Objectives: Content
The Caucasus—Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia and Russian-controlled regions to the north, including Chechnya—holds immense geostrategic importance but remains one of least stable, and least understood, regions of Eurasia. This course will analyze these states and societies from the time of imperial Russian control to the present. We will investigate colonial legacies and the complicated inheritance of the Soviet Union. The entire region, from Azerbaijan, blessed with oil and gas resources, to isolated North Caucasus mountain villages, continues to struggle with poverty, corruption and social transformation. Frozen [perhaps not-so-frozen] conflicts in Georgia and Nagorno-Karabakh produce significant violence and international tension. Ethnicity and religion play key roles in informing identities and conflicts. Other issues we will discuss include political power, resource wealth and scarcity, Russian colonial/post-colonial influence, the region’s role in the international stage, gender, Islam, and, not least, everyday life.

Objectives: Skills
This course develops skills that will assist students either in further academic pursuits or the early stages of their careers. Included among these are critical thinking; public speaking (oral participation/ reports/ role play); ability to write concise, focused papers/ briefings (short writing assignments); ability to conduct and integrate secondary research (long writing assignment). We will also do small group work (project management). We will discuss over the semester how to leverage classroom skills on the job/ academic markets.

Required Texts:
Readings will be available through CU Learn

Requirements and Grading
Oral Participation: 25%
Presentation and Role Play: 10%
2 Short Papers (400 words) (see due dates below) 10%
2 Medium Papers (800 words) (see due dates below) 20%
Proposal and Bibliography (2 pp) (due Nov 5, on CU-Learn): 10%
Major Written Assignment (10 pp) (due Dec 5, in class): 25%
Students will be graded on in-class participation and written assignments. Active and consistent class participation is VITAL to succeeding in this class. **Attendance is mandatory:** penalties for not attending (without medical documentation) are: 1 absence = 10% deduction of entire participation grade; 2 absences = 30% deduction; 3 absences = 50% deduction; 4 absences = 100% deduction from participation grade. Each **late arrival** will cost 25% of that day’s attendance/participation grade for every 15 minutes late. Ringing cellphones, note passing, under (or over) the table texting and other disruptions will also result in a loss of the participation mark on the same scale as absences.

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 and (iv) offers critical analysis of the readings and topic.

Each student will present one short (5-minute maximum) presentation. Students will sign up for individual weeks and offer a “professional” scenario—for example, a briefing to/from a government deputy minister or minister, a NGO report, tourism presentation, etc.

The short and medium discussion papers will analyze the readings for individual weeks (**only one paper may be handed in for each week**), discussing the authors’ arguments and pinpointing major issues within the selected theme. Papers will cover MORE THAN ONE, but not necessarily all, of the week’s readings. Samples will be posted on the course website. The papers are expected to be structured around a thesis, supported with evidence. Papers will be due on the day of discussion, or one week later; in the latter case, the student will not receive credit for ideas discussed in class. Papers may be handed in on any week (and writing them early is recommended), BUT **the first short/medium paper must be handed in on OR BEFORE Sep 26; the second, Oct 10; third, Oct 31; and fourth, Nov 14.**

***Students may, with permission of the instructor, substitute a 10-minute oral presentation on the topic of their choice (related to the week’s themes) in place of a medium paper.***

The proposal will be 1-2 pages. It will include (a) a paragraph on research strategy (how you went about finding sources); (b) a paragraph on your topic, its central “puzzle” and your approach; (c) a paragraph (or annotated bibliography) on how 5-7 sources you have collected will be used for your paper.

The long paper will be an original piece of research using at least eight sources. The topic will be developed in consultation with the instructor, but can cover any region or theme within the Caucasus from the late nineteenth century to the present. Papers will be graded on effectiveness of writing as well as analysis. Further details will be posted on the course website in advance of the deadline for the proposal and bibliography.

Do **NOT** cite Wikipedia or similar crowd-sourced pages in your written work, and be careful and critical of websites not included on the list at the end of the syllabus (even those on the list will have their own lean).

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.

Assignments sent electronically will not be accepted without prior consent of the instructor. It is not acceptable to hand in the same assignment for two or more courses. To obtain credit in a course,
students must meet ALL the course requirements for attendance, term work, and examinations.

Note: no laptops/ tablets/ phones will be allowed for use in class, except as needed during news or oral reports.

Class Schedule
(I reserve the right to make minor changes to the schedule/ readings over the course of the semester.)

Sep. 5: Introduction: Overview and Major Issues in 2018

Sep 12: The Prisoner of the Mountains: Film and Online Discussion
Movie: The Prisoner of the Mountains, dir. Sergei Bodrov (Kavkazskii Plennik) (1996)
Leo Tolstoy, “A Prisoner of the Caucasus” (1870)
*For participation credit, each student will post a ~300 word reaction to the film and at least one (and preferably more) of the written sources, and at least one ~100 word reaction to a post (on CULearn)

Sep 19: The Caucasus: The Caucasus and the World
*current media on China’s interest in Central Asia

Sep 26: Conquest of the Caucasus, Genocide and Memory
History
Stephen B. Riegg, “Imperial Challengers: Tsarist Responses to Armenian Raids into Anatolia” Russian Review, 76, no. 2 (2017): 253-71

Memory

Genocide

*current media on the commemoration/ recognition of the genocide

Oct 3: Soviet Rule
Bruce Grant, “Cosmopolitan Baku” Ethnos 75, no. 2 (2010): 123-147

Oct 10: South Caucasus: Politics and Leadership
Christofer Berglund, “Georgia between Dominant-Power Politics, Feckless Pluralism and Democracy” Demokratizatsiya 22, no. 3 (2014): 445-470
Sean Roberts and Ulrike Zeimer, “Explaining the Pattern of Russian Authoritarian Diffusion in Armenia” East European Politics, 34, no. 2 (2018): 152-172
Diana Ter-Ghazaryan, “Civilizing the City Center:’ Symbolic Spaces and Narratives of the Nation in Yerevan’s Post-Soviet Landscape” Nationalities Papers 41, no. 4 (2013): 570-589

Oct 17: North Caucasus: Politics and Leadership

Oct 24: Reading Week

Oct 31: North Caucasus and Georgia: Social Issues
Culture and Society

Gender

Crime and Society
Nov 7: Abkhazia and Ossetia—not-so-frozen conflicts:
Role Play—characters and articles will be assigned in mid-October

Nov. 14: Nagorno-Karabakh

Nov 21: Armenia and Azerbaijan: Social Issues

Nov 28: Migration/Diaspora and North Caucasus: Social Issues
*Erin Hofmann, “Cultural Responses to Changing Gender Patterns of Migration in Georgia” International Migration 50, no. 5 (2012): 77-94

Dec 5: Political Economy and the Environment
**draft version—readings will change**

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

**Ponars Eurasia: New Approaches to Research and Security in Eurasia**

Commentary and Policy Notes

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

**International Crisis Group: South Caucasus**

**International Organization for Migration: South Caucasus**

**Economist Intelligence Unit** (use though Carleton library) See Individual Country Reports

**Caucasian Review of International Affairs**

**United Nations Development Program - Eurasia**

**Silk Road Studies Program: Central Asia-Caucasus Institute**

Incomplete List of 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)**

**Communist and Post-Communist Studies**

**Demokratizatsiya**

**Eurasian Geography and Economics**

**Europe-Asia Studies**
Requests for Academic Accommodation
You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation
Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation
Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc
Survivors of Sexual Violence
As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities
Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

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 may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.
Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the
Submission and Return of Term Work
Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline 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. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Grading
Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

<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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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<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>
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<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>57-59</td>
<td>D+</td>
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<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>53-56</td>
<td>D</td>
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<td>70-72</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>50-52</td>
<td>D-</td>
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</table>

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. By hosting social events, including Model Parliament, debates, professional development sessions and more, 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 our networking opportunities, academic engagement initiatives and numerous events which aim to complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit us on Facebook https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/ and our website https://carletonpss.com/, or stop by our office in Loeb D688!

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