PSCI 4504/EURR 4209
Politics of the Caucasus and Caspian Basin: Post-Soviet Violent Conflicts in the Caucasus
Monday 11:35AM – 2:25PM.
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Professor: Jean-François Ratelle
Office: B 646 Loeb
Office Hours: Monday 2:30- 4:00 and by appointment
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Course Description:

The Caucasus—the southern states of Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia and the northern Russian-controlled provinces, including Chechnya—hold great mineral riches and immense geostrategic importance but remain one of the least stable regions of Eurasia, twenty years after the collapse of the Soviet Union. In order to better understand this region, this course seeks to analyse the violent conflicts which occurred in the Caucasus since the end of the Soviet Union. By looking at the cases of the Abkhazian conflict, the South Ossetian conflict, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, the 2008 Russo-Georgian war, the two Chechen wars, and the recent upsurge of violence in the North Caucasus, this seminar will analyse the causes and consequences of political violence in the region. The role of historical and sociological trajectories, ethnic identities, religion, resources greed, and political grievances will be assessed in a comparative way between the different conflicts. This seminar will also analyse the impact of foreign and transnational forces (e.g. al-Qaeda), and international events (e.g. 9/11 and the War on Terror, the Arab Spring, and the Kosovo crisis) on the region.

Required Texts:


The rest of the readings will be available on library reserve or through cuLearn.

Grading and Assignments:

• 15 %: Attendance and class participation
• 20%: Two critical reading summaries (2000 words each)
• 20%: Oral presentation
• 45%: 8000-word research paper about violent conflicts in the Caucasus (due December 16th 2013 by email)

Attendance is mandatory (except in the case of emergencies), as is informed contributions to class discussion. Participation grades will be determined based on: (a) attendance and attention level and (b) active participation that (i) displays awareness of the subject (ii) contributes to the flow of conversation (iii) shows knowledge of the readings (iv) offers critical analysis of the readings and topic.

Late papers will be penalized one letter grade (i.e. A- to B+) per day late. No work will be accepted after the end of classes.

**Week 1 (September 9th 2013): Introduction**


**Week 2 (September 16th 2013): Historical and Social Context of the Caucasus**


**Week 3 (September 23rd 2013): The End of the Soviet Union and “Ethnic” Conflicts in the North Caucasus**


**Week 4 (September 30th 2013): “Frozen Conflicts in the Southern Caucasus: the Nagorno-Karabakh**


**Week 5 (October 7th 2013): “Frozen Conflicts in the Southern Caucasus: Georgia, Abkhazia, and South Ossetia**


**Week 6 (October 14th 2013): Thanksgiving (No Seminar)**
**Week 7 (October 21th 2013): Comparative Study of Violent Conflicts in the Caucasus**


**Reading Week (October 28th 2013)**

**Week 8 (November 4th 2013): The Second Chechen War, the Impacts of 9/11, and the role of al-Qaeda**


**Week 9 (November 11th 2013): The Second Chechen War and the Chechenization Process**


**Week 10 (November 18th 2013): The 2008 Russo-Georgian War**


**Week 11 (November 25th 2013): The Caucasus Emirate**


**Week 12 (December 2nd 2013): Islam in the Contemporary Caucasus**


**Week 13 (December 9th 2013): Concluding Discussion**
Websites to Consult

Current news sources

Eurasianet:
Sponsored by George Soros’ Open Society Institute, Eurasianet publishes a broad range of news from the entire former Soviet Union, has special reporting and ongoing research projects on Central Asia, and covers some more unusual topics such as arts and culture in some depth.

International War and Peace Reporting: Caucasus
IWPR is a non-profit international organization that publishes fairly in-depth reports by local journalists.

Radio Free Europe/ Radio Liberty
Excellent reporting and in-depth coverage of Caucasus. US-funded organization uses local stringers in reporting.

RFE/RL Caucasus Report

Transitions Online: Caucasus
An online news magazine covering the formerly communist world.

Caucasian Knot:
English version of Russian website with news from around the Caucasus: treat with caution!

Research and Analysis

Caucasus Research Resource Centers
Analysis and numerous databases on the region

Central Asia Caucasus Analyst
Analytical reporting on Central Asia and the Caucasus, mostly from a security perspective.

Human Rights Watch - Europe and Central Asia

International Crisis Group: Caucasus
In-depth journalistic reporting on key regional issues, aimed at policy makers and the broader public

International Organization for Migration: South Caucasus

Economist Intelligence Unit See Individual Country Reports

Caucasian Review of International Affairs

United Nations Development Program - Europe and the CIS

Human Rights Watch

Silk Road Studies Program: Central Asia-Caucasus Institute

Journals

Ab Imperio

Caucasian Review for International Affairs (online only)

Central Asian Survey

Central Asia and the Caucasus (online only)

Central Asia-Caucasus Analyst (online only)

Central Eurasian Studies Review (online only)

Communist and Post-Communist Studies
The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.
**Plagiarism**: The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

**Oral Examination**: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

**Submission and Return of Term Work**: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**Grading**: Assignments and exams will be graded with a percentage grade. To convert this to a letter grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>85-89</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>C-</td>
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**Grades:** Final grades are derived from the completion of course assignments. Failure to write the final exam will result in the grade ABS. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

**Approval of final grades:** Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

**Carleton E-mail Accounts:** All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

**Carleton Political Science Society:** The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit [http://facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety](http://facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety) or come to our office in Loeb D688.

**Official Course Outline:** The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.