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HELSINKI  
SUMMER SCHOOL

Thinking Allowed

August 5 to 21, 2014

UNIVERSITIES IN HELSINKI, FINLAND  
ORGANISER



## POST-SOCIALIST SOCIETIES AND CULTURES

**ORGANISER:** The University of Helsinki, Aleksanteri Institute

**DATES:** August 5 to 21, 2014

**PRICES:** 490 EUR

**CREDITS:** 6 ECTS

**COORDINATOR:** Ms. Riikka Palonkorpi, [riikka.palonkorpi\(at\)helsinki.fi](mailto:riikka.palonkorpi(at)helsinki.fi)

### Synopsis

This course examines recent changes in post-socialist societies in Russia and Eastern Europe. It focuses on social and cultural change in Russia, but also offers insights into Eastern European developments. Taught by a group of area studies experts who specialise in political history, sociology, and political and cultural studies, the course provides students with multidisciplinary approaches to the study of post-socialist cultures and societies. Particular attention will be paid to questions of identity, geopolitics and globalisation. The course also addresses questions of gender, environmental development and human rights.

### Learning objectives

Post-socialist Societies and Cultures analyses the social and cultural change in Russia, while it

also offers insights into Eastern European developments. Particular attention will be paid to current questions of identity, geopolitics and globalisation. The course also addresses questions of gender, environmental development, and human rights. In order to understand contemporary problems, we have to recognise long-term societal and cultural processes rooted in the past. For this reason, the course also delves into the area's history and socialist past, providing a toolkit for the analysis of the challenges the area faces in the post-socialist present.

### Course format and teaching methods

The course on Post-socialist Societies and Cultures entails introductory lectures on the historical background and major methodological and conceptual approaches. The course is divided into three clusters that focus on cultural, political and social questions with a total of 34 hours of lectures, including in-class discussions. This interactive method will deepen the conceptual understanding of the topics brought up in the lectures and the course readings.

### Teachers and lecturers

Katalin Miklossy: Political and social development in post-socialist countries (overview) Sanna Turoma: Cultural production and cultural institutions; post-socialist nostalgia Jussi Lassila: Domestic politics and nationalism Kaarina Aitamurto: Religion in post-socialism Katja Lehtisaari:

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Media studies Saara Ratilainen: Popular culture and consumerism Meri Kulmala: Civil society and civil organisations Anna-Liisa Heusala: Administrative reforms and security questions Veli-Pekka Tynkkynen: Environmental and ecological questions Freek van der Vet: Human rights

**Means and criteria of assessment**

Class attendance, a short pre-course assignment, course readings (materials will be distributed before the beginning of the course) and a final exam. Grading is based on attendance, participation in discussions and completion of the required assignments and the final exam. Grading scale: 5 = excellent 4 = very good 3 = good 2 = average 1 = poor 0 = fail.

**More information?**

Please direct any questions concerning the content of this course to the coordinator, Ms. Riikka Palonkorpi, riikka.palonkorpi(at)helsinki.fi.

Any questions on the general arrangements (accommodation, payments, etc.) should be addressed to the Summer School's office at summer-school(at)helsinki.fi.