

Course	Ph.D
Course Title	Geopolitics, Security and Democratisation in the Caspian Region
Course No.	SE : 625
Course Type	Optional Course
Course Teacher	Prof. Nalin Kumar Mohapatra
Credits	Four
Semester	Winter Semester
Contact Hour	Four

Course Objectives

The Caspian Region of CIS, comprising Russia, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan, has gained geo-strategic importance in recent years. Enormous hydrocarbon resources, the strategic location of this region and changing geo-political landscapes have increased the significance of the Caspian region. Apart from these above-mentioned factors, external state actors and internal political processes are in their own way shaping the identity of this emerging region. As there has been a growing demand for oil and gas in recent years, the emergence of this region is particularly significant for meeting the world's energy needs. These elements act as catalyst for external powers to meddle in the internal affairs of the states in this part of world. It is not just the external state and non- state actors shaping this region's internal political dynamics of this region, socio- political systems within the regional states are also playing an equal important role

The present course will also analyze the geopolitical developments that are taking place in the post-Soviet Eurasian space and their impact on the Caspian region. The protracted conflict in the Black Sea region along with the spillover impact of conflict within the three Central Asian countries namely Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan over the Caspian region, has also been dealt n the syllabus. The course also highlights India's perspective on the multifaceted strategic and geopolitical developments that are taking place in the Caspian region. Similarly, in recent

years, the Caspian countries have been looking toward India as a major ‘power balancer’ in this region.

Learning Outcomes

The course looks at geopolitics, regional security, and democratisation process from different theoretical perspectives. Through this course, students will be exposed to different facets of Caspian political and social systems like, the political culture and challenges posed by ethno-nationalistic and radical fundamentalist forces to the political process. The course also locates energy security discourses in the framework of geopolitics, regional security and the political economy. The pipeline geopolitics and its impact on the securitisation process and the role of external actors in the region provide a context for understanding the regional security dynamics of the region. The course also highlights India’s role in the Caspian geopolitics.

Evaluation Methods

Class performance, Assignments, Seminars, Mid-session examination (50%) End Semester Exam (50%)

Course Content

1. Theorising Geopolitics, Regional Security and Democratisation

- Significance of the Study of Geopolitics
- Major Theories of Geopolitics
- Correlating Geopolitics with Regional Security
- Approaches to Regional Security
- Regional Security, Democratic Process and Identity Formation.
- Post- Soviet States and Nature of Democratisation.

2. Caspian Region: An Introduction

- Situating Caspian Region
- Tsarist Russia and its Policy
- Caspian Region during the Soviet Period

3. Emerging Socio-Political System

- Emergence of New Independent States
- Problems of Transition
- Major Determinants of Democratisation: Geographic; Institutional; Socio-Cultural; Resource Factor

4. Geopolitical Dynamics, Energy Security and External Actors

- Nature of Energy Politics
- Pipeline Routes
- Role of Turkey, Iran, China, European Union and United States

5. Conflicts and Resolution

- Emergence of Radical Religious Groups
- Ethno-National and Regional Conflicts
- Regional Cooperation Mechanisms

6. Geopolitical developments in the post-Soviet Eurasian Space and its Impact on the Caspian Region

- Impact of Conflicts in the Black Sea Region on the Caspian Geopolitics.
- Central Asian security system and its repercussions on the Caspian Region

7. India and the Caspian Geopolitics

- Geo-cultural, Geopolitical and Geo-economic linkages

Readings

Books

Akiner, Shirin, ed., (2004), *The Caspian: Politics, Energy, Security*, London:Routledge.

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- Tuathail, Gearóid Ó, Simon Dalby, Paul Routledgei (eds),(2000) *The Geopolitical Reader*,London/New York: Routledge.

Articles

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Demand in Central Asia, . *International Journal of Energy Economic and Policy*, vol. 5(4): 901–909

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Bolukbasi, Suha. (1998), “The Controversy over the Caspian Sea Mineral Resources: Conflicting Perceptions, Clashing Interests”, *Europe-Asia Studies*, vol.50 (3): 397-414.

Bruce Ware Robert & Enver Kisriev (2002) “Prospects for political stability and economic development in Dagestan,” *Central Asian Survey*, vol.21(2): 143-156.

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