

**Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies
School of International Studies, JNU**

Course	:	Ph.D
Course Title	:	Politics and Society in Transcaucasus
Course Type	:	Optional
Course Teacher	:	Dr. Amitabh Singh
Credits	:	Four
Semester	:	Winter Semester
Contact Hour	:	Two per week
Course Code	:	SE626

Course Objectives

This course explores the Politics and Society of the South-Caucasian states. It aims to provide the students with an advanced and nuanced understanding of the Politics and Society of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia (South Caucasian States). The primary focus of the course shall be to introduce the students to contemporary history after the formation of these three new and independent states after the disintegration of the USSR. It will also enable students to acquire in-depth knowledge and an understanding of state-society relations, with a focus on minorities in the region. The Course will help students acquire knowledge of the state-society relations, governance and politics of these states. This will help students to hone up their critical understanding of the issues in the region to help them find the research themes to pursue Ph D in this region.

The Intended Learning Outcomes

- a) Developing the understanding of history, politics, society, the conflicts zones in the region,*
- b) Importance and influence of neighbouring states of the countries of the region (Russia, Turkiye and Iran),*
- c) an in-depth inquiry into a topic of their interest pertaining to the region, and*
- d) develop analytical perspectives that tend to dispel myths and stereotypes of the region.*

Evaluation Methods

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

Course Content

Section-I- *South Caucasus-History*

This section discusses the history of the region from the Russian Empire onwards to the Soviet Period. It discusses the evolution of the region as autonomous unit(s) within the Russian and Soviet influences.

- i) South Caucasus in the Russian Empire, its transformation during the Soviet Period.

Section-II- *Formation of the National Identity*

This part is dedicated to tracing the development of a trajectory of political and national identity and the process of 'otherisation' that happened within the boundaries defined during the Russian Empire and the Soviet Period.

- ii) Post-Independence Political Trajectory,
- iii) National Identity and State Building,

Section-III- **The Conflicts in the region**

Post 1991 period was marred by numerous ethnic conflicts within the region, each looking for a political space of their own. This section deals with the background of the conflicts and how they have shaped the politics of the region vis-à-vis their extended neighbourhood.

- iv) Conflicts in the region and their resolutions,
- v) Relations with their neighbouring states and the extended neighbourhood.
- vi) Extra regional intervention in the region (NATO, OSCE, EU),

Section-IV: **The Social Issues**

The new socio-political realities post their independence have been varied. This section deals as to how have the new realities post-1991 shaped up the region and how they are being addressed.

- vii) Gender, family and religion,
- viii) Migration and diasporas.

Readings

- De Waal, T. (2012). A Broken Region: The Persistent Failure of Integration Projects in the South Caucasus. *Europe-Asia Studies*, 64(9), 1709–1723.
- Dermendzhieva, Z. (2011). Emigration from the South Caucasus: who goes abroad and what are the economic implications? *Post-Communist Economies*, 23(3), 377–398. *Post Communist Economies*, Vol. 23, 2011, Vol. 3. 2011
- ERGUN, A. (2010). Post-Soviet Political Transformation in Azerbaijan: Political Elite, Civil Society and The Trials of Democratization. *International Relations / Uluslararası İlişkiler*, 7(26), 67–85.
- Gugushvili, A., Kabachnik, P., & Kirvalidze, A. (2017). Collective memory and reputational politics of national heroes and villains. *Nationalities Papers*, 45(3), 464–484.
- Hille, C. M. L. (2010). *State Building and Conflict Resolution in the Caucasus*. Brill.
- Lynch, D. aut. (2004). Engaging Eurasia's separatist states unresolved conflicts and de facto states Dov Lynch.
- Metreveli, T. (2016). An undisclosed story of roses: church, state, and nation in contemporary Georgia. *Nationalities Papers*, 44(5), 694–712.
- Mkhoyan, A. (2017). South Caucasus from 1918 to 1921: history and historical parallels with the contemporary era. *Nationalities Papers*, 45(5), 910–927.
- OhannesGeukjian. (2011). *Ethnicity, Nationalism and Conflict in the South Caucasus : Nagorno-Karabakh and the Legacy of Soviet Nationalities Policy*. Routledge.
- Polese, A., & Rekhviashvili, L. (2017). Introduction: Informality and power in the South Caucasus. *Caucasus Survey ; Volume 5, Issue 1, Page 1-10*
- Roberts, K., Pollock, G., Rustamova, S., Mammadova, Z., & Tholend, J. (2009). Young adults' family and housing life-stage transitions during post-communist transition in the South Caucasus. *Journal of Youth Studies*, 12(2), 151–166.
- Sushentsov, A., & Neklyudov, N. (2020). The Caucasus in Russian foreign policy strategy. *Caucasus Survey*, 8(2), 127–141.

Additional Bibliography

- Aliyev, H. (2014). Civil society in the South Caucasus: kinship networks as obstacles to civil participation. *Journal of Southeast European & Black Sea Studies*, 14(2), 263–282.

- Bedford, S., & Souleimanov, E. A. (2016). Under construction and highly contested: Islam in the post-Soviet Caucasus. *Third World Quarterly*, 37(9), 1559–1580.
- Kereselidze, N. V. aut. (2015). The engagement policies of the European Union, Georgia and Russia towards Abkhazia Nino Kereselidze.
- Markedonov, S. M. aut. (2015). De facto statehood in Eurasia a political and security phenomenon Sergey Markedonov.
- Markedonov, S. M., & Suchkov, M. A. (2020). Russia and the United States in the Caucasus: cooperation and competition. *Caucasus Survey*, 8(2), 179–195.
- Mkhoyan, A. (2017). Soft power, Russia and the former Soviet states: a case study of Russian language and education in Armenia. *International Journal of Cultural Policy*, 23(6), 690–704.
- Nodia, G. (2009). The Wounds of Lost Empire. *Journal of Democracy*, 20(2), 34–38.
- , (DE-576)508037840. (2015). The Eastern Partnership, the Russia-Ukraine war, and the impact on the South Caucasus [Elektronische Ressource] / by Amanda Paul. IstitutoAffariInternazionali.
- Souleimanov, E. A., Abrahamyan, E., & Aliyev, H. (2018). Unrecognized states as a means of coercive diplomacy? Assessing the role of Abkhazia and South Ossetia in Russia's foreign policy in the South Caucasus. *Journal of Southeast European & Black Sea Studies*, 18(1), 73–86.
- Tokluoglu, C. (2005). Definitions of national identity, nationalism and ethnicity in post-Soviet Azerbaijan in the 1990s. *Ethnic & Racial Studies*, 28(4), 722–758.