Fall 2018 MAERES Courses

Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies

REES 410 – Law and Disorder from Socialism to Post-Socialism - 32093
11:00am – 12:15 pm  MW  Intercultural Center 217A  Kathleen Smith
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 428 – Central Asian Politics in Anthropological Perspective - 34454
6:30-9:00pm  W  Intercultural Center 217A  David Abramson
The course will examine key social and ideological systems—political and economic patronage, nationalism, and Islam—underlying contemporary politics in post-Soviet Central Asia. Students will become familiar with anthropological approaches to understanding the concepts of state and society and be expected to use them to gain a deeper and more practical appreciation for addressing the kinds of issues that often bedevil U.S. policymakers working on the region. The course format will combine lecture and group discussion.
Please note: this course assumes basic familiarity with the history and cultures of the former Soviet Union.
Prerequisites: None
Distribution: Anthropology/Sociology

REES 452 – Eurasia Reconnecting - 32862
12:30 pm - 3:00 pm  T  New North GW03  Andrew Kuchins
The Eurasian supercontinent, from Europe in the West to Asia in the East and Russia in the North to India in the South, is reconnecting in ways analogous to the ancient Silk Road more than 500 years ago before the advent of extensive sea trade. New transit corridors, energy pipelines, trade agreements, and investment relationships are the economic drivers for emergent political ties, multilateral organizations, and security challenges. For example, 25 years ago bilateral Sino-Indian trade was a paltry $300 million, but today China is India's #1 trade partner with bilateral trade well over $100 billion. What does this mean for their traditionally fraught political relationship? Every state, from great powers like Russia, China, and India to smaller states in Central Asia and the South Caucasus are developing
strategies to advance their economic and political interests in this remarkably fluid environment. Private sector actors are the avant-guard.

Many academic and governmental institutions are constrained from understanding comprehensively how Eurasia is reconnecting because of stove-piped regional studies that capture only a part of the large picture. This course will first examine conceptually economic, political, and security significance of what is happening and then analyze how key states, regions, and institutions seek to advance their interests, and finally, how the United States might frame its policy towards this historic phenomenon.

Credits: 3
Prerequisites: None
Distribution: Government

REES 453 – Caspian Sea Energy Resources: Theory and Practice – 31188
9:30 am – 12:00pm T  Car Barn 201  Brenda S Shaffer
This course will examine the main trends in Caspian oil and natural gas production and export. It will also look at the influence of Caspian energy production on the political, social, economic and environmental developments of the Caspian region and the global implications of these developments. The course aims to give students both skills for academic research on the Caspian region and also to give practical understanding and insights for students interested in working in the Caspian energy field. Among the course topics: trends in oil and natural gas markets, rentier state economies and politics, energy export as a tool of foreign policy, impact of Caspian energy on markets, energy production and conflict, EU legislation and energy import, state revenue funds, national oil companies, foreign direct investment trends, foreign players in the Caspian (international oil companies, US, Russia, Iran, Turkey, China and Europe). The course will include guest lectures by practitioners in the field of Caspian energy and a simulation led by the students.

Credits: 3
Prerequisites: None
Distribution: Economics

REES 461 – Contested Territories and Divided Societies - 27236
2:00 pm - 4:30 pm W  White-Gravenor 209  Dennis Deletant
The course addresses areas of competing nationalisms and discusses the manner in which the ideas of nation and democracy inform the government of selected multi-ethnic states and territories. It seeks to remind us that while the options offered under democracy offer the prospect of finding common ground on which to negotiate, thus carrying the seed of consolidation for democracy in certain states in transition, those same democratic options can complicate transition since they nurture the potential for dispute. The geographical focus will be principally, although not exclusively, on Kosovo, Ukraine, Moldova, and Transylvania as regions of national division and will examine how that division has affected the history and politics in these states/regions.

This is a reading-oriented seminar; the emphasis will be on close reading and discussion of the assigned material. Each seminar will begin with a presentation by Dr. Deletant, followed by a brief student presentation of an assigned text. The remaining class time will be spent discussing the assigned readings and their relationship to the themes of the course.

Credits: 3
Prerequisites: None
Distribution: History

REES 500 – Introduction to Area Studies
9:30 am – 12:00pm Car Barn 205A  Kathleen Smith
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 562 – Afghanistan: Politics/Geopolitics/Security - 34455
5:00 pm - 7:30 pm M Intercultural Center 206B Roger Kangas
Since 2001, Afghanistan has been in the news as a security challenge to the US and NATO. However, the geopolitical significance of this Central Asian state reaches much farther back in history. The purpose of this course is to focus attention on the country of Afghanistan in the context on regional security and broader geopolitical considerations. In this, the goal is to understand what is at stake for the citizens of Afghanistan and the external powers that are currently engaged in the country. The course is roughly divided into three parts. First, although this is not a history course, attention will be spent on the basic trends and events in Afghanistan’s past. Outside interventions and movements (ethnic groups, religious movements, and empires) have shaped what is seen in the country today. Second, the course will assess the key issues confronting the modern, post-Taliban state of Afghanistan today. How does the Afghan government (and people) view the challenges of governance, economic development, insurgency, terrorism, and narcotics trafficking? Third, the course will conclude with the roles and interests of outside powers, such as China, Pakistan, Iran, the United States and other regional players. No prior knowledge of, or expertise in Afghanistan and Afghan affairs is required for this course.

Credits: 3
Prerequisites: None
Distribution: Government

REES 610 – Building Capitalism: Post-Communist Transition - 28880
9:30 am - 12:00 pm W Healy 106 Anders Aslund
The purpose of this course is to provide graduate students with an empirical understanding of what postcommunist economic transformation was about, its aims, issues, and outcomes. It offers a broad empirical and thematic overview of post-communist economic transformation in Eastern, Central Europe and Central Asia. It will discuss 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. It is designed for graduate students in various social sciences with a regional focus on Eurasia. An understanding of economic reasoning is required.

After this course, a student should feel that he or she understands what postcommunist economic transformation was about, what the main issues and disputes were, and what the main differences between the transition countries were.

Credits: 3
Prerequisites: None
Distribution: Economics

German and European Studies
GEST 582 – Politics of European Security - 34896
6:30 pm – 9:00pm W Reiss 281 Gale Mattox, Dieter Dettke
(Updated description forthcoming; Fall 2017 description below)
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**
3:30 pm - 4:45 pm  TR  Walsh 394  Angela E Stent
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 555 – Post Communist Politics - 25240**
9:30am -12:00pm  R  Car Barn 170  Kathleen Smith
This course traces the processes of economic, social and political change in Russia and Eastern Europe beginning with the dramatic period of reform and revolution in the 1980s. Students will investigate the break with communism and simultaneous efforts at market building and democratization. For the contemporary period, we will inquire into the causes of the divergent political development evident in the current regimes that have emerged from the ruins of the old Soviet bloc.
Credits: 3
Prerequisites: None
Distribution: Government

**GOVT 558 – Russian-European Energy Relations**
3:30-6:00pm  M  Intercultural Center 211B  Thane Gustafson
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:

1. Energy policy-making and structure in Russia and Europe (with special emphasis on Germany)
2. The politics of major fuels (with special emphasis on oil and gas)
3. Major international issues arising out of energy relations between Russia and Europe

The seminar is open to all graduate students interested in energy matters, but preference will be given to students with a strong background in Russian, Ukrainian, or German affairs.

The major requirement of the seminar will be a 20-page seminar paper consisting of original research and analysis on a topic related to Russian-European energy relations. Additionally, there will be weekly class discussions based on a wide range of assigned readings.

Credits: 3
Prerequisites: None
Distribution: Government

GOVT 578-02 Conflict Resolution in the Former USSR
12:30 pm - 3:00 pm W Walsh 397 Kenneth Yalowitz
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

History
HIST 475 – From Tsars to Putin - 34771
2:00pm – 4:30pm R Car Barn 202 Michael David-Fox
To what extent is Vladimir Putin and today’s Russia a prisoner of the past, and to what extent does the past explain Putin’s Russia? This course examines continuities and discontinuities in Russian political history, engaging comparative, thematic, and theoretical perspectives. It pays particular attention to the imperial Russian autocracy starting in the reign of Nicholas I, Soviet power under Lenin and Stalin, and post-Soviet Russia under Vladimir Putin. In order to more deeply understand the particular dilemmas of autocracy and one-person rule in different authoritarian regimes that have coalesced in the Russian/Eurasian space, the course will first critically examine the most celebrated theories explaining historical continuity from Muscovy on, from Edward Keenan’s work on “Muscovite political folkways” to Alfred Rieber’s work on “persistent factors” in Russian foreign policy. Proceeding chronologically, the course encompasses investigations into such key areas as the effectiveness and organization of central state administration; the relationship between state and society; the governing of rural Russia and the regions; borderlands, non-Russians, and the multinational state; the projection and representations of
power; personality cults; the role of ideology; political violence and repression; and relations with great power rivals and the outside world. The goal will be, to paraphrase Marc Bloch, not only to better understand the present in light of the past, but to better understand the past in light of the present.

Credits: 3
Prerequisites: None
Distribution: History

HIST 662 – Europe and the Middle East in the 19th Century
12:30 – 3:00pm W White-Gravenor 409 Mustafa Aksakal
Throughout the nineteenth century Ottoman state and society sought to cope with – or take advantage of – an unprecedented rise in European military, economic, and technological power. In the process, the Middle East experienced radically new forms of political and social organization from the Balkans to the Arabian peninsula. We explore some of the most recent historiography that treats this transformation and that seeks to explain the wave of European military interventions that swept across the Middle East in this period. Prerequisites: None
Distribution: History

International Affairs
INAF 465 – Government and Politics of Turkey – 22737
5:00pm-7:30pm T Intercultural Center 119 Sinan Ciddi
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 653 – America’s National Security Toolbox – 32857
10:00-11:50 M Mortara Center Madeleine Albright
The primary objective of this seminar is to investigate the tools available to today’s foreign-policy practitioner. Students will evaluate the strengths and limitations of individual policy instruments in the areas of traditional diplomacy, economic measures, military force, and public diplomacy by looking at them in the context of recent cases. Role-playing scenarios will challenge students to design U.S. policy responses to foreign affairs crises, thereby testing the application of their policy “toolbox” in a complex, dynamic, inter-agency environment. Note: Permission needed to attend this course; space is very limited.
Credits: 3
Prerequisites: None
Distribution (for CERES): Government

Persian
PERS 201 – Advanced Persian - 12545
11:00am – 12:15pm TR New North GW03 Azin Behzadi
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 364 – Iranian Cinema and Culture – 26941
3:30-4:45pm MW Intercultural Center 209B Farima Sadigh-Mostowfi
Iranian Cinema and Culture 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: Course taught in Persian
Distribution: Language/Culture

Russian
RUSS 355 – Fourth-Level Russian – 14849
5:00 pm - 6:15 pm MW White-Gravenor 211 L Fedorova
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 397 – Professional Russian I - 12945
5:00 pm - 6:15 pm MW Intercultural Center 221A Elena Boudovskaia
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 462 – Chekhov: Prose and Drama – 34456
3:30-4:45 TR Intercultural Center 117 George Mihaychuk
This course will examine Chekhov's prose and his dramas. It will focus on the literary context of late nineteenth-century Russian literature, the development of Chekhov's poetics and his influence on Russian prose and theater.
Conducted in Russian.
Credits: 3
Prerequisites: Third-Level Russian or equivalent
In 19th-century Russian culture and literature, it became fairly clear, fairly early on, that the truly heroic would be all women. Men had two options left — to be villains or wimps, sometimes with a rather attractive Hamlet-like allure. As a result, Russian literature made one thing clear for Western literature as well: the Romantic Hero was in fact an anti-hero, inherently. This discovery and clarification had huge implications for Russia in the 19th and 20th centuries but also for the West. The course covers material pertaining to Russian Romanticism, nascent Realism, and the way both stem from a pattern suggested by Russian Sentimentalism — in Karamzin’s “Poor Liza”. This translates to, roughly, the following authors — mostly but not exclusively their prose: Pushkin, Lermontov, Gogol, Odoevsky, and Griboedov. Most likely works to be covered are Pushkin’s Belkin’s Tales and ‘The Queen of Spades’, Lermontov’s Hero of Our Time, Gogol's Dead Souls and Petersburg Tales, V.F. Odoevsky’s “Opere dei Cavalleri Giambattista Piranesi” and The Salamander, and Griboedov’s “Woe from Wit”, or “Trouble with Reason” (depending on the translation you use). An in-class midterm essay and a final paper are required, as well as many questions to be answered on close readings by email. These and class participation are included in your final grade. As class participation is vital, more than one unexcused absence would automatically lower your grade by 5% per absence.

(Taught in English)
Credits: 3
Prerequisites: None
Distribution: Culture

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

This course examines Russia’s relations with major powers in the Middle East and has three purposes. The first purpose is for students to learn about the principal actors, main interests and drivers, and key issues shaping Russian foreign and national security policy in the Middle East. The second purpose is to provide students with a better understanding of 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 the Kremlin’s policy priorities in the Middle East. The third 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
3:30 pm - 4:45 pm  TR  Intercultural Center 210B  Zeynep F. Gur
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