



**Department of International Relations  
and European Studies**

**FACULTY OF SOCIAL STUDIES**

**MASARYK UNIVERSITY**

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## **MVZ208 Ethnic Conflicts in South Caucasus**

Syllabus

**Lecturer: Mgr. Zinaida Shevchuk**

Fall 2013

### **Course description:**

The course is created to broaden student's knowledge conflicts in one of the most volatile regions of the world – the South Caucasus. Armed conflicts in this region represent one of the biggest challenges that emerged with the break of the Soviet Union. Conflicts in Abkhazia, South Ossetia and Nagorno-Karabakh make incredibly complex and unique cases for the analysis. Patterns of political, economic, cultural discrimination, intensified by historical grievances, the effects of political transformation and economic development, national doctrines, the role of external actors, have all contributed to the escalation of the conflicts in the South Caucasus.

Understanding the fragile peace arrangements or the reasons for the impossibility for resolution is significant. In this course students will be introduced to package of factors at each phase of the conflict, transformation of the causes of the conflicts in time and mechanism that may reignite large-scale violence.

In order to understand the logic of these conflicts, the first part of the course presents a conceptual and theoretical framework, how to study armed conflict. The second part will be concentrated on the explanation of the causes and consequences of conflicts in South Caucasus and the current situation. In this part students are expected to apply theory to practice and explore the nature and context of the conflict and its changing characteristic features.

### **The aim of the course:**

To examine the nature of conflicts in the South Caucasus with respect to factors that generates those conflicts and their change in time.

To explore theoretical perspective on armed conflict

To understand conflict processes

Develop students' skills in conflict analysis

### **Requirements:**

The course is completed by an examination. There will be two exams in this course: a midterm exam and a final exam.

Grades in this course will be determined by the following:

Reading and Class Participation (10%)

Midterm 30% (covering the material in the first half of the course)

Final 60%

Written test will examine the students' understanding of systemic, domestic and perceptual causes of the armed conflicts in the South Caucasus and ability to apply analytical tools in order to explain the reasons of "frozen" status of these conflicts . Final test will be based on the compulsory literature and the presented matter, with the success rate of 60 % points.

### **Final Grading:**

A. 92 – 100,

B. 84 – 91,

C. 76 – 83,

D. 68 – 75,

E. 60 – 67.

### **Class Schedule:**

#### **Week 1: Introduction**

#### **Week 2: What Is Conflict – Towards Conceptual Clarity**

Brown, M. (1993): *Ethnic Conflict and International Security*, Princeton University Press, chapter 1, pp. 3-24. (21pages).

Kaufman, S. (2010): "Ethnicity as a Generator of Conflict", chapter 8, in Cordell, K., Wolff, S.: "Routledge Handbook of Ethnic Conflict", Routledge, pp. 91-102. (11pages).

Nash, M. (1996): "The Core Elements of Ethnicity", in Hutchinson J., Smith, A.(ed.): "Ethnicity", Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, pp. 24-28. (4pages).

Wallensteen, P. (2011): "Unersanding Conflict Resolution, War, Peace and the Global System", chapter 2, pp. 12-30. (18 pages).

#### **Week 3: Ethnic Conflict in IR**

Cederman, L., Wimmer, A., Min, B. (2010): "Why Do Ethnic Groups Rebel? New Data and Analysis", *World Politics*, Vol. 62, No. 1., pp.: 87-119. (32 pages).

Lake, D., Rothchild, D. (1998): "Spreading Fear: The Genesis of Transnational Ethnic Conflict", chapter 1 in Lake, D., Rothchild, D. (ed.): "The International Spread of Ethnic Conflict", Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey, pp.: 3-32. (pages 29).

Eck, K. (2009): "From Armed Conflict to War: Ethnic Mobilization and Conflict Intensification", *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 53, No. 2 pp. 369–388. (19 pages).

#### **Week 4. Domestic Politics and Ethnic Conflict**

Horowitz, D.(1994): "Democracy in Divided Societies", chapter 3 in Diamond, L., Plattner, M. (ed.): "Nationalism, Ethnic Conflict and Democracy", The John Hopkins University Press , Baltimore, London, pp.: 35-55. (20 pages).

Saideman, S., Lanoue, D., Campenni, M., Stanton, S. (2002): "Democratization, Political institutions, and Ethnic Conflict. A pooled-Time Series Analysis, 1985-1998", *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 35, No 1., pp: 103-129. (26 pages).

#### **Week 5.Ethnic conflict and territory**

Tir, J. (2010): "Territorial Diversion: Diversionary Theory and Territorial Conflict", the *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 72, No. 2, pp. 413-425. (12 pages).

Toft, M. (2002): "Indivisible territory, Geographic Concentration, and Ethnic War", *Security Studies* Vol. 12, No. 2, pp. 82-119. (37 pages).

#### **Week 6. De-facto states in the South Caucasus**

#### **Midterm Exam**

King,Ch. (2001): "The Benefits of Ethnic War: Understanding Eurasia's Unrecognized States", *World Politics*, Vol. 53. No. 4. pp.: 524-552. (28 pages).

### **Week 7. Conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh**

Caspersen, N. (2012): “Regimes and Peace Processes: Democratic (non-development in Armenia and Azerbaijan and its impact on the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict”, *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*, Vol. 45. No. 1, pp. 131-139. (8pages).

Smolnik, F. (2012): “Political Rule and Violent Conflict: Elections as “Institutional Mutation” in Nagorno-Karabakh”, *Communist and Post-Communist Studies*, Vol. 45. No. 1-2, pp.: 153-163. (10pages).

Zurcher, Ch., Koehler, J. (2003): “The Art of Losing the State: Weak Empire to Weak Nation-state Around Nagorno-Karabakh”, in Zurcher Ch., Koehler, J. (ed.): “Potential of disorder”, Manchester University Press, Manchester, UK., pp.: 145 – 173. (28 pages).

### **Week 8. Georgian Conflicts - Abkhazia**

Nodia, G. (1997): “Causes and Visions of Conflicts in Abkhazia”, University of California, Berkley, pp. 2-52. (50 pages).

### **Week 9. Georgian Conflicts - South Ossetia**

Kříž, Z., Shevchuk, Z.: “Georgian Readness for NATO Membership after Russian-Georgian Armed Conflict”, *Communist and Post-Communist studies*, Vol. 44., Issue 1, pp. 89-97. (8 pages).

International Crisis Group, Europe Report No. 159 (2204): “Georgia: Avoiding War in South Ossetia”, Tbilisi, Brussels, pp.: 1-29. (28 pages).

### **Week 10. Russian-Georgian Armed Conflict**

Felgenhauer, P. (2009): “After August 7: The Escalation of the Russia-Georgia War”, chapter 9 in Cornell, S. E., Starr, S. F.: “The Guns of August 2008 Russia’s War in Georgia”, M. E. Sharpe, Armonk, New York. pp. 162-180. (18pages).

Kornely K. K. (2011): "Challenges to the South Caucasus Regional Security Aftermath of Russian–Georgian Conflict: Hegemonic stability or new partnership?", *Journal of Eurasian Studies*, No. 2., pp.:15–20. (5 pages).

Cheterian, V. (2009): The August 2008 War in Georgia: from Ethnic Conflict to Border Wars, *Central Asian Survey*, Vol. 28. No. 2., pp. 155-170. (15 pages).

### **Week 11. Russian Policy towards the South Caucasus**

Mankoff, J. (2009): "Back to the Offensive? The Former Soviet Union", in Mankoff, J.: "Russian Foreign Policy. The Return of Great Power Politics", Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Lanham, Boulder, New York, Toronto, Plymouth, UK., pp.: 241-246, 255-264, 280-282. (16 pages).

Fawn, R., Nalbandov, R. (2012): "The Difficulties of knowing the Start of War in the Information Age: Russia, Georgia and the War over South Ossetia, August 2008", *European Security*, Vol. 21, No. 1. pp.: 57-89. (32 pages).

### **Week 12. The Great Game in a Small Space**

Alieva, L. (2013): "Reassessing EU and NATO Engagement: Lost Opportunities and Ways Forward", in Felberbauer, E. M., Labarre, F (eds.): "De-conflicting Protracted Conflicts in the South Caucasus: The Role of the EU and NATO", 6th Workshop of the Study Group "Regional Stability in the South Caucasus", National Defence Academy and Bureau for Security Policy at the Austrian Ministry of Defence and PfP Consortium of Defence Academies and Security Studies Institutes, Vienna, pp. 31-42. (11 pages).

Behlül, Ö. (2008): "Who Gains from the 'No War No Peace' Situation? A Critical Analysis of the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict", *Geopolitics* 13, No. 3. pp.: 572-599. (27 pages).

Wilson, A., Popescu, N. (2009): Russian and European neighbourhood policies compared, *Southeast European and Black Sea Studies*, Vol. 9, No. 3, pp.: 317–331. (14 pages).

### **Week 13. Discussion, final remarks**