

BA Politics and Sociology with East European Studies (with a Year Abroad)

Below are some suggested readings to introduce you to the history of Russia and Eastern Europe, to the key disciplines of Politics, International Relations and Sociology and to research conducted by SSEES academics on important issues in the region.

You are not expected to read them all before you arrive, but you may find it useful to familiarise yourself with some of the key issues and debates in Politics and East European Studies over the summer. Some of this work is produced by your lecturers at UCL SSEES (see the final section below).

Summer Reading List 2021 for new students

Politics

(Particularly recommended to students who have not studied Politics at A levels)

- Bale, T. 2017. European Politics: a Comparative Introduction, 4th Edition Red Globe Press.
- Wolff, J. 2015. An Introduction to Political Philosophy. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

International Relations

- Baylis, J. and Smith, S. and Owens, P. (eds). 2019. The Globalization of World Politics: An Introduction to International Relations. 8th edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Sociology

- Alatas, Syed Farid and Sinha, Vineeta. 2017. Sociological Theory Beyond the Canon, Basingstoke: Palgrave (available in full text online [here](#) - UCL username and password required).
- Giddens, A. et al. 2021. Introduction to Sociology. New York: W. W. Norton and Company.

History

- Crampton, R. 1997. Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century and After. London: Routledge
- Hosking, G. 2017. A History of the Soviet Union, 1917-1991. 3rd Edition. London: William Collins.
- Ash, Timothy Garton. 2019. Magic Lantern: Revolution of '89. Atlantic Books.

Selected works by SSEES academics

- [Seán Hanley](#) on why we must go beyond the “backsliding paradigm” ([link](#)) and the fading mirage of the liberal consensus ([link](#)).
- [Agnieszka Kubal](#) on immigration and refugee law in Russia ([link](#)) and women’s rights in Poland ([link](#)).
- [Alena Ledeneva](#) on ‘How Russia Really Works’ ([link](#))
- [Richard Mole](#) on how Putin’s constitutional ban on same-sex marriage will increase homophobia in Russia ([link](#)).
- [Michał Murawski](#) on the antagonistic relationship between a Stalinist skyscraper and the right-wing PiS regime in Poland ([link](#)), on the continuing role of monumentality in the 21st century city (see Introduction, [link](#)) and on post-socialist pyramids ([link](#)).
- [Ben Noble](#): on the 2020 “nationwide vote” in Russia on constitutional changes ([link](#)) and on elite conflict and law-making in contemporary Russia ([link](#)).
- [Allan Sikk](#) on parties and party organisations in Eastern Europe. ([link](#))
- [Anne White](#) on migration networks and cultures, why migration cannot be ‘turned off and on like a tap’, and gendered aspects of family reunification from Poland ([link](#))
- [Andrew Wilson](#) on the August 2020 events in Belarus ([link](#)), covered in detail in his [new book on Belarus](#), and on the [Ryanair hijacking](#); plus on the Zelensky presidency in Ukraine, after one year ([link](#)).
- [Richard Mole](#) - [Putin’s constitutional ban on same-sex marriage will increase homophobia in Russia](#)
- [Agneska Snetkov](#) - <https://archive.discoverysociety.org/2020/11/04/on-the-frontline-what-does-the-decision-of-the-constitutional-court-mean-for-womens-human-rights-in-poland/>
- <http://www.cambridgeblog.org/2019/05/immigration-and-refugee-law-in-russia/>