This course aims to discuss from a strictly comparative perspective major trends in political, cultural and social evolution of Russia and Poland (*Rzeczpospolita Polska*, including Ukraine, Belarus’, Lithuania) in the Early Modern Period.

What did make difference between nobility, clergy, townpeople, peasants in Russia and Poland? What role was played by Orthodox and Catholic churches in cultural and social development of Eastern Europe? How strong were Byzantine, Asian and European influences on Russia? Why did Poland decline and the Russian Empire emerge? How did the “proto-national” identities take shape in Eastern Europe in XVIth – XVIIIth centuries? What were distinctive features of modernization processes in Russia and Poland? What we don’t understand still in the past of these two countries? These issues will be placed in center of seminar discussions.

Students will be expected to refresh their knowledge of East European history and culture on the basis of textbooks and other books of reference and to study some new materials suggested by instructor. In total readings required will be ca. 80-100 pp. per week, composed of textbooks, fragments of source materials and chapters (articles) taken from research books. The instructor will come to the seminars with a list of questions about the readings. Students will be asked to comment on such questions.

**Grading:**
70% - seminar work: attendance; preparedness; participation in discussions.
30% - paper/oral presentation.

**TOPICS and READINGS**
(some changes will occur):

**Week 1**

*(A) Poland, Lithuania and Russia by the end of Middle Ages: population, ethnic and political map, real and imagined frontiers*

Szucs J. The three Historical Regions of Europe // Acta historica scientarum hungaricae, 29 (1983) 2-4, p. 131-79


*(B) Russia and Poland, XVIth-XVIIIth Centuries: What and how to compare? And what for?*

Readings:


**Week 2**
(A) Historical anthropology of politics: Muscovite tsardom. Were tsars' subjects kholopy or “citizens”?
Readings:

(B) Historical anthropology of politics: the Polish «gentry republic» and its king. What sort of “citizenship”?
Readings:

Week 3

(A) Russian noblemen in the XVIIth century: political role, social status, selfperception.
Readings:

(B) Polish noblemen in the XVIIth century: political role, social status, selfperception
Readings:

Week 4

(A) Orthodox and Catholic priest (XVth – through XVIIth centuries): preacher, teacher, miles Christi.
Readings:

(B) Ad fontes! - Eastern and western medieval Christian mentalities in cultures of Poland and Russia.
Readings:

Week 5

(A) Serfdom, peasants and townpeople in Russia and in Poland (1500-1800)
Readings:

(B) Society and monarchy in Poland and Russia, 1450-1650: a comparison
Readings:

Week 6

(A) Renaissance, Reformation, Catholic Reform, Baroque in Europe and Poland-Lithuania. Readings:

(B) The schism of Old-Believers in the XVIIth century Russia: how much unique?
Readings:

Week 7

(A) Catholics and Orthodox people of Eastern Europe before death in the Early Modern period
Readings:

(B) Catholics and Orthodox people of Eastern Europe before devil in the Early Modern period
Readings:

Week 8

(A) “Protonationalism” in the XVIth – XVIIth centuries Eastern Europe: Russia and Poland
Readings:

(B) Cossack uprisings in Ukraine (1590s-1630s), Khmelnytsky’s movement - social revolts, national movements or wars of religion in Eastern Europe?
Readings:

Week 9

(A) Poland and Russia as multiethnic societies, XVIth – XVIIIth centuries: a comparison.
Readings:
Raeff M. Patterns of Russian Imperial Policy Toward the Nationalities // Raeff M. Political Ideas and Institutions in Imperial Russia. West View Press, P. 126-140

(B) Confessionalisation (Konfessionalisierung) and social discipline (Sozialdisziplinierung) in the East of Europe from the anthropological perspective.
Readings:

Week 10

(A) Society and monarchy in Poland and Russia, 1650-1700: a comparison

(B) The Well-Ordered Police State in Russia (1700-1800) and problem of Russia’s modernisation.

Readings:

Week 11

(A) Decline of Poland (Rzeczpospolita Polska), 1700s-1780s: political, social, economic and cultural aspects.
Readings:

(B) Rebirth of Poland, 1770s-1780s: ideological trends and social changes.
Readings:

Week 12

(A) New élites (nobility, clergy, rising bourgeoisie, bureaucracy and intelligentsia) in Russia and Poland, 1725-1800.
Readings:

(B) Final colloquium.

Recommended basic textbooks:
Other textbooks:
Singleton F.B. Background to Eastern Europe. London: Pergamon Press, 1965
Walters E. G. The Other Europe. Eastern Europe to 1945. Syracuse: Syracuse Univ. Press, 1988

Reference books:
American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies. Bloomington, 1957 --> and continued
The Cambridge Encyclopedia of Russia and the Soviet Union. Cambridge, 1982

Atlases: