

Russia-EU Relations

Course Outline

This course is designed to offer an in-depth and comprehensive study of the Russia-EU relationship. European Union remains Russia's largest economic partner and 2nd foreign policy partner (after the Post-Soviet states and integration projects). The course will explore history of the relations, analyze their legal, political, economic and analytical framework, and offer detailed analyses of the major areas of Russia-EU relations.

The course aims to study the EU-Russia relations under multiple angles (such as the role of values and interests, how do the relations between Russia and individual EU member-states impact the EU-Russia relations) and in multiple spheres and dimensions (global politics, the relations on the Post-Soviet space, energy, European and International security). It also addresses the current state and prospects for development of the relations and their key issues and problems, such as the negotiations on a New Strategic Partnership Treaty, the prospects of visafree regime and the "Partnership for Modernization" project.

The course also combines theoretical and empirical aspects. It examines the specificity of the European Union as an international actor, including the limits of its external competence, and its use of "soft" or "normative power". Theoretical instruments of analyses of the EU foreign policy and Russia-EU relations are provided and analyzed.

The Course plays an essential part in the "European studies" master program. It allows the students to apply the knowledge they obtain through the other courses, such as those on history and theory of the European integration, EU politics, law and institutions, into a broader context, to see in which areas European and Russian interests and policies coincide and in which they diverge, and why.

One of the main particularities of the course is the fact that Russia-EU relations are analyzed neither from the point of view of Russian nor EU official foreign policy and diplomatic narratives. While both approaches are thoroughly examined students are encouraged to adopt a critical approach over both Russian and European foreign policies, to see advantages and disadvantages, achievements and missed opportunities of both sides. They also learn about the variety of different schools of thought on EU-Russia relations that exist in Russia and EU member-states. During the course students enjoy the opportunity to debate on a number of issues and are encouraged to formulate their own vision on the subject.

Another characteristic feature of the course is the combination of a political and legal approach, involving the studying of the functioning of the EU in the sphere of international relations and an analysis of the political and legal basis of the Russia-EU relations.

The purpose of the course is to improve understanding of the nature of the Russia-EU relationship, reflect on the notion of "strategic partnership", and consider the perspectives and possible scenarios of its development. By the end of the course students are expected to have a firm grasp of the current state of EU-Russia relations, and of its future prospects. They will be able to consider to continue their studies (PhD) in the field or use the obtained knowledge to consult public or private companies on various issues connected with EU-Russia relations.

Syllabus

I. Introduction to the studies of Russia – EU Relations

1. What to study? Defining object and subject of the Russia-EU relations.
2. How to study? Methods and theories of studying Russia-EU relations.
3. The place of Europe and the EU in Russian development and Russian foreign policy.
4. Values and interests: the key dilemma of the Russia-EU relations.
5. External environment of the Russia-EU relations: the major external challenges for the EU and Russia and their impact on the relations.

II. Historical overview of the Russia-EU relations.

6. Russia-EU relations in 1991-1999.
7. Russia-EU relations in 1999-2003.
8. Russia-EU relations in 2003-2008.
9. Russia-EU relations in 2009-2012.
10. Russia-EU relations in 2013 and beyond: possible scenarios.

III. Political and legal basis and issues of the Russian-EU relations.

11. Legal aspects of the EU Foreign Relations and foreign policy.
12. Political and legal basis of the Russian-EU relations.
13. Russia-EU negotiations on the new Strategic Agreement. The problem of new political and legal basis in the Russia-EU relations.

IV. Bilateral relations between Russia and the EU member states in the Russia-EU relations.

14. Relations between Russia and the Western European countries.
15. Relations between Russia and the Central and Eastern European countries.
16. The problem of the EU common and unified policy in the Russia-EU relations.

V. Sectoral areas and aspects of the Russia-EU relations

17. Russia-EU dialogue on European and International security. Development of the CFSP and ESDP and Russia-EU relations.
18. Russia-EU relations at the Post-Soviet space.
19. Russia-EU relations in the energy field.
20. Russia-EU relations in the field of transport.
21. Russia-EU relations in science and technology.

Requirements and Prerequisites

The students are required to have basic knowledge of the EU institutions and the functioning of the European Union (particularly in the foreign policy field) or International Relations history and theory, of Political Science, as well as are preferred to have a basic knowledge of the contemporary International Affairs.

Professor / Lecturer

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Exam

Verbal (oral) exam. Each of the students will be provided with two questions based on the Syllabus and lectures. Plus, some additional questions on the topics covered at the lectures and strictly based on the Syllabus will be asked.