory fashion and to carry out a wide variety of communicative tasks requiring diverse discourse strategies.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: Two years of Persian or permission of the instructor.

Distribution: Language

PERS 348– Contemporary Iranian Literature – 38021

Contemporary Iranian Literature is designed for high intermediate and advanced level students and will be taught in Persian Language. In this course we will explore recent Iranian literature, and particularly poetry through the works of several contemporary authors. We will learn the fundamental structures of Persian poetry/literature and assess expressions of Iranian culture through literature.

Credits: 1

Prerequisites: PERS 201 or equivalent

Distribution: Language/Culture

PERS 364 – Iranian Cinema and Culture – 26941

Iranian Culture and Cinema is designed for high intermediate and advanced level students and will be taught in the Persian language. This course will introduce students to the variety of complex cultural themes found in post-revolutionary Iranian cinema. The instructor will facilitate analytical and in-depth discussions regarding cultural themes such as, symbolism, stereotypes, art, as well as political and social criticism. The class will view and analyze films from six well known Iranian directors. Students are expected to critically analyze, interpret, and participate in discussion for each assigned film.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: PERS 201 or equivalent

Distribution: Language/Culture

## Polish

PLSH 397 – Tutorial: Professional Polish – 37744

Designed for students who will be using Polish in their professional lives, this course aims to enhance the participants’ command of the language in both the oral and written forms. The course will focus on the preparation, delivery, and discussion of oral presentations on topics related to the students’ professional interests. Topics will range from international relations, politics, and economics to Polish literature and popular culture.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: PLSH 102 or equivalent

Distribution: Language/Culture

## Russian

RUSS 355 – Fourth-Level Russian – 14849

The goal of the course is to enlarge students' vocabulary and to develop their ability to conduct conversation and discussion on a variety of issues and topics that pertain to the use of the language in their future professions. Class discussions focus on contemporary issues and are based on articles from the Russian press, the Internet, and television programs.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: RUSS-211 or 214

Distribution: Language/Culture

RUSS 384 – The Russian Roots of Terrorism – 38292

Also crosslisted as HIST 374.

This course is team–taught in English to bring together history and fiction as a way to understand Russian terrorism. The topic in terms of both Poetics and History and Political thought entails a two-fold benefit for students. On the one hand, the students will see the historical background for mental and ethical premises all-too relevant today for the world as a whole, audacious as these premises may seem or be. On the other hand, given the importance of the history of Terrorism as ideology, they will also learn what Poetics, the specifically artistic discourse, can convey about a political mentality which they may otherwise find not merely unbearable but incomprehensible even in purely mental terms. Fiction, after all, is capable to convey the ineffable and to model the incomprehensible as no other discourse can.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Distribution: History/Culture

RUSS 389 – Post-Colonial/Post-Soviet Voices – 38293

This course provides a geographically expansive view of Soviet and post-Soviet literature, reaching beyond the traditional centers of cultural production to invite voices and perspectives from across what the Soviets touted as “one-sixth of the world.” By critically examining such claims of a unified cultural and political space, this course views the Soviet Union and Russia as multi-national, multi-ethnic entities, continuously resistant to monolithic definitions, readings, and interpretations. As we encounter authors from the Caucasus, Central Asia, and Siberia, we examine the colonial legacy of the Russian empire and the Soviet Union in the context of global postcolonial theory. We ask how Russia’s imperial experience differed ideologically and practically from that of other empires throughout history, and how these differences are reflected in the postcolonial practices of contemporary authors.
Taught in English

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Distribution: Culture

RUSS 397 – Professional Russian I - 12945

Designed for graduate students in CERES and MSFS who will be using Russian in their professional lives, this course aims to enhance the participants' command of the language in both the oral and written forms. The course will focus on the preparation, delivery and discussion of oral presentations and written essays on topics related to the students' professional interests. Topics will range from international relations, politics and economics to Russian literature and popular culture.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: Fourth-Level Russian or equivalent. Non-CERES students with permission of CERES or Slavic Department.

Distribution: Language/Culture

RUSS 453 – Post-Soviet Identity in Literature and Film – 38294

The course "Transgression and Resistance" studies the most recent literature and films created in the post-Soviet space: we will read and analyze short stories (Victor Pelevin, Vladimir Sorokin, Jurij Bujda), poems (Maria Stepanova, Elena Fanailova, Roman Osminkin), songs (Psoy Korolenko), as well as non-fiction (Svetlana Aleksievich) and texts created collectively in the Russian segment of the Internet, and discuss how they are rooted in and react to the classical Russian and Soviet traditions. We will focus on various strategies of constructing a new Russian identity on problems of nationality and gender. The course will treat post-Soviet transgressive literature and visual arts as a form of resistance to authoritative aesthetics and political systems and discuss the phenomenon of nostalgia towards the Soviet Union and its deconstruction in contemporary culture.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: RUSS-211 or 214

Distribution: Language/Culture

RUSS 494 – Sixth-Level Russian I – 29422

The goal of this course is to develop participants’ professional command of Russian speech in oral and written forms. Special attention will be paid to the grammatical and lexical precision of the ideas and opinions on sophisticated professional topics. The focus is of this course is on the preparation, delivery, and discussion of oral presentations and written essays on topics related to participants’ professional interests. Topics will range from the fields of international relations, economics and politics, to Russian and Soviet culture and literature.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: Professional Russian or equivalent. Non-CERES students with permission of CERES or Slavic Department.

Distribution: Language/Culture

## Security Studies

Please note: SEST 677 has 2 seats available for MAERES students on a first-come, first-served basis. All other SEST courses are closed to outside students during the initial period of live registration.

SEST 677 – Russian National Security - 30210

This course examines Russia’s foreign policymaking and has four purposes. The first is to provide students with a better understanding of the principal drivers and constraints shaping Russian foreign policy. The second purpose is for students to learn about Russia’s important relations and key issues with major powers and regions. The third purpose is for students to get familiar with the main instruments and mechanisms in the toolbox of Russian decision-makers and learn how they use them to defend Russian national interests and advance Moscow’s policy priorities in key functional areas. The fourth purpose is for students to develop critical thinking and writing skills so that they can produce high quality analytical products for various types of consumers, using open source information.

Credits: 3

Prerequisites: None

Distribution: Government

## Turkish

TURK 401 – Advanced Turkish I - 31556

In this Advanced, 3 credit, Turkish class, we will use a range of readings and exercises to improve fluency in the four main language skills of:

Reading Comprehension

Listening Comprehension

Speaking

Writing

Various Materials will be required including DILMER workbooks, the Penn Modules, and selections from Turkish Literature.

Credits: 3

Prerequisite: TURK 022 or equivalent

Distribution: Language/Culture