

Course manual
Joint Master's Programme in
International Humanitarian Action

University of
Warsaw

**Economy and foreign policy of
Eastern European countries**

Semester 3

Module coordinator:

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Credits awarded: 5 ECTS, equivalent to 125 work hours (1 ECTS = 25 hours)

Period: Third semester, block 1.

Venue & hours: Tuesday, 9.45 – 11.15, venue tba.

1. Introduction

The module is an element of the third component (Regional perspective, 4 ECTS) of the NOHA Joint Master's Degree in International Humanitarian Action to be completed during the third semester. It forms a recognised part of the curriculum and is a requirement for obtaining the NOHA Master's degree.

The overall objective of the module is to familiarize the students with the economies and the foreign policies of the Eastern European countries (Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan). This region has particularly focused international attention since the beginning of the Russian-Ukrainian war in Spring 2014, however the needs of humanitarian action are much larger (both in time and space). For last thirty years, majority of the countries in the region have been touched by humanitarian crises, whether natural or man-made. Such situation has been at least partially due to the weakness of their economies and ambivalences of their foreign policies. Since the end of the communist system, the Eastern European countries have been unable to enter the path of modernization, like their Central European neighbours, opting for an extensive development (Russia) or a "no reform" survival strategy (Ukraine). Due to internal and external factors, they have not established either solid relations with the West, which might have supported their transformation. In consequence the Eastern European countries are largely unable to effectively face humanitarian challenges.

2. Learning outcomes

In conformity with the learning outcomes set out by the NOHA network, students should achieve the following learning outcomes by the end of this module:

KNOWLEDGE

Student:

1. Has a good understanding of economies and foreign policies of the Eastern European countries and their influences on humanitarian action issues.
2. Has a critical understanding of the social, legal and security environment in the conflicts in Eastern Europe.
3. Has a thorough knowledge of the operational processes and changes in political, military, economic and social structures and institutions in Eastern Europe; has a thorough knowledge of the theory and practice of political and economic decision-making in this region at the nation state level and on the international scale.

SKILLS

Students

1. Has specialised skills to conceptualise, interpret and critically analyse complex humanitarian crises in Eastern Europe on the basis of a variety of sources, generating new interdisciplinary expertise to help solve complex humanitarian problems.
2. Has specialised problem-solving skills to promote the best and safest response in humanitarian emergency contexts in Eastern Europe in terms of political, economic and social implications and foreseeable harm by humanitarian interventions.
3. Has specialised problem-solving skills combining interdisciplinary knowledge and understanding of the range of needs and capabilities of crisis-affected people in Eastern Europe toward relevant, evidence-based solutions for effective response.

SOCIAL COMPETENCES

1. Has studied in depth the political and economic situation in Eastern Europe, and conducted a research project largely self-directed.
2. Learns from past experiences of the Eastern European countries, identifies opportunities to overcome humanitarian dilemmas and proposes new work methods for increased efficiency, effectiveness and stakeholder accountability in complex and unpredictable humanitarian environments.

3. Course material

Suggested readings:

Abdelal R., *National Purpose in the World Economy: Post-Soviet States in Comparative Perspective*, Cornell University Press, Ithaca 2005 (from 4 USD)

Åslund A., *How Russia Became a Market Economy*, Brookings Institution Press, Washington, 1995 (from 4 USD)

Aslund A., *Ukraine: What Went Wrong and How to Fix It*, Peterson Institute for International Economics, Washington 2015 (from 15 USD)

Auty R., Soysa I. (de), *Energy, Wealth and Governance in the Caucasus and Central Asia: Lessons not learned*, Routledge, Abingdon 2006 (from 43 USD)

Ayoob M., Ismayilov M., *Identity and Politics in Central Asia and the Caucasus*, Routledge, Abingdon 2015 (from 89 USD)

Balmaceda M.M., *The Politics of Energy Dependency: Ukraine, Belarus, and Lithuania Between Domestic Oligarchs and Russian Pressure*, University of Toronto Press, Toronto 2013 (from 31 USD)

Beacháin D.Ó., A. Polese (eds.), *The Colour Revolutions in the Former Soviet Republics. Successes and Failures*, Routledge, London – New York 2010 (from 37 USD)

Feklyunina V., White S., *The International Economic Crisis and the Post-Soviet States*, Routledge, Abingdon 2014 (from 116 USD)

Hamilton D., Mangott G. (eds.), *The New Eastern Europe: Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova*, Center for Transatlantic Relations – Austrian Institute for International Affairs, Washington – Vienna 2007 (from 22,82 USD)

Jafarova E., *Conflict Resolution in South Caucasus: Challenges to International Efforts*, Lexington Books, Lanham 2014 (from 85 USD)

Katchanovski I., *Cleft Countries: Regional Political Divisions and Cultures in Post-Soviet Ukraine and Moldova*, Ibidem-Verlag, Stuttgart 2006 (from 39 USD)

Marples D., *Belarus: A Denationalized Nation*, Routledge, Abingdon 2013 (from 126 USD)

Menon R, Rumer E.B., *Conflict in Ukraine: The Unwinding of the Post-Cold War Order*, MIT Press, Cambridge 2015 (from 18,21 USD)

Munteanu I. (et al.), *Moldova on the Way to Democracy and Stability*, The German Marshall Fund of the United States, București – Chișinău 2005, <http://www.viitorul.org/download.php?file=cHVibGJlL3B1YmtpY2F0aW9ucy8xMDA4L2VuL01vbGRvdmFfRGVtb2NyYW5X2VuZ2wucGRm>

Pelnēns G. (ed.), The “Humanitarian Dimension” of Russian Foreign Policy Toward Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and the Baltic States, Centre for East European Policy Studies, Riga 2010, <http://www.ape.md/download.php?file=cHVibGljL3B1YmxpY2F0aW9ucy84ODkxNTZfbWRfcmVzZWYyZhfMjAwOS5wZGY%3D>

Robinson N., The Political Economy of Russia, Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Lanham 2012 (from 22 USD)

Hughes J., Sasse G. (eds.), Ethnicity and territory in the former Soviet Union: regions in conflict, Frank Cass, London – New York 2002 (from 42 USD)

Starr S.F., Dawisha K., The International Politics of Eurasia: vol. 4: The Making of Foreign Policy in Russia and the New States of Eurasia, Routledge, Abingdon 1995 (from 47 USD)

Starr S.F., Dawisha K., The International Politics of Eurasia: vol. 10: The International Dimension of Post-communist Transitions in Russia and the New States of Eurasia, Routledge, Abingdon 2015 (from 47 USD)

White S., Feklyunina V., Identities and Foreign Policies in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus: The Other Europes, Palgrave Macmillan, Basingstoke 2014 (from 73 USD)

Wooden A.E., Stefes C.H., The Politics of Transition in Central Asia and the Caucasus: Enduring Legacies and Emerging Challenges, Routledge, Abingdon 2009 (from 73 USD)

All the prices above had been taken from amazon.com or abebooks.com. They apply in most of the cases to new books; used may be cheaper.

4. Teaching and learning methodology

The module is a lecture-based module supplemented with meetings with experts, tutorials and directed study.

5. Programme and training activities

Week 1

Introductory meeting (programme, assessment, term papers, exam).

Lecture: The notion and the borders of Eastern Europe

Week 2

Meeting with external expert.

Week 3

Lecture: economy of Russia

Week 4

Lecture: foreign policy of Russia

Week 5

Lecture: economy of Ukraine

Week 6

Lecture: foreign policy of Ukraine

Week 7

Lecture: economy and foreign policy of Belarus

Week 8

Lecture: economy and foreign policy of Moldova

Week 9

Meeting with external expert.

Week 10

Lecture: economies and foreign policies of South Caucasus states

Week 11

Lecture: economies and foreign policies of South Caucasus states

Week 12

Lecture: economies and foreign policies of South Caucasus states

Week 13

Presentation and discussion of term papers

Week 14

Presentation and discussion of term papers

6. Workload

Lectures: 30 hours

Preparation of the term paper: 70 hours.

7. Assessment methods

Term paper: 50%

Written exam: 50%

8. Assessment criteria

< 40%: 2

40 – 50%: 3

50 – 60%: 3,5

60 – 70%: 4

70 – 80%: 4,5

80 – 90%: 5

90 – 100%: 5!

9. Appendices

Term paper:

The term paper should cover a topic, which is related both to humanitarian action and the economies and the foreign policies of Eastern European countries.

The subject of the term paper chosen by the student should be consulted by e-mail with the lecturer. Other issues, such as the structure, the content, the bibliography of the term paper etc. can be discussed during the office hours of the lecturer, if there is such a need.

Formal requirements: about 15 pages (4500 – 4800 words), font Calibri 11 pt or Times New Roman 12 pt, spacing 1,5, footnotes references.

Written exam:

The written exam will consist of 5 open questions based on the lectures.