



**Policy and Conflict Program Syllabus  
Fall 2016 semester**

**Course:** RS-391 Conflict and Policy

Course Description

This course introduces the general theories of conflict and conflict resolution and then focuses on a select number of conflicts in the Post-Soviet Space (PSS) in depth (case studies). Special attention will be paid to the links between the state policy and conflicts, conflict resolution, and conflict prevention as well as the connection between these conflicts and international terrorism, the future of conflict prevention and preventive diplomacy, and the processes of integration and disintegration in the PSS.

Course Objectives

Students will achieve a broad understanding of the origins, engines, evolution and the future of conflicts in the PSS, and various methods to manage and resolve them.

Course Itinerary

This course is based in Chisinau, Moldova (11 weeks), Armenia (1 week) and Georgia (3 weeks).

Required Texts

Selected articles.

Grading

The final course grade will be determined based on the following distribution:

- Participation: 20%
- Attended and on time for classes: 5%
- Polite, active participation in class discussions: 10%
- Polite, active participation in Q&A for other students' presentations: 5%
- Mid-term presentation: 20%
- Final draft of policy or research or policy recommendation paper: 50%
- Final Exam: 10%

The grading scale is as follows:

88-89 B+	78-79 C+	73-77 C	65-67 D
93-100 A	83-87 B	70-72 C-	64 & below F
90-92 A-	80-82 B-	68-69 D+	

Mid-term presentation and Policy Recommendation or Research Paper

See separate *Policy Recommendation Papers*

List of Lectures, Trips and Guest Lectures

**Georgia**

**Lecture 1: Understanding Conflict: Problems and Theories; Meaning of Structural Violence**

*Marxist Approach, War and Peace in Modern World, Galtung's Theory of Structural Violence*

Lecturer: **Bakar Berekashvili.**

**Lecture 2: Types of Conflict in Post-Communist Realm: Trends, Similarities and Discrepancies**

*Societal Contexts of Territorial Conflicts, Political Violence, Xenophobic Stance, Conspiracy Theories*

Lecturer: **Bakar Berekashvili.**

**Lecture 3: Politics, Conflicts, History and Nationalism in Post-Communist Societies**

*Politics of Memory, Historical Revisionism, Political Use of Past, Populism, New Paradigms of Nationalism*

Lecturer: **Bakar Berekashvili.**

**Lecture 4: The Post-Communist Patterns of Democratization: Critical Reflections on Exporting Democracy in Georgia**

*Democracy in Georgia. Its implementation and understanding by the citizens*

Lecturer: **Bakar Berekashvili** is a professor at Georgian American University. He teaches Introductory Courses in Philosophy and Political Science at the Faculty of Law & Social Sciences. He has worked or studied at the University of Lancaster (Lancaster, United Kingdom) and Graduate School for Social Research at the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the

*Polish Academy of Sciences (Warsaw, Poland), Master of Arts in Society and Politics awarded by the University of Lancaster (UK).*

**Lecture 5:** The Socio-political Transformation in Georgia during the Last Two Decades (short overview)

Formation of Georgia as an independent state and an influence of historical events on its formation. Short overview of governments throughout last two decades. Their influence and involvement in Russian - Georgian conflicts. Chronology of the events.

Lecturer: **Gia Abashidze**, *political scientist, Political Officer at EU Delegation to Georgia.*

**Lecture 6:** Three Dimensional Analysis of the Conflicts in Georgia

Georgia-Abkhazia conflict. Conflict in South Ossetia. Positions and goals of the parties. Constituencies and constraints. Role and strategy of Russia. International organizations. Georgian-Russian War and the position of the West. International organizations. Perspectives for conflict resolution.

Lecturer: **Tato Khundadze**, *Expert on Conflicts, project manager at Caucasian House. Has been a part of Georgian-Abkhaz, Georgia-Ossetian and Georgian-Russian dialogue process for peace and cooperation.*

**Lecture 7:** Religion in the Caucasus

Lecturer: **Giorgi Gvimradze**, *Head of the Georgian Public TV Broadcaster's Information Centre. Theologist and political scientist.*

**Lecture 8:** The Policy of Azerbaijan towards Nagorno-Karabakh

Lecturer: **Lala Alyeva**, *Journalist (Azerbaijan). Bachelor's degree from Baku Slavic University, department of Journalism, US Embassy scholar at GIPA (journalism school in Tbilisi). Internship at Radio Liberty in Prague. At the moment works as an Azerbaijani Coordinator in the regional project "ChaiKhana".*

**Lecture 9:** Visit to Tserovani - Internally Displaced People Camp

Insight on the IDP's life in the camp after the conflict. Government and EU support and help to the camp over the years. Development programs.

Lecturer: **Nana Chkareuli**. *Executive director of the organization "For Better Future (Uketesi Momavlisatvis)" that works to build a strong community that promotes the economic and social*

welfare of women and youth through self-empowerment and equal representation. Located at Tserovani - Internally Displaced People Camp

**Lecture 10:** Muslims of Adjara. Influence of Islam in Adjarian Autonomous Republic. Peculiarities of everyday life of Muslim Georgians in Christian country.

Lecturer: **Tariel Nakaidze** Head of Georgian Muslim Union

**Lecture 11:** The history of Adjarian Autonomous Republic in the context of Georgian-Turkish relations

Lecturer: **Jemal Karalidze** history professor at Shota Rustaveli Batumi State University.

## **Armenia**

**Lecture 12: Introduction into the Politics and Geopolitics of the Caucasus (Yerevan)**

Lecturer: **Alexander Iskandaryan**, Director and one of the founders of the Caucasus Institute. His areas of scientific interest include ethno-political conflicts, post-Communist transformations and nation-building in the former USSR in general and in the Caucasus in particular. He has published and spoken on the emergence of post-Soviet institutions, elites and identities, conducted and supervised research on conflicts, migrations, discourses, media development and cross-border integration. He has authored the chapter on Armenia in Freedom House Nations in Transit for five consecutive years.

**Lecture 13: The assessment of Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict (Yerevan)**

Lecturer: **Sergey Minasyan**, Deputy Director and Head of Political Studies Department at the Caucasus Institute in Yerevan, Armenia. He holds a PhD in Military History (2002) at the Institute of History under the National Academy of Sciences and Doctor of Political Science degree at the Institute for National Security Studies at the Ministry of Defense of Armenia (2013). Sergey Minasyan holds a MA in International Relations from the Department of International Relations, Yerevan State University (1998) and graduated from the Council of Europe Yerevan School of Political Studies in 2010.

**Lecture 14: Armenian Church.**

Origins and the history of Armenian Church, differences between Armenian Orthodox Church and other Orthodox Churches. Role of Church in life of armenians.

Lecturer: **Fr. Garegin Hambarzumyan PhD**, dean of the *Gevorkian Theological Seminary of Holy Echmiadzin*

**Lecture 15: Mass Media in Armenia.**

Specifics of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict coverage in Armenian and Azerbaijani Media. Informational wars between these countries. Latest events, protests and their coverage in media by state and independent media outlets of Armenia (Yerevan)

Lecturer: **Yuri Manvelyan**, an independent journalist, editor in chief of the independent journalists' network *Epress.am*

**Lecture 16:** Overall assessment of the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Spheres of influence. Variants of the development of the conflict and its resolutions.

Lecturer: **Richard Giragosian** *Founding Director of the Regional Studies Center (RSC), Visiting Professor and as a Senior Expert at the Yerevan State University's Centre for European Studies (CES) and a contributing analyst for Oxford Analytica.*

**Moldova**

**Lecture 17: Conflict in Ukraine today (Chisinau)**

Conflict in Ukraine. Russia's internal and external reasons to fuel the conflicts. Possible outcomes of the conflict. Annexation of Crimea, reasons, consequences, situation now. Overall assessment of the situation.

Lecturer: **Leonid Litra**, political scientist, *Institute of World Policy, Kiev. Lecture in English.*

**Lecture 18: Revolution of Dignity. (via Skype)**

The Story of the Protest on Maydan.

Lecturer: **O.Komarenko**, As.Professor, *Dep. of History, Shevchenko National University of Kyiv.*

## Trip to Gagauzia

**Guest Lecture 19:** *Gagauzian political and economic landscape, their pro-russian sentiment and its origins. Referendum and its impact on the relations with Moldova and EU. Russia's media influence on the Gagauz population.*

Lecturer: **Vitaliy Kyurkchu**, the chief of General Department of economic development, trade and services of Gagauzia, Senior lecturer at Comrat State University.

## Trip to Bucharest

### **Lecture in 20: Relationship between Moldova and Romania.**

Moldovan perspectives for EU integration.

Lecturer: **Dan Nicu** political scientist and a columnist for Adevarul and Timpul newspapers in Moldova.

### **Lecture 21: Conflict in Transnistria**

History and origins. Positions and goals of the parties. Constituencies and constraints. Role and strategy of Russia. International organizations. Perspectives for conflict resolution.

Lecturer: **Cornel Ciurea** expert in politics and governing institutions and former politician from Moldova.

### **Lecture 22: Moldova between EU and Russia**

Moldova's European integration project. Sustainability of country's independence without integration into regional organizations. Role of EU in modernisation of Moldova. Russia's.

Lecturer: **Cornel Ciurea** expert in politics and governing institutions and former politician from Moldova.

### **Lecture 23: Conflicts in the Russian Federation**

Threats, challenges and strategy of Russian Federation on the PSS. The return of imperial Russia. Scenarios of disintegration of Russian Empire. Putin's authoritarian rule in Russia.

Lecturer: **Cornel Ciurea** expert in politics and governing institutions and former politician from Moldova./ **Vladimir Ostrivchak**, Representative of RF in Transnistria.

**Lecture 24: Conflict in Chechnya and Chechen wars**

History and origins. Positions and goals of the parties. Conflict in Chechnya and radical Muslim movements. Weak response of the West. International organizations. Perspectives for conflict resolution.

*Lecturer: **Cornel Ciurea** expert in politics and governing institutions and former politician from Moldova./ **Vladimir Ostrivchak**, Representative of RF in Transnistria.*

**Lecture 25: Conflict in Central Asia**

History and origins. Positions and goals of the parties. Constituencies and constraints. Role and strategy of Russia. Strategy of the West if any. International organizations. Perspectives for conflict resolution.

*Lecturer: **Cornel Ciurea** expert in politics and governing institutions and former politician from Moldova.*