

Syllabus for Sociology 3260/Political Science 3260
Politics and Society in Post-Colonial States
Summer 2016
Instructors: Dr. Erin Hofmann (erin.hofmann@usu.edu)
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Course Objectives:

1. Become familiar with the political, cultural, and social characteristics of the South Caucasus, and with some of the main challenges this region has faced in the post-Soviet period.
2. Become familiar with the ways in which people work to address the challenges of post-colonialism
3. Develop a broader appreciation for, and comfort in, a foreign culture.

Required Texts:

All required readings will be provided as part of a course packet.

Class participation and in-class assignments

We expect you to come to class having done the required background reading, and ready to participate in class discussions. In class we will expect you to be able to: 1) Summarize key points and ask relevant questions about assigned readings; 2) Relate your experiences on the program to the reading and lecture topics; 3) Engage respectfully with the instructors, guest lecturers and fellow students. In addition to being graded on your participation, there will be occasional, short, in-class assignments, which will be graded as complete/incomplete.

Course policies

1. Classroom conduct

When you come to class, we expect you to focus on class. That means no texting, facebook, outside reading materials, or unrelated conversations. If you have a question or are confused, please raise your hand – we are happy to take questions at any time. Disruptive behavior will negatively impact your class participation grade.

2. Classroom civility

Topics in sociology and political science can evoke passionate opinions. In a cross-cultural learning environment, you can expect to encounter other students whose values and ways of understanding the world may be very different from your own. We don't expect that you always agree with us, or with each other. But we do expect civility. We strive to treat all students with respect and consideration, and expect the same of you expect the same of you. Disrespectful comments, disruptive or aggressive behavior, and rudeness will not be tolerated.

3. *Academic integrity*

Plagiarism or cheating of any kind will not be tolerated. Plagiarism includes knowingly “representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one's own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgment. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.”

(<http://www.usu.edu/policies/pdf/Acad-Integrity.pdf>) The penalties for plagiarism are severe. They include warning or reprimand, grade adjustment, probation, suspension, expulsion, withholding of transcripts, denial or revocation of degrees, and referral to psychological counseling. A single instance of plagiarism can be grounds for failing the course or even expulsion from the University.

Course schedule

*****YEREVAN*****

Monday, May 30 (9:00 – 11:30); Historical heritage of Armenia and Georgia

VIDEO: The Armenians: A Story of Survival

<http://www.amazon.com/The-Armenians-A-Story-Survival/dp/B0010K4Y5Q>

Welcome to Georgia,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNPLTnKWIAQ&list=PL1D916101BAB17AA7&index=3>

REQUIRED READINGS:

1. The history of Armenia

http://www.littlearmenia.com/html/little_armenia/armenian_history.asp

2. Nino Chikovani (2008), *The Problem of a Common Past in Multiethnic Societies*, 30(4): 797-810

Tuesday, May 31 (9:00 – 11:30) Armenian culture

REQUIRED READINGS:

1. Nareg Seferian, 100 years – 100 facts, <http://100years100facts.com>

Wednesday, June 1 (9:00 – 11:30); Georgian culture

REQUIRED READINGS:

1. Georgia, Countries and their cultures; <http://www.everyculture.com/Ge-It/Georgia.html>

2. Ilan Greenberg, “Why Americans swoon for the former Soviet Republic of Georgia,” Slate

http://www.slate.com/articles/news_and_politics/foreigners/2008/08/big_love.html

3. About Georgia, <http://www.aboutgeorgia.ge/culture/traditions.html>

Thursday, June 2 (9:00 – 11:30); Armenia and Georgia under the Soviet Union

REQUIRED READINGS:

1. Vakhtang Amaglobeli (1999), “Steinbeck’s Visit to Georgia in the Context of USSR-USA Relations,” *The Steinbeck Review*, 6(1), pp. 45-50
2. Ronald G. Suny and Joe Stork (1988), “Ronald G. Suny: What Happened in Soviet Armenia? *Middle East Report*, 153: 37-40.
3. J. W. R. Parsons (1982), “National Integration in Soviet Georgia, *Soviet Studies*, 34(4): 547-569.

Friday, June 3 (9:00 – 11:30); Demography of the South Caucasus

In-class exercise: Reading and understanding demographic data
Guest lecture from CRRC Yerevan?

REQUIRED READINGS:

1. Excerpt from the UNFPA Georgia 2014 Population Situation Analysis (Trajectory and Growth of the Population in the Context of the Demographic Transition, pp. 35-40)
2. Richard H. Rowland. 2007. “Recent Demographic Trends in Armenia: Results of the 2001 Census and Updates to 2006.” *Eurasian Geography and Economics* 48(1): 73-94.

Monday, June 6 (9:00 – 11:30); Families and gender

REQUIRED READINGS:

1. Monica Das Gupta. 2013. “Missing Girls’ in the South Caucasus Countries.” World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No. 7236.

Tuesday, June 7 (9:00-11:30); Families and gender

In class-exercise: the Generations and Gender Survey

REQUIRED READINGS:

1. Deniz Kandiyoti. 2007. “The Politics of Gender and the Soviet Paradox: Neither Colonized Nor Modern?” *Central Asian Survey* 26(4): 601-623.

Wednesday, June 8 (9:00-11:30); Political economy in Armenia

REQUIRED READINGS:

1. Armenia Country Report 2014, BTI
2. National Competitiveness Report of Armenia, 2013-2014, E.V. Research Center.

*****TBILISI*****

Monday, June 13 (9:00 – 11:30); Political Economy in Georgia

REQUIRED READINGS:

1. Robin S. Bhatti (2002), Tough Choices Observations on the Political Economy of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia,” Mimeo, prepared for the World Bank. Georgia Country Report 2014, BTI

Tuesday, June 14 (9:00 – 11:30); Social policy

REQUIRED READINGS:

1. David Gugushvili. 2013. “The New Welfare Agenda—Missing the Most Vulnerable Once Again?” Center for Social Sciences Working Papers.

Wednesday, June 15 (9:00 – 11:30); Conflict and security

REQUIRED READINGS:

1. Nalbandov, R. (2010). Living with Security Dilemmas: Triggers of Ethnic Conflicts. *Transcience*, 1(1), 42-57.
2. Ivane Matchavariani, (1997), “The Peace Process and Transition to Democratic Rule in the Republic of Georgia,” *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 552: 98-106

Thursday, June 16 (9:00 – 11:30); Conflict and internal displacement

Guest lecture – ask Nana Sumbadze

REQUIRED READINGS:

1. Kenneth H. Bacon and Maureen Lynch. 2003. “Lost in Purgatory: The Plight of Displaced Persons in the Caucasus.” *World Policy Journal* 19(4): 66-71

Friday, June 17 (9:00 – 11:30); International migration

In class exercise: measuring migration from Georgia

REQUIRED READINGS:

1. Erin Truth Hofmann and Cynthia J. Buckley. 2013. “Global Changes and Gendered Responses: The Feminization of Migration from Georgia.” *International Migration Review* 47(3): 508-538.

Monday, June 20 (9:00 – 11:30); International migration

Guest lecture – Tamar Zurabishvili

REQUIRED READINGS:

1. Victor Agadjanian and Arusyan Sevoyan. 2014. “Embedding or Uprooting? The Effects of International Labor Migration on Rural Households in Armenia.” *International Migration* 52(5): 29-46.

Tuesday, June 21 (9:00 – 11:30); Trust and social cohesion

In-class exercise: the Caucasus Barometer

REQUIRED READINGS:

2. Robia Charles. 2010. “Religiosity in Armenia, Georgia, and Azerbaijan.” *Caucasus Analytical Digest* No. 20: 2-6.

Wednesday, June 22 (9:00 – 11:30); Armenia and Georgia in the Era of Globalization

REQUIRED READINGS:

1. Ishkanian, Armine (2015) Self-determined citizens? A new wave of civic activism in Armenia openDemocracy (16 Jun 2015) opinion
2. Jason D Reichelt, “The Republic of Georgia’s fight against torture: a model for emerging democracies,” *The Comparative and International Law Journal of Southern Africa*, 40, No. 1 (2007): 57-75