Gerard J. Libaridian  
*Ethnicity and Conflict in the Caucasus*  
*Syllabus for the course offered in Winter 2002*  
*University of Michigan, Ann Arbor*  

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HISTORY 481.
TOPICS IN EUROPEAN HISTORY.

ETHNICITY AND CONFLICT IN THE CAUCASUS

MLB, B103  
Mon-Wed. 2:30-4:00

Office hours: Mon., 4:30 - 6:00 or by appointment
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The course will focus on the role of ethnicity in the rise of conflicts in the Caucasus during the last century. It will examine militarized conflicts (such as in Nagorno Karabagh, Abkhazia, South Ossetia, and Chechnya) as well as latent ones (such as in Javakheti, Ajaria, and Daghestan). The evolution of ethnicity and nationalism will be studied in conjunction with the role of religion, class, Russian and Soviet nationalities policies, and more recently, of state-building in independent Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.

REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to attend all lectures, read the assigned texts and participate in class discussions (25% of the grade), write a 12-15 page paper (25% of the grade), and take a mid-term and final examination (25% each of the grade).

The schedule and topic of lectures, along with the weekly readings, are listed below. Occasionally the student will be asked to read unlisted, new material distributed in class.

The student should think of a possible paper topic during the first five weeks of the course, i.e., by February 6. The choice of the topic must be discussed with and approved by the lecturer by February 13. The paper will be due on March 27.

The mid-term exam will consist of answering essay questions in class; the final will consist of a series of take home essays due on the date assigned for the exam.
LECTURES

UNIT I: The Caucasus before 1991

1. January 7 - Problems and perceptions of the Caucasus
2. January 9 - Ethnicity and religion; statehood and nationalism
   
   Readings:
   
   
   

3. January 14 – The Russian Empire in the Caucasus: Conquest and Nationalities Policy
4. January 16 – Sovietization and USSR Nationalities Policy
   
   Readings:
   
   
   
   

5. January 23 – The Caucasus and the Collapse of the USSR
   
   Readings:
   
   
   John Dunlop, "Russia: Confronting Loss of Empire, 43-74; in Ian Bremmer and Ray Taras. *Nations and Politics in the Soviet Successor States*.

UNIT II: The Caucasus Since 1991

7. January 30 – The North Caucasus Conflicts: Chechnya, Daghestan, etc.

   Readings:

   Jane Ormrod, “North Caucasus: Fragmentation or Integration,” 448-476, in Bremmer and Taras, eds., *Nations and Politics in the Soviet* ...

   Harsha Ram, “Prisoners of the Caucasus: Literary Myths and Media Representations of the Chechen Conflict,” [http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~bsp/](http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~bsp/)


8. February 4 – The South Caucasus: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

9. February 6 – Georgia Since 1991: Domestic Developments

   Readings:


   Edmund Herzig, 1-43.


10. February 11 – Georgia and its Conflicts

11. February 13 – Georgia: Foreign and Security Policies

   **LAST DATE TO DETERMINE TOPIC OF PAPER.**

   Readings:

   Revaz Gachechiladze, 169-186.


12. February 18 – MID-TERM

13. February 20 - FILM

14. March 4 – Azerbaijan Since 1991: Domestic Developments
15. March 6 – Azerbaijan and its Conflicts

Readings:


Edmund Herzig, 43-83.

Tadeusz Swietochowski, 191-235.

Jayhun Mollazade, "The Legal Aspects of the Karabagh Conflict," 22-29, in Mehmet Tutuncu, editor. *Caucasus: War and Peace*.


17. March 13 – Armenia Since 1991

Readings:

Edmund Herzig, 84-118.


18. March 18 – Armenia and Its Conflicts

19. March 20 – Armenia: Foreign and Security Policies

Readings:


Speech by President Heydar Aliyev, February 2001.

Article by President Levon Ter-Petrossian, November 1998.

UNIT III. The Caucasus and Its neighbors

20. March 25 – Conflicts and Mediations
21. March 27 – Russia and the Caucasian Conflicts

DEADLINE FOR TURNING IN PAPER

Readings:


Rajan Menon, "After Empire: Russia and the Southern 'Near Abroad,' ", 100-166, in Michael Mandelbaum, editor. The New Russian Foreign Policy.


22. April 1 - Iran and the Caucasian Conflicts
23. April 3 - Turkey and the Caucasian Conflicts

Readings:


UNIT IV. The Caucasus and the World

24. April 8 – The US, Europe and the Caucasian Conflicts
25. April 10 – Conflicts and Caspian resources

Readings:


Jayhun Molla-Zade, "US Strategic Interests in the Caspian Sea Region." http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~bsp/caucnews/spr98.html#mollazade.


Vartan Oskanian, "Oil and Instability in Contemporary Caucasus." http://socrates.berkeley.edu/~bsp/caucnews/spr98.html#oskanian.


26. April 15 – Conflicts and Regional Cooperation
27. April 17 – Geopolitics and the Caucasus

Readings:


April 19-26

**FINAL EXAM**

**READINGS**

Required

**I. Books**

A. (At bookstores)


II. On reserve


III. Recommended


