

# THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES – CRISIS AND COOPERATION

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Dpt. of Political Sciences, C – 507

**Language of Instruction:** English

**Suggested Academic Cycle or Year of Studies:** Bachelor degree studies

**Contact Hours per Week:** 4

**Semester:** Spring

**Methods of Teaching:** Classes and individual tutoring

**Form of Assessment:** Oral examination and presentations

The course is mainly devoted to introduce students with the geopolitical situation of Central Asia and Caucasus states. This course is designed primarily to respond to the increasing need for information and analysis on these regions. The course examines complicated process of state building in the Central Asian ( Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan) and South Caucasian states (Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia ).

Particular attention is given to the dynamics of inter-ethnic and inter-state conflicts and the role of international organizations, foreign powers. The political and military implications of the Russian-Georgian conflict, of the “frozen conflicts” (Karabakh, Abkhazia, South Ossetia), first and second Chechen wars are thoroughly examined. Special attention is paid to the analysis of Russian, European, Chinese, US policy in the Caucasus and Central Asia.

## **Lectures:**

1. Geopolitics theory and geopolitics aspects of Central Asia and Caucasus regions
2. Ethnic, religion and identity diversity
3. Russia's and China's role in Central Asia and Caucasus regions
4. Role of USA and Europe in Central Asia and Caucasus regions
5. Cooperation aspects in Central Asia and Caucasus
6. Military conflicts:
  - a. South Ossetia, Abkhazia-Georgia
  - b. Russia Georgia war
  - c. Nagorno-Karabakh
  - d. Russia-Chechnya
  - e. Transnistria

## **Reading list:**

1. Malfliet, Katlijn, The CIS, the EU and Russia : 2007
2. Goldman, Minton F. Russia, the Eurasian republics, and Central/Eastern Europe / McGraw-Hill/Dushkin company, 2005
3. Goldsmith, Benjamin E. Imitation in international relations : observational learning, analogies, and foreign policy in Russia and Ukraine New York ,2005

4. Blandy, Charles W., The Caucasus region and Caspian Basin: "Change, complication and challenge" / C. W. Blandy ; Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Conflict Studies Research Centre. Camberley : Conflict Studies Research Centre, 1999
5. Akiner, Shirin, Central Asia: conflict or stability and development? : 1997
6. Mahmoud Vaezi, Mediation in the Karabakh Dispute, Foreign Policy Department/ Eurasia Studies Group , January 2008  
<http://www.csr.ir/departments.aspx?lng=en&abtid=07&&depid=74&semid=989>
7. <http://www.cacianalyst.org/?SMSESSION=NO>
8. <http://www.da.mod.uk/colleges/arag/document-listings/caucasus/sf-caucasus-publications/?searchterm=Caucasus>
9. More information: European Foreign Affairs Review, Security Dialogue, Foreign Affairs, International Affairs, Foreign Policy.
10. [www.europa.eu.int](http://www.europa.eu.int) <http://www.un.org> <http://www.nato.org> [www.osce.org](http://www.osce.org)  
[www.fsk.ethz.ch](http://www.fsk.ethz.ch) [www.ndu.edu/ndu/inss/strforum/h6.html](http://www.ndu.edu/ndu/inss/strforum/h6.html) [www.freedomhouse.org](http://www.freedomhouse.org)