



Descriptif d'enseignement - Syllabus

Cours en ligne pour le Semestre 1 de 3^e année

Titre du cours - Course title *Conflict analysis and resolution in the post-soviet space*

Cours en ligne / Online course

Langue / Language of instruction : English

Enseignant(s) - Teacher(s) *dr. Grazvydas Jasutis*

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Statut / Status : Visiting prof.

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Descriptif du cours - Course description

The post-soviet area is mercurial, politically and ethnically diverse, and enormously large extending from Asia to Europe. International community has repeatedly attempted to influence and manage the security processes in the area however its success has been rather meager and hardly measurable. The course is a cross-disciplinary field of study that invites participants to learn big about the security and military issues in the post-soviet countries. It offers unique and practice-based approach to provide a disciplined and methodological review of conflicts, insurgency, and regional military build-up. It asks why and in what forms the actors be involved in conflicts and cooperation; it compares and evaluates the nature and patterns of security developments in political settings, from the level of the state through the regional security system. It explores inter alia the Russian military reforms and its impact on regional security; trends of jihadism in the post-soviet space; conflicts in Ukraine, Moldova, Tajikistan, Kirgizstan and Caucasus region; hypothetical confrontation in the Baltic region; geopolitical maneuvers and separatism in Central Asia. The course upsills students and provide essential knowledge for working in the conflict or post-conflict zones (both field and HQ level). It successfully merges the conflict resolution theories, mechanisms and initiatives, applying them to the current conflicts; tests them against lessons learned, best practices and experiences collected by a range of

international monitoring organisations and field missions in recent decades. The course contributes to the development of competence focused on advancing innovative procedures to address the specific challenges associated with conflict settlement, resolution, management and transformation at different levels that integrate knowledge acquired at different levels of the programme. The participants will gain an advanced knowledge of conflict analysis principles and skills and its application in the post-soviet space.

Évaluation – Assessment

(1) Class participation will count for 50% of your grade for the class. A particular attention will be given to your active participation in the class discussions, ability to come up with relevant examples, ability to refer to assigned academic literature, critical thinking and well-structured argumentation. (2) Seminar assignment will count for 25% of your grade. The assignment will be provided by the instructor. (3) Take home exam (3 pages) will count for 25% of your grade. One question pertaining to post-soviet security is handed out on and returned on via e-mail. This will cover a broad range of issues and will require holistic understanding and well-structured argumentation referring to concrete examples in order to properly respond.

Plan – Course outline

Module 1: Introduction to the post-soviet space: geographical, geopolitical and strategic challenges. Conflict analysis tools.

Academic requirements. Soviet “heritage” in the security policy. Major challenges and issues. Diversity of security developments in the post-soviet space. Conflict analysis tools.

Module 2: Russia’s role in shaping and adapting security agenda in the post-soviet countries

Why Russia matters? Russia’s military reform: plans vs dreams. NATO enlargement in the post-soviet space and Russian response (Collective Security Treaty Organization). Regional military build-up in the Baltic region.

Module 3: Explaining national security issues in Moldova

Geopolitics and security in Moldova. The roots and causes of the conflict in Transdnietria. The role of Romania in the Moldovan political agenda.

Module 4: Ukraine at crossroads: between survival and integration

The dynamics of Ukrainian foreign and security policy. Military assessment on the ground. Interests of regional and global stakeholders in Ukraine. Commonalities and differences of Crimea and Donbass.

Module 5 and 6: Application of conflict assessment methods in the post-soviet space

You are asked to accomplish a task, which is composed of two parts.

Module 7: Collective assignment: a movie

You will be supposed to watch a movie about the war in Georgia and subsequently fill out the questionnaire. The objective is to look into the causes and different perceptions of conflict. 5 Days of War Full Movie,

available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUGLk3X9FB4>; for Russian speakers - Август. Восьмого, available on-line

Module 8: Application of conflict resolution tools

The students will explore potential actors in conflict, distinguishing between those who are directly involved in the conflict and those who are affected by the conflict. More specifically, the module offers a profile of individuals, groups and institutions that contribute to the conflict or that work towards de-escalation and the resolution of hostilities. It concentrates on the conflict stages whereby participants are supposed to identify and analyze conflict stages based on the Eastern Ukraine conflict.

Module 9: Phenomenon of Chechnya: from wars to peace

Exploring the roots of conflicts. First and Second Chechen wars. Kadyrov's regime and its sustainability.

Module 10: Terrorism in the post-soviet space and its linkage to global jihadist movements

Terroristic organizations in the post-soviet space (primarily in North Caucasus and Central Asia). Their affiliation with al-Qaeda and ISIS. Efforts to curb it at national and international level.

Module 11: Who rules the rule in Central Asia; Russian, American and Chinese game and security interests

Strategic interests of Russia, US and China in Central Asia. Assessment of security dilemma in Central Asia. Conflicts in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Module 12: Forecasting in the post-soviet space and concluding remarks

Readings: none

Bibliographie - Bibliography

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Hill, William Holway, [Russia, the near abroad, and the West : lessons from the Moldova-Transdnistria conflict](#). Washington, D.C. : Woodrow Wilson Center Press ; Baltimore : The Johns Hopkins University Press. 2012

Liebich, André, [The Ukrainian past and present : legacies, memory and attitudes](#) In : Regionalism without regions : reconceptualizing Ukraine's heterogeneity. - Budapest ; New York : Central European University Press, 2019. - P 67-134

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Stephen J. Blank (editor). Russia's homegrown insurgency: jihad in the North Caucasus. Published Carlisle, PA : Strategic Studies Institute, U.S. Army War College, 2012. p. 121-149

Grazvydas, Jasutis. The Rise and Decline of the *Caucasus Emirate*, *GCSP Strategic Security Analysis, July 2016, No. 9*, <https://www.gcsp.ch/News-Knowledge/Publications/The-Rise-and-Divide-of-the-Caucasus-Emirate>

Cooley, Alexander. Great games, local rules: the new Power contest in Central Asia. Oxford University Press, 2012 (Chapter 1 "The New Great Power Contest" and Chapter 2 "Local Rules: How CA regimes survive), available on-line