# COURSE TITLE RUSSIAN THOUGHT ON EUROPE

Language of Instruction: English

## Course tutor(s)

Prof. dr hab. Czesław Porębski

Professor Czesław Porębski studied law and philosophy and has lectured in countries including Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Chile and Mexico. His main research interests are social and political philosophy and the history of political ideas.

## **Course description**

#### 1. Rationale

The relationship between philosophy and politics has always been very close. In one of the meanings of the term, politics is, since Plato and Aristotle, just one of the fundamental domains of philosophy. Plato's masterpiece *The Republic* is mainly a treatise on politics and political philosophy.

This relationship became even **more intimate in Russian** intellectual and political history of the last two centuries. Russian *intelligentsia*, including leading Russian philosophers, were very frequently involved in political processes and turmoil of the tsarist empire and of the Soviet Union. To be politically *engag*é was regarded as a social and moral duty. Very many Russian thinkers were political activists in the first place. This goes for both the tsarist and Soviet time.

The coalescence of different roles was expressed in a unique mixture of different ways and modes of literary articulation: rare are works of purely academic philosophy. Being politically active Russian intellectuals wanted to make their works politically efficient and persuasive. Hence philosophical reflection is to be found in works of poetry and artistic prose, in essays, pamphlets, and theatrical plays.

One of the characteristic features of Russian political thought (and activity) over the last two centuries has been that the question of **Russia's position** *vis-à-vis* **Europe** is being asked every now and then.

That question will become the focal point of the seminar.

#### The aims of the course will be then twofold:

- 1. to offer a vast panorama of Russian political thought of the last two centuries,
- 2. to present a detailed analysis of the question of how Russia relates, and should relate, to Europe, according to Russian thinkers.

These two points will be covered in introductory lectures.

# Type of course

Additional (elective) course for all specializations and specialty (MA level).

Year of Studies: 1 or 2

**Number of ECTS** 

4.5 ECTS

Pre-requisites (if applicable)

None

## **Specific Learning Outcomes**

EK1: has ordered and extended knowledge of terminology used in the humanities and social sciences. (K\_W03++)

EK2: has deepened knowledge about the terminology used when speaking of democratic and non-democratic governments, as well as knowledge about the process of development of political systems in Europe and their contemporary models. (K\_W10++)

EK3: has an ability to search, gather and interpret data and information based on relevant sources; has the ability to evaluate the importance of sources (K U01+++)

EK4: has the ability to form opinions and judgments that include reflection on and respect for (contrary) points of view deriving from other researches and participants in the discussion (K\_U06+++)

EK5: has the ability to prepare presentations and communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions (in Polish or in language of study programme) individually or in a group (K\_U10+++)

EK6: is aware of the level of his or her own knowledge and skills, understands the need for long-life learning in terms of professional and personal development, can determine the directions of his or her own professional and personal development (K K01+)

EK7: has the ability to effectively work individually as well as interact and work in a group, performing different roles in it (K K02++)

## **Course communication**

Email: cporebski@gmail.com , czeslaw.porebski@uj.edu.pl

## **Notices and announcements**

All announcements and course updates will be posted by CES in the online calendar as well as through email.

#### **COURSE ORGANISATION**

#### **Autumn Semester**

Time and Place: will be posted by CES in the online calendar

# Course type (seminar/lecture/workshop, etc.)

Lecture / seminar

#### Contact hour:

30 hours

# **Balance of ECTS credit**

Attendance (lectur/seminar): 30 h

Independent study of topics of lectures: 30 h Preparation of the presentation: 22,5 h Preparation of a written work: 30 h

Together: 112,5 h ECTS credit: 4.5

#### Didactic methods used

Lecture

Seminar

Presentation

Class discussion

# Mode and criteria of assessment of learning outcomes

K\_W03, K\_K05 – assessment based on presentation, essay and exam

K\_W012 -exam, presentation and essay

K\_U09 - essay

K\_U12 – essay, presentation

K\_U18 - exam, presentation, essay, participation in a discussion during classes

K\_K02, K\_K09 – evaluation of the student's progress made by the lecturer on the basis of active class participation, his/her presentation and essay

#### Assessment

The final grade will be based on: 1. student's activity in the class as students will be expected to prepare short presentations of selected topics (1/3), on the quality of final essay on the subject-matter chosen by the student (1/3) and on the results of oral examination (1/3).

#### Literature:

- 1. Andrzej Walicki, A History of Russian Thought from the Enlightenment to Marxism
- 2. Richard Pipes, Russia under the Old Regime
- 3. Lesley Chamberlain, Motherland. A Philosophical History of Russia
- 4. Orlando Figes, Natasha's Dance. A Cultural History of Russia
- 5. Isaiah Berlin, Russian Thinkers
- 6. Timothy Snyder, Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin
- 7. Orlando Figes, A People's Tragedy: Russian Revolution: 1891-1924
- 8. Orlando Figes, The Whisperers: Private Life in Stalin's Russia
- 9. Anne Applebaum, Gulag. A History
- 10. Nicolas Riasanovsky and Mark Steinberg, History of Russia
- 11. Nicolas Riasanovsky, Russian Identities: A Historical Survey
- 12. Edith W. Clowes, Fiction's Overcoat
- 13. Nicolas Riasanovsky, The Image of Peter the Great in Russian History and Thought
- 14. Lesley Chamberlain, The Philosophy Steamer

# **STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE**

- 1. General Introduction: Political Philosophy, Philosophy of History, Russian History
- 2. Chaadajev and the Occidentalists
- 3. Bielinsky and Russian Interpretations of Hegel
- 4. Herzen: a European Political Activist from Russia
- 5. Kirejevskij and the Slavophiles
- 6. Imperialists: Tiutchev
- 7. Leontiev on Empires, Byzantium and Russia's Imperial Vocation
- 8. Danielevsky and the Clash of Civilizations
  - 9. Soloviov and Plans of European Unification
- 10. Russian Populists, Socialists, Communists, and Bolsheviks on Europe and Russia
- 11. "The Philosophy Steamer": Russian Thought in Exile
- 12. Eurasianism and Its Present Day Echo
- 13. Russians on Russia vis-à-vis Europe Today
- 14. Philosophy, Politics, Literature: Students' In-class Presentations
- 15. Philosophy, Politics, Literature: Students' In-class Presentations