

GIPA

Georgian Institute of Public Affairs

Certified Credit Summer Program

Geopolitics and Security
Case of Black Sea-Caspian Region

This program is supported by generous contribution
from MR. FRANK GREINKE and his family foundation

Tbilisi, Georgia

JUNE 24

JULY 8

2018 YEAR

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Valencia, Spain, featuring a river and a modern, curved bridge with a green, wavy roof. The city buildings and mountains are visible in the background under a cloudy sky.

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An aerial photograph of a city, likely Baku, Azerbaijan, featuring a prominent, modern, wavy bridge with a green, undulating roof structure spanning a wide river. The city's skyline, including various buildings and distant mountains, is visible in the background under a cloudy sky.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION & 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.

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Baku, Azerbaijan, featuring a prominent modern bridge with a green, wavy, translucent roof spanning a river. The city's architecture and surrounding hills are visible in the background under a cloudy sky.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

BY THE END OF THE PROGRAM
THE STUDENT 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.

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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;

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Tbilisi, Georgia, featuring a river, a modern bridge with a green, wavy roof, and a cityscape in the background under a cloudy sky.

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.

Cultural and Social Events

are not
limited to

Welcome Dinner and tour to Old Capital of Georgia – Mtskheta

Visit to the National Museum of Georgia (Tbilisi)

Wine Tasting – Tour to Eastern Georgia – Kakheti

Tour to mountainous region of Georgia – Kazbegi

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COURSE REQUIREMENTS

100%

Essay Writing (35%): Essay reflecting on one of the major Security challenges for the selected country of the region (3-5 pages).

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.

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



INTERNSHIP

FOR THE BEST
APPLICANTS

The best applicants will be provided with the internship possibility at the Public Agencies and non-Governmental Organizations (GIPA will not take the responsibility to cover the costs related the internship).

PRE-DEPARTURE READING

H.J. Mackinder, The Geographical Pivot of History (1904), The Geographical Journal, Volume 170, Number 4, December 2004. 100th year anniversary reprint

Zbiginiew Brzezinski, The Grand Chessboard, Basic Books, 1997

Thomas de Waal, The Caucasus: An Introduction, Oxford University Club, 2010

Kurban Said, Ali and Nino: A Love Story, The Overlook Press, 1996

Fred Starr, Svante Cornell, editors, Putin's Grand Strategy: Eurasian Union and its Discontents

<http://www.silkroadstudies.org/resources/1409GrandStrategy.pdf>

CERTIFICATE AND CREDITS

The summer program will award 3 credits in the US system and 6 ECTS in the European system (though we recommend checking with your institution how much credit will be awarded for the program).



Upon successful completion of the program, students will receive GIPA Certificate of Completion and the letter of Transcript (indicating the number of credits received).



PROGRAM FEE

The total program cost is 2500 USD \$ excluding costs of international travel (to and from Georgia). The tuition fee includes transfers to and from Tbilisi airport; student accommodation; full social and cultural program.

Application Deadline

May 1
2018

Applications are accepted by Email. Deadline for submission of applications is May **1, 2018**. Applicants should provide the following documents:

- * Filled-in application form ([Download here](#))
- * Statement of Purpose (max. 300 words)
- * Updated CV with the contact information

After admission, the students will receive notification via e-mail no later than May **7**. 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 May **30, 2018**.

APPLICATIONS PROCEDURES

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Guest speakers to be announced

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					June 23,2018 Arrival to Tbilisi	June 24,2018 Welcome Dinner at Mtskheta
JUNE 25	JUNE 26	JUNE 27	JUNE 28	JUNE 29	JUNE 30	JULY 1
Lecture: Overview of the program. Historic overview of the region	Lecture: Current Political Geography	Lecture: Strategic Context: Global Environment and Regional Reflections	Lecture: Demographic Trends and Human Capital: Security Perspective	Lecture: Anatomy of Conflicts in the context of Geopolitics	Trip to Kazbegi Discussion about the competitive advantage of nations	Return to Tbilisi Work on Essay
JULY 2	JULY 3	JULY 4	JULY 5	JULY 6	JULY 7	JULY 8
Lecture: Status of Democracy, Governance and Institutions Essay Due	Lecture: Conflicting and converging Interests of Great Powers: Russia, US, Europe, China, Turkey.	Lecture: Major Factors of hard and soft power and security: Overview Roundtable Discussion with Georgian Students	Lecture: Economy and Energy, as Elements of Security: Internal Factors	Preparation for presentations Presentation End of the Program	Departure to Eastern Georgian Province of Kakheti Wine Tour Return to Tbilisi	Free Time Departure from Georgia

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COURSE COORDINATORS

Mamuka Tsereteli (International Coordinator)

Director of Research with the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute & Silk Road Studies Program Joint Center, based in Washington DC. His expertise includes international economic policy, economic and energy security, political and economic risk analysis and mitigation strategies, and business development in the South Caucasus and Central Asia. Dr. Tsereteli teaches classes on Energy and Security at American University and the School for Advanced International Study at Johns Hopkins University. Previously he served as Director of the Center for Black Sea-Caspian Studies at American University, and as Founding Executive Director at the America-Georgia Business Council.

Bakur Kvashilava (Local Coordinator)

Dean of the School of Law and Politics, Professor, Georgian Institute of Public Affairs (GIPA) . 10 years of managerial experience at GIPA and academic expertise of +12 years. Bakur Kvashilava has experience working for the private and public sectors; he served in the Foreign Policy Analysis Department of the President's Administration in 1999-2001, he represented Exxon Mobil Co. in Georgia in 2004-2005 and served in the OSCE Mission to Georgia. He teaches several courses at GIPA – the Introduction to International Relations, Comparative Politics, and Ideologies, Parties and Electoral Systems. His current work and research is concentrated on Political Risk Analysis, Regime Transformation and Political Parties.

Bakur Kvashilava regularly partakes in joint efforts treating these issues with the other key academic and research institutions that engage in the study of international relations and politics. He is one of the founding members of the Association for International Relations. At various times, Bakur Kvashilava offered and offers lectures and training for IDEA, Georgian Foundation for International and Strategic Studies, Curatio, and others.

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CONTACTS

Certified Credit Summer Program



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