

Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA)

Offers

Certified Credit Summer Program in Tbilisi, Georgia

Geopolitics and Security: Case of Black Sea-Caspian Region

June, 2015

**Tbilisi, Georgia
2015**

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

This course is designed to provide graduate and senior undergraduate level students with a broad knowledge and understanding of the Black Sea-Caspian Region. The course will provide with strategic overview of historic and recent developments, as well as with different scenarios for long-term developments in the region through examination of the empirical cases and current security environment in the region. The focus of the course will be on pivotal states for the stability and growth in the region: Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan.

During the class discussion we will paint strategic map of the Caucasus and Central Asia by looking at multiple internal and external factors of stability, including: interests of major powers and conflicting foreign policy priorities of the regional countries; status of governance, efficiency of the states, and problem of corruption; strong macro growth in some countries due to natural resources, accompanied by limited access to economic and educational opportunities; employment as a security issue and key measure of state legitimacy; misallocation of natural, human and economic resources; status of civil society; opportunities for facilitating citizens' involvement in the national development of multiethnic societies and increasing their sense of empowerment.

1. Course Objectives

By the end of the program, the students will:

- Develop a clear understanding of the origin and historic development of the regional states and great powers influencing the region
- Learn about major challenges of the region, dominated by ethno-political conflicts, as well as challenges like demographic trends, unemployment etc.
- Explore the opportunities for potential positive political and economic developments in the region.
- Gain a thorough understanding of how world politics is affected by energy security and energy policy, as well as understanding of the connection between energy supplies to Europe and long term security;
- Improve their ability to apply theoretical approaches to specific cases: BTC Pipeline; Southern Corridor for the Natural Gas etc.

2. Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:

- ✓ Define political and economic geography and historic origins of the Black Sea-Caspian region
- ✓ Define regional states' foreign-security policies and domestic political development
- ✓ Critically analyze existing and potential challenges and conflicts of the region
- ✓ Apply IR theory elements learned in other classes to this region
- ✓ Define the basic economic and energy security issues for broader Eurasia;
- ✓ Critically analyze alternative strategies for energy security;

3. Program Format:

This program will combine the lecture format with class discussion. Students are expected to be ready for the class discussions based on the assigned readings. Students are also expected to follow the current news about the region to be discussed in the class.

There will be one in-class meeting per day for two hours, at 10 am, and several afternoon sessions at 2 pm. with visiting guest-speakers, including Georgian officials, foreign diplomats and members of the business community.

4. Internship for the best applicants

The best applicants will be provided with the internship possibility at the Public Agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations.

5. Course Requirements:

1. **Essay Writing (35%):** Essays regarding the Security and International issues throughout the region
2. **Group Projects and Presentations (40%):** Groups are required to prepare and make 20-minute formal presentation on the basis of the analysis of the selected topic.

3. Class Participation (25%). Students will be expected to attend every class prepared to discuss the readings and current news about the Black Sea-Caspian Region, and actively engage in discussions with guest speakers.

6. Program Cost

The tuition fee for the program is 3000\$ and includes accommodation. It is a responsibility of the admitted students to cover cost of transportation to Tbilisi. .

7. How to Apply

Applications are accepted by Email. Deadline for submission of applications is March 30, 2014. Applicants should provide the following documents:

1. Filled-in application form (Download here)
2. Statement of Purpose (max. 300 words)
3. Updated CV with the contact information

After admission, the students will receive notification via e-mail no later than April 15. To secure the place for the program, the students will have to make non-refundable 300\$ deposit (money order) to the Georgian Institute of Public Affairs no later than April 20, 2014

8. Certificate

Upon completion of the program students will receive the **GIPA CC** (Certificate of Completion).

Contact Information:

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PROGRAM SCHEDULE

June 14 arrival and travel to old capital of Georgia Mtskheta, welcome dinner

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
June 15, 2014	June 16, 2014	June 17, 2014	June 18, 2014	June 19, 2014	June 20, 2014	June 21, 2014
Lecture: Overview of the program. Historic Overview	Lecture: Current Political Geography	Lecture: Strategic Context: Global Environment and Regional Reflections	Lecture: Demographic Trends and Human Capital: Security Perspective	Lecture: Status of Democracy, Governance and Institutions	Departure to Eastern Georgian Province of Kakheti Discussion about the competitive advantage of nations	Tour, Return to Tbilisi
June 22, 2014	June 23, 2014	June 24, 2014	June 25, 2014	June 26, 2014	June 27, 2014	June 28, 2014
Lecture: Major Factors of Hard and Soft Power and Security: Overview	Lecture: Conflicting Interests of Great Powers: Russia, US, Europe, Turkey, Mid Session Exam - Essay Due	Lecture: Anatomy of Conflicts in the context of Geopolitics	Lecture: Economy, as an Element of Security: Cases on Ukraine, Georgia, Kazakhstan	Lecture: Energy as a Factor of Security: Perspective of Producers, Transit Countries, and Markets	Trip to Kazbegi Discussion on opinion survey - Caucasus Barometer	Tour, Return to Tbilisi
June 29, 2014	June 30, 2014	July 1, 2014	July 2, 2014			
Lecture: Scenario planning methodology and application to the Black Sea Caspian Region	Presentations End of the Program Reception	Roundtable Discussion with Georgian students: Future of the Black Sea-Caspian Region	departure			