



EUROPEAN  
UNIVERSITY AT  
ST. PETERSBURG

# International MA in Russian and Eurasian Studies

**INTERNATIONAL MA IN RUSSIAN AND  
EURASIAN STUDIES (IMARES)  
THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY  
AT ST. PETERSBURG**

Whether because of global energy concerns, regional and ethnic conflicts, economic growth, migration, East-West relations, or political unpredictability, the Eurasian space continues to attract international attention. The International MA in Russian and Eurasian Studies (IMARES) at EUSP is designed to meet this strong interest by engaging the many analytical challenges posed therein.

IMARES provides training in the politics, economy, society, and history of Russia and neighboring Eurasian states. It combines the highest standards of teaching in English by Russian and international faculty with the advantages of living in St. Petersburg, Russia's cultural capital. A separate teaching module on Empire and Islam is offered in Kazan, the city where Slavic and Turkic civilizations meet. We offer a comprehensive and varied curriculum.

IMARES, an advanced graduate program for students who already hold a B.A. degree or its equivalent, offers training and research opportunities as well as firsthand experience to get a close feel for Russia and the many other countries in the wider region. In 1998 this program began as M.A. in Russian Studies. More than 200 international students have taken our Russian Studies courses and about 80 M.A. degrees have been awarded.

EUSP has a special partnership agreement with The Elliott School of International Affairs of George Washington University whereby IMARES credits are recognized, so that EUSP alumni can receive Master of International Studies degree at GWU upon completing one year of studies in Washington, DC. See <http://www.gwu.edu/~elliott/academics/grad/ees/>

## **COURSES OFFERED IN 2009–2010 IN ST. PETERSBURG**

Each course consists of lectures and follow-up discussion sessions; each course counts for 8 ECTS credits. All instruction is in English

### **Division 1: POLITICS AND ECONOMY**

**Political Changes in Post-Soviet Eurasia** (Spring 2010)  
Vladimir Gel'man

The course is focused on the emergence and development of political systems of post-Soviet countries within the context of regime changes and state-building. Starting with the

collapse of the Soviet Union as a point of departure, the course traces the making and unmaking of major political institutions in these newly established states by examining the impact of legacy of the past, the role of domestic political elites and international political and economic actors. Special attention is devoted to patterns of political instability and leadership changes during the wave of so-called “color revolutions”.

### **Russian Foreign Policy (Spring 2010)**

Nikita Lomagin

The class focuses on energy policy and energy security understood in the context of global and Eurasian political economy and international relations. The course offers different perceptions of energy security in importing and exporting nations, and aims at contemporary development in providing energy security on global, regional and national levels. Special attention will be given to EU-Russia energy dialogue as well as to energy policy of the former Soviet states.

### **Russian Politics (Fall 2010)**

(Lecturer TBA)

### **Security Threats in Eurasia: Armed Conflicts, Terrorism, and Extremism (Fall 2009)**

Ekaterina Stepanova

The course focuses on the origins of collective violence, political and religious extremism and their implication for national, regional and human security in Eurasia. It starts with an introduction into global trends in armed conflicts and terrorism, the role of radical nationalism of separatist and right-wing bent and religious extremism in armed violence. It also explores the nature and limits of the links between political violence and organized crime. The course shows how these global trends manifest themselves in Eurasia and highlights the dynamic of collective socio-political violence, with the main focus on the most affected regions, such as the North and South Caucasus, Transdnistria (Moldova), and broader Central Asia, including the regional implications of the situation in Afghanistan. The course addresses the role of both non-state and state actors in armed violence and concludes by critical analysis of conflict management and prevention mechanisms and the discussion of functional and legitimate ways of countering violent extremism.

### **Energy Security and Russian Politics (Fall 2009)**

Nikita Lomagin

The class focuses on energy policy and energy security understood in the context of Eurasian political economy and international relations.

### **Russian Energy Sector: Basic Economics, Policy, and Future Trends (Fall 2009)**

Valeriy Kryukov

The course offers a comprehensive analysis of the Russian energy sector. It includes the basic geography, recent history of development, and the transformation of its institutional structure during the economic transition. Major current and prospective investment projects will be assessed. A special emphasis is put on state policies of regulation of the oil sector in contemporary Russia.

## **The State, Violence, and the Mafia in Comparative Perspective (Fall 2009)**

Vadim Volkov

This class looks at how the state and its proxies, such as various mafia-like groups shape economic development. Comparing different national mafias (Sicilian, US, Japanese), it traces common institutional patterns and business practices. The course offers rich material on the Russian organized crime and its role in the transitional economy. It also traces the recent Russian project of state-building and looks at relations and conflicts between the state and business in Russia. What is the difference between the state and organized crime? The course proves differences are not so easy to find. As by-product, students will be introduced to basic theoretical frameworks of political sociology and institutional economics.

## **Division 2: SOCIETY AND HISTORY**

### **A World History of the Caucasus, 3000 B.C.E. – 2009 C.E. (Spring 2010)**

Georgi Derlugian

Why not retell the whole span of world history taking as our observation point the Caucasus rather than the usual hegemonic suspects in the West? The vantage point is as good as it gets. Squeezed between the grinding wheels of the Near Eastern agrarian empires and the nomadic Great Steppe, the Caucasus remained always a tough rock to crack. The course takes you from the Bronze Age charioteers to the Medieval roving Alans (whose name survives in English and French) and to the Great Game fought between the Russian and British empires in the nineteenth century. And what has the Soviet modernization wrought on the Caucasus? Does it matter that Stalin emerged from the Caucasus? What do Chechens have in common with ancient Spartans? Why are the Abkhazians still mostly pagan? And where is located Europe's first officially Buddhist state? Why did the USSR begin collapsing in the Caucasus? Moreover, how all that history matters today in this global world.

### **Siberia: An Introduction to the Region (Spring 2010)**

Nikolai Vakhtin and Evgenii Golovko

The conquest, settlement, and industrial development of Siberia has been one of the major projects of the Russian state for centuries. The course offers a history of the colonization of Siberia and of its development from the XVIII century to the Soviet industrialization, and the creation of the oil and gas industry. It provides an introduction to the ethnic composition of peoples of Siberia, basic geography and political economy of the region.

### **Ethnicity and Nationalism in Post-Soviet Space (Fall 2009)**

Eduard Ponarin

This course examines the role of the ethnic factor in the dissolution of the Soviet Union and in post-Soviet conflicts. It begins with a survey of theories of nationalism. The theories are then applied to the late Soviet period and a particular emphasis is made on the Soviet institutionalization of ethnicity. In the second part of the course, various theoretical approaches are checked against a number of post-Soviet cases.

## **Russian Political and Social History (Spring 2010)**

Sergei Podbolotov

The first part of this course aims at tracing the evolution of forms of political and social organization preceding the emergence of modern Russia. Special attention will be given to changes in political institutions, relations between rulers and their subjects, local government, social strata, the Russian religious mind, and the origins of patriotism and ethnicity. The second part gives an overview of the development of the state and society in imperial Russia and the Soviet Union. Specifically, it aims at providing a comparative perspective on the processes of modernization in Russia and in the rest of Europe. Discussion sessions will concentrate on major debates about the key problems of modern Russian history.

## **State, Nationalism and Religion in the Russian Empire's Borderlands (Fall 2009)**

Mikhail Dolbilov

The course focuses on the dynamic and uninterrupted processes of the empire building under the Romanov dynasty's rule from Peter the Great to the First World War, as viewed first of all from the perspective of multiethnic and multiconfessional composition of the Russian empire. It is designed to overcome the failings of nation-centered narratives that anachronistically apply the standards of a modern nation state to studying the imperial dimensions of the pre-1917 Russian state. The course aims at illuminating the key and, paradoxically, central role of the imperial borderlands (in particular, the former lands of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the Baltic Region and the Grand Duchy of Finland, the North Caucasus and Transcaucasia, Turkestan) in political, administrative, spatial and representational structures of the empire. Of primary interest are various interactions between the state policies, the evolution of loyalty and allegiance patterns, and the shaping of ethno-cultural, ethno-confessional and national identities of Russian and non-Russian groups under the imperial rule. The course offers elements of comparative analysis of policies and mentalities in four contiguous empires – the Romanov, Habsburg, Hohenzollern, and Ottoman. Seminar meetings will be devoted to topical issues of historiographic debates about the Russian empire.

## **The Political Culture of the Russian Revolution (Fall 2009)**

Boris Kolonitskii

This course is devoted to the language of the Revolution. Central topics include different images of power, political functions of revolutionary symbols (flags, songs, uniforms, etc.), the lexicon of the Revolution. The course also explores different connotations of key political words ('democracy', 'bourgeoisie', 'freedom', etc.). The Revolution is viewed as a battle to control systems of symbolic meaning. Political actors tried to monopolize important political words and symbols and give them their own interpretation. Other topics of the course also include the cult of the revolutionary leader and the images of the enemy.

## **Films, Texts, and Theory in Comparative Perspective (Spring 2009)**

Pavel Lyssakov

This Cultural Studies course offers a view on selected Russian and East European films and literary texts through the prism of modern philosophical and aesthetic theory. The course's main concern is the interpretation of selected films with the help of the up-to-date theoretical apparatus, and the analysis of cinematic and literary texts as means of reflection of certain cultural and social tendencies and values. The course will also compare the

treatment of certain topics and subjects in “Western” and Russian/East-European cultures and specifically in films. Among the theories explored will be the Psychological and the Formalist Theory, the Myth and Structural Theory, Gender Theory, the issues of the Individual and the Collective, Freudian and Lacanian approach, Existentialism, Theories of Humor and Parody. Relationships between literary works and plays, and their screen versions will be explored as well. The course will cover films by Eisenstein, Kuleshov, Vertov, Tarkovsky, Konchalovsky, Makaveev, Khytilova, Wajda, and other masters lesser known in the West.

### **Doing Fieldwork in Russia (Fall 2009)**

Anna Temkina and Elena Zdravomyslova

The course will introduce students to the main issues of field work in contemporary post-Soviet society. We will discuss cross cultural communication as the background of the fieldwork and specify how cultural differences frame the qualitative methodologies and research techniques. The focus will be on the access to the field, credibility and trust issues in the data collection, paradoxes of informed consent. Usual problematics of the qualitative research will be also covered: research question, strategies of the qualitative studies (life-story method, case study), data collection (observation, interview) and basics of qualitative data analysis. The course is based on the examples of empirical studies carried out in post Soviet period.

### **TEACHING MODULE IN KAZAN: EMPIRE AND ISLAM**

Starting from the academic year 2009-10 IMARES will feature a special teaching module to be delivered in Kazan, the capital of Tatarstan. This culturally rich and economically advanced region, situated between Moscow and the Urals, is also the heart of an ancient Islamic civilization, which has for centuries developed as a gateway between European and Turkic cultures. This is an optional module that includes a two-week trip to Kazan to study aspects of the Russian and Eurasian cultures, imperial and postimperial history and contemporary moderate Islam. The module will consist of two intensive 4-credit courses (7 lectures and 7 follow-up discussion sessions each) plus a special cultural program. Alongside the main course teachers, some distinguished regional experts and policy advisors will contribute to the module.

### **Ethnicity and Culture in Soviet and Post-Soviet Tatarstan**

Sergey Erofeev, Iskender Yasaveyev

The course will be devoted to Tatarstan as a key region in the context of ethnic, language and media policies in the late Soviet Union and the Russian Federation of the 1990s, also looking at the effects of recentralization since 2001. It will explore the idea of ‘Euro-Islam’ and cover the issues of co-existence and interaction of western and eastern cultures in a regional context. The development of Tatar identity as projected by the post-Soviet media as well as through the local pop music and state-sponsored arts and literature will also be discussed. This will be followed by an analysis of the media construction of national and regional social problems and the socio-economic and political role of new cultural projects in Tatarstan, such as the World Tatar Congress, the Europe-Asia Festival, the 1000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the city of Kazan, top-league sports, the World Student Games, building the metro etc.

## **Imperial Histories, Eurasian Political and Intellectual Controversies**

Marina Mogilner, Iliya Gerasimov

The main themes of the course include Eurasia as a historical and analytical concept; comparative post-colonialism; scientific authority and the politics of difference: Imperial Kazan University as the Russian window to the East (ethnicity, race and nationality in the local academic discourses); interethnic dynamics in the imperial cities (with focus on Kazan), including the development of the Jewish communities; the Eurasian idea and the challenges of modernization: Russian physical anthropology and the concept of "mixed" race; interaction of the state and society and the role of intellectuals.

### **THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE COURSE**

(Fall and Spring semesters).

This is an optional course. It covers all the basic aspects of the language: pronunciation, grammar, reading, and writing. Classes will focus mainly on everyday conversational language and on developing communication skills. Russian mass media and discussions of hot political and social issues are an important part of the course. Placement tests are run early in September and February to establish prospective students' proficiency level. At the end of the course a final test may be administered and certificates are issued upon request.

### **DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

In addition to registering for two residence units (one for each semester) an IMARES student must take at least six courses during the year and submit a 15,000 words Master thesis based, at least in part, on primary source materials.

### **ADMISSION**

IMARES welcomes students from all arts and humanities backgrounds; to apply, one need not hold a degree in Russian, Soviet, or East European Studies. IMARES' major requirement is that students be highly motivated, and also devoted to and capable of rigorous study.

### **HOW TO APPLY**

Application forms and other info are on <http://www.eu.spb.ru>, or can be requested by e-mail from [imares@eu.spb.ru](mailto:imares@eu.spb.ru)

### **STARTING DATES AND APPLICATION DEADLINES**

Classes begin during the first week of September in the Fall Term and first week of February in the Spring Term. Students can choose the starting date. They have to meet the deadline for submitting applications accordingly:

- April 30, 2009 to start in September 2009 or
- October 30, 2009 to start in February 2010

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