History and Politics of the Caucasus  
IAFF 6338 Section 12  
Wednesdays, 5:10-7:00 PM, 1957 E Room 303A

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This course addresses the history and politics of the Caucasus (i.e., the South Caucasus), as well as select economic and security issues. It examines the political and national histories of Georgia, Armenia, and Azerbaijan prior to the Russian conquest and during the imperial and Soviet periods; political continuity and change in the post-Soviet period; origin and progression of ethnoterritorial conflicts; and contemporary politics and economics.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be able to analyze and interpret diverse historical, political, and economic trends in the South Caucasus; analyze interrelationships among politics, conflicts, and economics in the region; apply lessons learned to broader fields of nation and state building, conflict resolution, economic/resource-based development, and democracy promotion; present briefings on contemporary issues; and compose informed analytical/comparative and research papers on regional topics.

Requirements:

Written assignments should be completed in Times New Roman 12pt, double-spaced, 1-inch margins

Response Paper (4-5 pages): 20% (Due: Wednesday, Oct. 14)  
Oral Briefing (30 minutes, including Q-and-A): 20% (Nov. 4 – Dec. 2)  
Final Paper (15-20 pages): 45% (Due: Wednesday, Dec. 16)  
Participation: 15%

There are two written assignments in this course. The first assignment is a response paper that will draw on the assigned readings and class discussion and respond to questions I will distribute at least two weeks before the deadline. It will relate to the experience of the Caucasus in Russian and Soviet times and the collapse of the Soviet Union.

The second written assignment is a research paper on a subject of your choice, but one which is specific enough to allow for original research. As the course focuses on the history and politics of the Caucasus, I especially encourage papers on historical, political, economic, and social themes. Papers related to security and conflict issues are also welcome. As part of your grade, you will be required to submit a paper topic and brief outline in advance.
A third assignment will consist of an oral briefing (PowerPoint expected) on contemporary political, economic, and conflict issues that will be assigned in class and developed with instructor guidance. The briefing will consist of individual 15-20 minute presentations, followed by 10-15 minutes of group discussion.

Classroom discussion presumes knowledge of the assigned material. Class attendance and participation forms a part of your grade.

**Readings:**

Readings other than the books listed below will be available via electronic reserve; university-accessible databases; or directly online.

Three books are required:


In addition to the required books, good (detailed) historical surveys include:


Schedule:

1. Sept. 2: Overview

2. Sept. 9: At the Edge of Empires

3. Sept. 16: In the Russian Empire
   - Charles King, *The Ghost of Freedom*, 20-53, 84-86, 92-98 (read the last pages after de Waal)
   - Thomas de Waal, *The Caucasus*, 37-60
4. Sept. 23 (TO BE RESCHEDULED): War and Independence, Take One

- Thomas de Waal, *The Caucasus*, 60-70
- Tadeusz Swietochowski, *Russia and Azerbaijan*, 65-87, 91-94, 100-103

5. Sept. 30: Soviet Nations

- Thomas de Waal, *The Caucasus*, 71-106
- Tadeusz Swietochowski, *Russia and Azerbaijan*, 179-184
- Svetlana Chervonnaya, *Conflict in the Caucasus* (Gothic Image Publications, 1994), 28-35
6. Oct. 7: Nationalist Mobilization and Soviet Collapse
   • Thomas De Waal, *Black Garden*, Introduction, chaps. 1-4, 8
   • Tadeusz Swietochowski, *Russia and Azerbaijan*, 193-220

   • Thomas De Waal, *Black Garden*, chaps. 11-18
   • Stephen Jones, *Georgia: A Political History*, 75-104

8. Oct. 21: State Collapse or Reconstruction?
   • Lincoln A. Mitchell, *Uncertain Democracy: U.S. Foreign Policy and Georgia’s Rose Revolution* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009), 21-42
9. **Oct. 28: Georgia’s Rose Revolution**
   - Lincoln A. Mitchell, *Uncertain Democracy*, 79-111

10. **Nov. 4: Politics of Contemporary Georgia** [WITH ORAL BRIEFINGS]
    - Selections TBA

11. **Nov. 11: Politics of Contemporary Armenia** [WITH ORAL BRIEFINGS]
12. Nov. 18: Politics of Contemporary Azerbaijan [WITH ORAL BRIEFINGS]
   - Cory Welt, “In the Shadow of Revolution: A Decade of Authoritarian Hardening in Azerbaijan” (forthcoming book chapter), 1-37

Nov. 25: NO CLASS


14. Dec. 9: Concluding Session

Final Papers Due: Wednesday, December 16, by email