

Course Specifications

Valid in the academic year 2018-2019

Area study: Central Asia and the Caspian (K001263)

Course size (nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)

Credits 5.0 Study time 150 h Contact hrs 45.0 h

Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2018-2019

A (semester 1) English lecture 45.0 h

Lecturers in academic year 2018-2019

De Cordier, Bruno PS05 lecturer-in-charge
Totaro, Maurizio PS05 co-lecturer

Offered in the following programmes in 2018-2019

	crdts	offering
Bachelor of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject China)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject India)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Japan)	5	A
Master of Arts in Oriental Languages and Cultures (main subject Middle East Studies)	5	A
Master of Science in Conflict and Development	5	A
Master of Arts in Global Studies	5	A
Exchange Programme Oriental Languages and Cultures	5	A
Exchange Programme History	5	A
Exchange Programme in Political and Social Sciences	5	A

Teaching languages

English

Keywords

Turkic and Tajik world; Slavic world in non-Slavic countries; Caspian Sea basin; former tsarist empire and former USSR; western China; social history; social and cultural identities; impact of globalization and de-globalization; nation-building; formal and informal economy; Kazakhstan; Uzbekistan; Turkmenistan; Kyrgyzstan; Tajikistan; Xinjiang; Azerbaijan; the Russian Caspian basin.

Position of the course

The general purpose of the course is to give students an understanding in contemporary political and social matters in the regions and societies covered by the area study. This has to enable students to put developments in the Caspian region and Central Asia in a wider global setting. Relation to educational competences: M.1.1., M.1.2., M.1.4., M.1.7., M.2.1., M.3.1., M.3.2., M.3.3.

Contents

The course focuses on the region which nowadays comprises Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, the Russian Caspian and Xinjiang, and concentrates on the societies and identities of the countries of interest. The approach is thematic and based on cross-country case studies, and will also examine a number of possible trends and events in the future. It will start with an in-depth examination of how the region acquired its current cultural and political geography during and upon its integration in the Russian (and partly Chinese) greater space and how this still affects the present, before going deeper into a number of specific issues (*indicative and non-exclusive listing*): the relevance of the Caspian Sea; the social and

economic impacts of globalisation in and on the region; the nature of the state and political culture; the dynamics of religion; and the position and role of ethnic and confessional minorities.

Initial competences

This course is open to all students of the Master of Conflict and Development; the Master in Political Sciences: International Politics; and the Masters in the Faculties of Arts and Philosophy, Law, and Sciences. No specific initial competences are required

Final competences

- 1 to have a thorough insight into the relevant historical and contemporary social and political realities and evolutions of the Caspian-Central Asian region;
- 2 to be able to situate specific social-cultural and economic developments in a broader global framework;
- 3 to be able to formulate a founded opinion on the social, political and legal problems of the Caspian-Central Asian region based on facts and historical, current and potential future trends

Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

Teaching methods

Guided self-study, lecture

Extra information on the teaching methods

Frequent use of the lecturer's field and work experience in the region, video documentaries and thematic maps; possibly ad hoc guest speaker(s)

Learning materials and price

Normally free of charge. Presentations in pdf-format and, where deemed necessary and relevant, backup documentation and audio-visual materials will be made available through the relevant folders on the Minerva portal. Students are also supposed to take notes.

References

- 1) all relevant materials in the following region-focused journals:
 - Central Asian Survey (in English, ISSN , <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/ccas20>);
 - Central Asia and the Caucasus – Journal of Social and Political Research (in English and Russian, ISSN 1404-6091,)
 - Cahiers d'Asie centrale (in French and English,);
 - Central Asian Affairs (in English, ISSN 2214-2290,);
- 2) Roy, O. (1997), 'La nouvelle Asie centrale, ou la fabrication des nations', Seuil, ISBN 10: 2020287323 and - 13: 9782020287326 (published in English as 'The new Central Asia : the creation of nations', I.B. Tauris, ISBN-10: 0814775551 and -13: 978-0814775554

Course content-related study coaching

Specific questions can be asked to the Lecturer-in-Charge (Prof. dr. De Cordier) either before or just after the lectures, or by appointment

Evaluation methods

end-of-term evaluation

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the first examination period

Written examination

Examination methods in case of periodic evaluation during the second examination period

Written examination

Examination methods in case of permanent evaluation

Possibilities of retake in case of permanent evaluation

not applicable

Extra information on the examination methods

The exam is on 20 points in total and consists of three parts:

- factual knowledge (8/20);
- insights in realities and trends (6/20);
- opinion on the bases of a case study (6/20).

Calculation of the examination mark

Periodical examination (100%), which is on 20 points in total.

Facilities for Working Students

Ad hoc. To be agreed on with the Lecturer-in-Charge