Objectives

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 least stable regions of Eurasia, twenty years after the collapse of the Soviet Union. This course will analyze these states and societies from the period 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 mountain regions of the North Caucasus, continues to deal with poverty, corruption, and social transformation. “Frozen conflicts,” most prominently Nagorno-Karabakh, threaten to erupt at any time. Other issues include political power, the impact of resource wealth, resistance against Russian influence, the international implications of instability, the roles of women, Islam, and, not least, everyday life.

Required Texts:

Readings will be available on library reserve or through web CT.

Requirements and Grading
Undergraduate Students
Oral Participation: 20%
Oral Presentation: 15%
3 Short Papers (1-2 pp) (see due dates below) 15%
1 Medium Paper (3-4 pp) (see due dates below) 15%
Proposal and Bibliography (2 pp) (due Nov 1, by email) for Major Assignment: 10%
Major Written Assignment (12 pp) (due Dec 1, 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 (after 8:40) will cost 25% of that day’s attendance/participation grade for every 15 minutes late. Ringing cellphones, note passing, and other disruptions (including noticeable under-the-table texting) 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 (iv) offers critical analysis of the readings and topic.

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. Samples will be posted on the webCT site. The medium paper is to be structured around a thesis, supported with evidence from the readings (further details in class). 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, BUT the first short/medium paper must be handed in on OR BEFORE Sep 29, the second, Oct 13, third, Oct 27, fourth, Nov 24.

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 webCT in advance of the deadline for the proposal and bibliography.

Do NOT cite wikipedia in your written work, and be very careful of websites not included on the list at the end of the syllabus.

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 by fax will not be accepted. 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 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.)

(note: readings with * are REQUIRED readings)

Sep. 8: Introduction: Major Issues

Sep. 15: Class Cancelled (Instructor travelling)

Sep 22: Introductory Class: The Caucasus: The Region and the World
*Charles King and Menon Rajan, “Prisoners of the Caucasus” Foreign Affairs 89, no. 4 (2010): 20-34


Svetlana Akkieva, “Caucasus, One or Many?” *Nationalities Papers*, May 2008 36 2, p253-273,

Daniel Friefeld, “The Great Pipeline Opera” *Foreign Policy*, 2009 no. 174: 12-7


**Sep 29: Conquest of the Caucasus**


Austin Lee Jersild, “From Savagery to Citizenship: Caucasian Mountaineers and Muslims in the Russian Empire” *Russia’s Orient*, 101-114


Leyla Aliyeva, ed. *Baku Oil and Local Communities: A History* (2009)


**Oct 6: Soviet Rule**


Oct 13: South Caucasus: Politics and Leadership  

Oct 20: North Caucasus: Politics and Leadership  
*John Russell, “Kadyrov’s Chechnya: Template, Test, or Trouble for Russia’s Regional Policy” Europe-Asia Studies 63, no. 3 (2011): 509-528  
*Robert Ware, “Has the Russian Federation Been Chechenised?” Europe-Asia Studies 63, no. 3 (2011): 495-508  
*J. O’Loughlin and F.D.W. Witmer, The Localized Geographies of Violence in the North Caucasus”  

Mark Kramer, “Guerilla Warfare, Counterinsurgency and Terrorism in the North Caucasus: The Military Dimension of the Russian-Chechen Conflict”  
*Europe-Asia Studies 57, no. 2 (2005): 209-268

Richard Sakwa, “The Revenge of the Caucasus: Chechenization and the Dual State in Russia”  
*Nationalities Papers 38, no. 5 (2010): 601-622

Robert Bruce Ware and Enver Kisilev,  
*Dagestan: Russian hegemony and Islamic resistance in the North Caucasus* (2010)

John Russell, “Ramzan Kadyrov: The Indigenous Key to Success in Putin’s Indigenization Strategy?”  

Anna Politkovskaya,  
*A Dirty War: A Russian Reporter in Chechnya* (2001)

Anna Politkovskaya,  

Emma Gilligan,  
*Terror in Chechnya: Russia and the tragedy of civilians in war*

Richard Sakwa, ed.  
*Chechnya: From Past to Future* (2005)

Moshe Gammer,  

Valery Tishkov,  

**Oct 27: Frozen Conflicts**

*a Nagorno-Karabakh*

*Geopolitics* 13, no. 3 (2008): 572-599

*Farid Shafiyev, “Ethnic Myths and Perceptions as a Hurdle to Conflict Settlement: The Armenian-Azerbaijani Case”*  
*Caucusus and Globalization* 1, no. 2 (2007): 57-69

*Ethnopolitics* 10, no. 1 (2011): 93-114

“Diasporas and secessionist conflicts: The Mobilization of the Armenian, Albanian and Chechen Diasporas”  

Patrik Johannson, “Putting Peace to a Vote: Displaced Persons and a Future Referendum on Nagorno-Karabakh”  

Bertil Dunér, “What can be done about historical atrocities? the Armenian case”  


*Central Asian Survey* 23, no. 1(2004): 5-26

**b) Georgia, Ossetia, Abkhazia (Role Play?)**

*Vicken Cheterien, “The August 2008 War in Georgia: From Ethnic Conflict to Border Wars”*  

*Spencer B. Meredith. “Towards a Just Peace After the Georgian Civil War”*  
*Journal of Communist Studies and Transition Politics* 26, no. 3 (2010): 413-434

*Mike Bowker, “The War in Georgia and the Western Response”*  
*Central Asian Survey* 30, no. 2 (2011): 197-211


Alexander Cooley, “Abkhazia on Three Wheels”  
*World Policy Journal* 27, no. 2 (2010): 73-81

Zdenek Kriz, “Georgian Readiness for NATO Membership after Russian-Georgian Armed Conflict”  

Neil S. MacFarlane, “Colliding State-Building Projects and Regional Insecurity in Post-Soviet Space:
Nov 3: South Caucasus: Social Issues

Movie: Power Trip


Aklar, Yasemin, “Nation and History in Azerbaijani School Textbooks” Ab Imperio no. 2 (2005):469-497

Nov 10: Political Economy and the Environment


**Nov 17: Movie: Prisoner of the Mountains**

**Nov 24: Migration/ Diaspora and North Caucasus: Social Issues**

*Erin Hofmann, “Cultural Responses to Changing Gender Patterns of Migration in Georgia”*  *International Migration* (2011) (online version)


**Dec 1: Islam: South and North**


**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**
**Demokratizatsiia**
**Eurasian Geography and Economics**
**Europe-Asia Studies**
**Nationalities Papers**
**Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs**
**Slavic Review**
**China and Eurasia Forum Quarterly**

**Article Databases**

**Scopus**
**Historical Abstracts**
**Social Sciences Fulltext**
**Ingenta Connect**
**J-Stor**
Academic Accommodations

For students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your request for accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs at least two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by (November 11, 2011 for fall term examinations and March 7, 2012 for winter term examinations).

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: The following is the Carleton University grading system.

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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.

Connect Email Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

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 in the after-hours academic life 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, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, 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.