



Univerzita Palackého v Olomouci  
Filozofická fakulta  
Katedra politologie a evropských studií  
<http://kpes.upol.cz>

## PROBLEMS OF THE POST-SOVIET WORLD SYLLABUS, SPRING SEMESTER 2017/2018 (KPE/PPS)

Lecturer and course garant: Markéta Žídková

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**Office hours** (office 3.11): Wednesdays 16:00-17:15; Thursdays 11:00-11:30.

Course e-mail (at gmail.com): [PostSovietWorldCourse@gmail.com](mailto:PostSovietWorldCourse@gmail.com)

password: *Medvedev*

### I. Course goals

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The main aim of this course is to introduce main problems and issues of the post-Soviet world in a period of 1991-2018. The course should provide students with basic understanding of politics of the post-communist states, including Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, South Caucasus, and Central Asian countries. Lectures should guide students through political systems and highlight specifics of particular regimes as well as geopolitical context. Affairs with important impact on the whole region will be discussed.

### II. Teaching methods

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Lectures and seminars: weekly, **Thursdays 11:30-13:00** (please, note exceptions); **Room: 2.31**

For a list of lecture topics, see below.

Seminars should focus in detail on issues arising from lectures. **Seminars require preparation in advance.** All students are expected to have completed allocated readings and/or assignments before the seminar.

Any changes (time, dates, topics, presentations, room) will be announced via **Departmental e-board**. Students are **required to check it** before each session. Get used to checking the e-board every Wednesday night!

### III. Assessment

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#### **Final grade is a combination of the following items:**

Preparation for seminars/discussions; participation in seminars: 20%

Leading one discussion: 20%

Final Exam: 60 %

## IV. Requirements

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### Participation and preparation for seminars/discussions

Students are expected to attend 90 percent of seminars and lectures. Course participants are **expected to prepare** so that they can participate fully in discussions. Students are obliged to prepare **notes** from reading for each seminar. Notes can be typed or written by hand. Minimum required: 200 words. The lecturer reserves the right to collect the notes any seminar.

Participation in discussions values 20 % of the final grade.

### Leading discussions:

Each week there are 1-2 discussion leaders. Their role is to lead a 20min discussion over the seminar topics and pose questions based on required reading. The discussion leaders prepare their questions in advance. They should be able to provide answers. In addition to that, they can play a short video if appropriate or prepare a quiz. This task is worth 20% of the final grade.

### Final exam

The Final exam accounts for 60% of the grade.

**First term:** A 1-hour final exam will take place on **Thursday, May 3 2018, 11:30, room 2.31.**

Any changes (of time, room) would be discussed in advance and they would be announced on the Departmental e-board.

Students will be asked to write short analyses (cca 300 words) of three issues. Issues/topics will be carefully chosen from the lectures, required reading, and seminar discussions.

We appeal on you to study hard: Study your notes from lectures; go through required reading. Some (not all!) lecture outlines will be available at course email.

**Second term** (if needed): Thursday, May 10, 2018, 11:30, room 2.31.

## VI. A brief course overview

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### A list of lectures and seminar topics:

<b>Thu 15/2</b>	No class – the beginning of the semester changed officially.
<b>Thu 22/2</b>	Introduction (syllabus, requirements).
<b>Thu 1/3</b>	The Soviet legacy. Questions of transition/democratization in the USSR/post-Soviet countries. <b>Discussion</b> led by the lecturer.
<b>Thu 8/3</b>	Russia. Politics and society. <b>Discussion</b> led by students.
<b>Thu 15/3</b>	Ukraine. Politics and Society. <b>Discussion</b> led by students.
<b>Thu 22/3</b>	Central Asia. Politics, societies; religion; geopolitics. <b>Discussion</b> led by students.
<b>Thu 29/3</b>	Case study: Tajikistan. <b>Discussion</b> led by special quests from Tajik National University.
<b>Thu 5/4</b>	NO CLASS. READING WEEK.
<b>Thu 12/4</b>	Belarus. The last European dictatorship crumbling? <b>Discussion</b> led by students.

<b>Thu 19/4</b>	The South Caucasus region. Politics and society of Armenia and Azerbaijan. The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. <b>Discussion</b> led by students. Georgia. Politics and society. The 2008 Georgian war and its impact. <b>Discussion</b> led by students.
<b>Thu 26/4</b>	Integration in the post-Soviet area. <b>Discussion</b> led by students.
<b>Thu 3/5</b>	Final exam.

Note: In case of any changes (cancellation of class), make-up classes will be on the following Fridays: Friday 16/3 and/or Friday 13/4 and/or Friday 20/4. TBD in advance. Please, check the e-board before each class!

## **VII. Course reading**

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Students are asked to read the required material prior to the class for which it is assigned. Reading will serve as the basis for class discussions and it will be a part of the Final exam.

At times assigned reading may be supplemented with additional materials. The lecturer reserves the right to alter the reading in order to facilitate learning.

Students are asked to follow news from the region provided by numerous daily/weekly newspapers and journals, web pages, radio stations, or TV channels.

### **Core course reading**

See texts for particular seminars.

### **Recommended web pages**

Students are strongly advised to use the internet for sources on East European countries, Caucasus and Central Asia. The following sources are especially useful for obtaining materials for seminars and presentations/essays.

Radio Free Europe – Radio Liberty: <<http://www.rferl.org>>  
Transitions Online: <<http://www.tol.cz>>  
Moscow Carnegie Center: <<http://www.carnegie.ru/en/>>  
The Jamestown Foundation: <<http://www.jamestown.org/>>  
Window on Eurasia: <<http://windowoneurasia.blogspot.com/>>  
Eurasianet: <<http://www.eurasianet.org/>>  
Kyiv Post: <<http://www.kyivpost.com>>  
Razumkov Centre: <<http://www.uceps.org/eng/>>  
Ferghana.ru: <[www.ferghana.ru](http://www.ferghana.ru)>  
The Eurasia net: <https://eurasianet.org> (subscription is for free)  
The Georgia Times: <<http://www.georgiatimes.info/en/>>  
The Azerbaijan Today: <<http://www.today.az/>>  
The Armenia News: <<http://news.am/eng/>>  
The Financial Times: <[www.ft.com](http://www.ft.com)>  
The Economist: <<http://www.economist.com>>  
The New York Times/International Herald Tribune: <<http://global.nytimes.com/?iht>>  
Freedom House: <<http://freedomhouse.org>>  
Center for strategic and International Studies: <<http://csis.org/>>  
The Telegraph – on Georgia: <<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/georgia/>>  
The Georgian Times: <<http://www.geotimes.ge/>>  
Belarus – important links: <<http://www.world-newspapers.com/belarus.html>>  
Belarus Digest: <http://belarusdigest.com/>

Belarus Today: [http://belarustoday.info/?new\\_lang\\_id=2](http://belarustoday.info/?new_lang_id=2)  
Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies (GFSIS) <<http://www.gfsis.org/>>  
Democracy and Freedom Watch: <<http://dfwatch.net/>>  
VERELQ: <<http://www.verelq.am/en>>

### **VIII. Course overview**

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#### **Prior to the course:**

Students are recommended to refresh their knowledge about history of the Soviet Union, the Gorbachev era, and the USSR collapse.

#### **Recommended reading:**

LOVELL, Stephen. 2009. *The Soviet Union. A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press. (*Zbrojnice library* - 215:030/82) – focus on years 1985-1991.

It is recommended to start following news from the post-Soviet area. (See *Recommended web pages* above.)

#### **INTRODUCTION. COURSE OVERVIEW.**

Course introduction.  
Requirements will be discussed.  
Students are strongly encouraged to start reading.

#### **THE SOVIET LEGACY AND THE PERIOD OF TRANSITION/DEMOCRATIZATION IN THE USSR/POST-SOVIET COUNTRIES.**

#### **Required reading:**

FURMAN, Dmitri. Imitation Democracies. The Post-Soviet Penumbra. *New Left Review* 54, Nov-Dec 2008, pp. 29-47. <http://newleftreview.org/II/54/dmitri-furman-imitation-democracies>

BROWN, Archie: *Gorbachev and Perestroika: A Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Perspective*. The Baltic Worlds. *Balticworlds.com*, 25.8.2010. <http://balticworlds.com/a-twenty-fifth-anniversary-perspective/>

CLOVER, Charles. *Last days of the USSR*. *The Financial Times*, 19.8.2011. <http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/2/c778192e-c94a-11e0-bc80-00144feabdc0.html#axzz1Vdkg2v79>

**SEMINAR TOPICS:** What are the so called imitation democracies? What kind of systems established in the post-Soviet states? Do the post-Soviet leaders change constitutions? Why?

**DISCUSSION:** What kind of systems established in the post-Soviet states? Who was Mikhail Gorbachev and what kind of changes he introduced? How did the USSR collapse and what did the last Soviet days look like?

## **RUSSIA. POLITICS AND SOCIETY.**

Required reading:

SHEVTSOVA, Lilia. *Russia's system of power defies any rational explanation*. The Financial Times, 12.2.2018. <https://www.ft.com/content/033b0536-0ce5-11e8-bacb-2958fde95e5e>

HILLE, Kathrin. *Putin's poll rivals gain a platform but cannot win*. The Financial Times, 13.2.2018. <https://www.ft.com/content/3f333c08-0d70-11e8-8eb7-42f857ea9f09>

TRENIN, Dmitri. *The Disruptor*. Security Times, 2/2018. [https://www.securityconference.de/fileadmin/MSC\\_/2018/Dokumente/Security\\_Times\\_Feb2018.pdf#page=14](https://www.securityconference.de/fileadmin/MSC_/2018/Dokumente/Security_Times_Feb2018.pdf#page=14) or <http://carnegie.ru/2018/02/16/disruptor-pub-75565>

**SEMINAR TOPICS:** How was Russian (political, economic, social) system developing in the 1990s? What kind of (political, economic, geopolitical) changes did Mr Putin introduce since he became the President for the first time in 2000? How would you define the Russian political system? Why do some speak about imperialism in connection with Russia?

**DISCUSSION:** How would you describe the current electoral campaign? Who are the candidates for the presidency? What is your opinion about Russian foreign policy of recent years? Does Russia exploit divisions in the West?

## **UKRAINE. POLITICS AND SOCIETY.**

### **THE WAR IN UKRAINE AND ITS FAR-REACHING IMPLICATIONS.**

Required reading:

MINAKOV, Mikhail. *A Decisive Turn? Risks for Ukrainian Democracy After the Euromaidan*. Moscow Carnegie Center, 16.2.2016. <http://carnegieendowment.org/2016/02/03/decisive-turn-risks-for-ukrainian-democracy-after-euromaidan/itf4>

TRENIN, Dmitri. *To Understand Ukraine. A New Stage in the Russian State Project*. Russia in Global Affairs, 10.1.2018. <http://carnegie.ru/2018/01/10/to-understand-ukraine-pub-75230> and/or <http://eng.globalaffairs.ru/number/To-Understand-Ukraine-19268>

Foxall, Andrew – Lincoln Pigman. *Ukraine's Stalled Revolution. Kiev May Talk Like Brussels But It Acts Like Moscow*. The Foreign Affairs, 29.6.2017. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/ukraine/2017-06-29/ukraine-s-stalled-revolution>

Haring, Melinda – Maxim Eristavi. *Can Ukraine Win Its War on Corruption? What's Ahead for the Country's Reform Movement*. Foreign Affairs, 15.2.2018. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/ukraine/2018-02-15/can-ukraine-win-its-war-corruption>

**SEMINAR TOPICS:** What was the so called Orange revolution in Ukraine? How would you describe the so called Euromaidan events (2013-2014)? Is Ukraine a part of the "Russian world" or do you see it as a part of the EU in the future? Can Ukraine manage corruption?

**DISCUSSION:** Why was Crimea annexed by Russia and what are the consequences for Ukraine, Russia, and the world? Western sanctions targeting Crimea. Who are the Crimean Tatars and what do they struggle for?

## **CENTRAL ASIA. POLITICS, RELIGION, SOCIETY, GEOPOLITICS.**

### Required reading:

BERMAN, Ilan. *Central Asia's Encouraging Development. Why the Region Is Embracing Greater Cooperation and Coordination.* The Foreign Affairs, 8.8.2017.

<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/central-asia/2017-08-08/central-asias-encouraging-development>

MICHEL, Toni. *The Myth of Clans in Central Asian Politics.* Ferghana.news, 19.01.2018.

<http://enews.ferghananews.com/articles/3077>

FARCHY, Jack. *Central Asia: After the strongmen.* The Financial Times, 13.5.2015.

<http://www.ft.com/intl/cms/s/0/1938344c-ed87-11e4-987e-00144feab7de.html#axzz3izAQ7hQ2>

*Uzbekistan country profile.* BBC, 31.1.2018. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-16218112>

BUCKLEY, Neil. *Once-repressive Uzbekistan begins a post-Karimov opening.* The Financial Times, 13.2.2018. <https://www.ft.com/content/6c37419c-0cbf-11e8-8eb7-42f857ea9f09>

*Kazakhstan country profile.* BBC, 13.8.2017. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-15263826>

*Turkmenistan country profile.* 14.8.2017. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-16094646>

*Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov re-elected as Turkmen president.* Deutsche Welle, 13.2.2017.

<http://www.dw.com/en/gurbanguly-berdimukhamedov-re-elected-as-turkmen-president/a-37524932>

*Kyrgyzstan country profile.* 26.11.2017. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-16186907>

PANNIER, Bruce. *Rethinking Kyrgyzstan's Tulip Revolution.* RFERL, 25.8.2009.

[https://www.rferl.org/a/Rethinking\\_Kyrgyzstans\\_Tulip\\_Revolution/1807335.html](https://www.rferl.org/a/Rethinking_Kyrgyzstans_Tulip_Revolution/1807335.html)

MEGORAN, Nick. *The background to Osh: stories of conflict and coexistence.* Open

Democracy, 11.10.2010. <https://www.opendemocracy.net/od-russia/nick-megoran/background-to-osh-stories-of-conflict-and-coexistence>

HARDING, Luke. *Kyrgyzstan calls for Russian help to end ethnic riots.* The Guardian,

12.6.2010. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2010/jun/12/kyrgyzstan-russia-help-ethnic-riots>

MALLINSON, Kate. *Kyrgyz Election Shows There Is Another Way Forward in Central Asia.*

Russia and Eurasia Programme, Chatham House, 17.10.2017.

<https://www.chathamhouse.org/expert/comment/kyrgyz-election-shows-there-another-way-forward-central-asia>

HILLE, Kathrin – Lionel BARBER – Henry FOY. *Kazakhstan: 'Bigger than one person'.* The

Financial Times, 3.11.2016. <https://www.ft.com/content/91c4104a-a0df-11e6-86d5-4e36b35c3550>

PUTZ, Catherine. *Jeenbekov and Nazarbayev Put Kyrgyz-Kazakh Relations Back on Track.*

The Diplomat, 28.12.2017. <https://thediplomat.com/2017/12/jeenbekov-and-nazarbayev-put-kyrgyz-kazakh-relations-back-on-track/>

SARIMOVA, Lina. "The performance of the Eurasian Union has been disrupted due to the conflict of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan". *Realnoe vremya*, 21.11.2017.  
<https://realnoevremya.com/articles/1974-arkady-dubnov-over-the-conflict-between-kazakhstan-and-kyrgyzstan>

ABUDURASULOV, Abduljalil. *Kyrgyzstan election: A historic vote, but is it fair?* BBC, 15.10.2017. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-41594816>

**SEMINAR TOPICS:** How has the region been developing since the break-up of the Soviet Union? What are the greatest challenges in the region? What are common political, economic, social, and religious denominators of all its countries?

**DISCUSSION - UZBEKISTAN:** Who was Islam Karimov and how would you describe his government? What happened in Andijan in May 2005 and what were the consequences for Uzbekistan, USA, Russia, Central Asia? Have things been changing since Karimov died in 2016?

**DISCUSSION - TURKMENISTAN:** Who was Saparmurat Niyazov? What kind of regime did he build in Turkmenistan? What is Rukhnama? Who is Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedow? Is his regime milder than under his predecessor?

**DISCUSSION - KAZAKHSTAN:** Who is Nursultan Nazarbaev? How is Kazakhstan doing economically?

**DISCUSSION - KYRGYZSTAN:** How would you describe the so called Tulip Revolution, when did it happen? What were the ethnic unrests in Osh in 2010 about and what were their consequences? In which respect is the Kyrgyz political system different from other political regimes in the region? What do you know about the recent presidential election?

## **THE CASE OF TAJIKISTAN**

Required reading:

*Tajikistan country profile.* BBC, 4.9.2017. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-16201032>

PARIONA, Amber. *What type of Government Does Tajikistan have?* The World atlas, 1.8.2017. <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/what-type-of-government-does-tajikistan-have.html>

*Tajikistan: Constitutional Reform Bolstering One-Man Rule Looming.* Eurasianet.org, 12.1.2016, <https://eurasianet.org/s/tajikistan-constitutional-reform-bolstering-one-man-rule-looming>

*Tajikistan votes to allow president to rule indefinitely.* The Guardian. 23.5.2016. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/23/tajikistan-votes-to-allow-president-emomali-rahmon-to-rule-indefinitely>

MICHEL, Toni. *Central Asia's Self-Defeating Anti-Terrorism Efforts.* Ferghana.news, 31.1.2018. <http://enews.ferghananews.com/articles/3080>

FARCHY, Jack. *Tajikistan looks to China as Russian remittances dry up.* The Financial Times, 22.10.2014. <https://www.ft.com/content/2c87ee20-58f9-11e4-9546-00144feab7de>

SWERDLOW, Steve. *Tajikistan's Fight Against Political Islam. How Fears of Terrorism Stifle Free Speech.* The Foreign Affairs, 14.3.2016. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/tajikistan/2016-03-14/tajikistans-fight-against-political-islam>

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**DISCUSSION:** Why was there a civil war in Tajikistan, how did it develop, and what was its impact? How was the political system of Tajikistan formed? How would you describe the role of the President Emomali Rakhmon(ov)? Who is Rostam Emomali and what is his role in politics? What role does Islam play in the country? Is there a fear of radicalization? Who was colonel Gulmurod Khalimov? How is the country divided? What are the relations with the neighbours? Is the economy doing fine? What are the biggest obstacles to economic development? Comment on foreign investment, migrant workers, unemployment, corruption, dependence on Russian economy, Chinese investment.

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### **BELARUS. IS THE LAST EUROPEAN DICTATORSHIP CRUMBLING?**

Required reading:

PREIHERMAN, Yauheni. *Belarus Becomes Increasingly Geopolitically Minded*. Eurasia Daily Monitor, Jamestown Foundation, 15.2.2018. <https://jamestown.org/program/belarus-becomes-increasingly-geopolitically-minded/>

GOBLE, Paul. *Anti-Luskashenka Protests Spread Across Belarus, as Moscow Mulls Response*. Window on Eurasia, 19.2.2017. <http://windowoneurasia2.blogspot.cz/2017/02/anti-luskashenka-protests-spread-across.html> (or see course e-mail)

SHRAIBMAN, Artyom. *What Makes the 2015 Belarus Presidential Campaign So Different?* Belarus Digest, 4.8.2015. <http://belarusdigest.com/story/what-makes-2015-belarus-presidential-campaign-so-different-22989>

IOFFE, Grigory. *Twenty Years at the Helm of Power and a Clash of Civilizations*. Jamestown Foundation, Eurasia Daily Monitor, 2.7.2014. [http://www.jamestown.org/regions/europe/single/?tx\\_ttnews%5Btt\\_news%5D=42577&tx\\_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=668&cHash=39d5f907a4faac83686a5ae496149570#.VBcJYvl\\_uwU](http://www.jamestown.org/regions/europe/single/?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=42577&tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=668&cHash=39d5f907a4faac83686a5ae496149570#.VBcJYvl_uwU)

IOFFE, Grigory. *Belarusian Economy: Challenges and Gains*. Eurasia Daily Monitor, Jamestown Foundation. 20.9.2017. <https://jamestown.org/program/belarusian-economy-challenges-and-gains/>

LESHCHENKO, Natalia. *The National Ideology and the Basis of the Lukashenka Regime in Belarus*. Europe-Asia Studies 60/8, October 2008, pp. 1419-1433.

**SEMINAR TOPICS:** What is the relationship between Belarus and Russia? Was Russian annexation of Crimea important also for Belarus? What are the so called Minsk Agreements?

**DISCUSSION:** How would you characterize political system of Belarus? Who is A. Lukashenka? Why aren't all parts of the society satisfied with the regime? Have there been any protests? How is the economy doing?



**THE SOUTH CAUCASUS REGION. POLITICS AND SOCIETY OF ARMENIA AND  
AZERBAIJAN.  
THE NAGORNO-KARABAKH CONFLICT.**

Required reading:

SHIRIYEV, Zaur. *The Protests and Energy Interdependence in Armenia: View From Baku*. Jamestown Foundation, Eurasia Daily Monitor, 7.7.2015.  
[http://www.jamestown.org/single/?tx\\_ttnews\[swords\]=8fd5893941d69d0be3f378576261ae3e&tx\\_ttnews\[any\\_of\\_the\\_words\]=Azerbaijan&tx\\_ttnews\[tt\\_news\]=44129&tx\\_ttnews\[backPid\]=7&cHash=9938cefc03367f3ec3b53ca5fc564ad3#.VcHzhfnhUqI](http://www.jamestown.org/single/?tx_ttnews[swords]=8fd5893941d69d0be3f378576261ae3e&tx_ttnews[any_of_the_words]=Azerbaijan&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=44129&tx_ttnews[backPid]=7&cHash=9938cefc03367f3ec3b53ca5fc564ad3#.VcHzhfnhUqI)

ATANESIAN, Grigor. *Armenians step up their demands in a fourth summer of protest*. The Guardian, 30.7.2016. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jul/30/armenia-hostage-police-station-fourth-summer-of-protest>

GRIGORYAN, Armen. *A Year in Review: Armenia Seeks Closer Cooperation With the West While Avoiding Angering Russia*. Eurasia Daily Monitor, Jamestown Foundation, 17.1.2018.  
<https://jamestown.org/program/year-review-armenia-seeks-closer-cooperation-west-avoiding-angering-russia/>

FARCHY, Jack. *Azerbaijan's strongman hankers after greater power*. The Financial Times, 2.10.2016. <https://www.ft.com/content/d151cb58-8721-11e6-a75a-0c4dce033ade>

RFERL's Azerbaijani Service. *Baku Court Sentences Activist Couple To Tough Prison Terms*. 13.8.2015. <http://www.eurasianet.org/node/74666>

FOY, Henry. *Azerbaijan strongman Ilham Aliyev names wife as vice-president*. The Financial Times, 21.2.2017. <https://www.ft.com/content/bf0db21c-f829-11e6-9516-2d969e0d3b65>

SHIRIYEV, Zaur. *Flash Skirmishes in Nagorno-Karabakh: Triggers and Prospects*. Eurasia Daily Monitor, Jamestown Foundation, 7.8.2014.  
[http://www.jamestown.org/single/?tx\\_ttnews%5Btt\\_news%5D=42722&no\\_cache=1#.VBbP7vl\\_uwU](http://www.jamestown.org/single/?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=42722&no_cache=1#.VBbP7vl_uwU).

SCHRECK, Carl – Luke JOHNSON. *Explainer: The Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict*. RFE-RL, 5.8.2014. <http://www.rferl.org/content/background-nagorno-karaback/26514813.html>

SHAFFER, Brenda. *Nagorno-Karabakh After Crimea. How Moscow Keeps the Conflict Alive – And What to Do About It*. Foreign Affairs, 3.5.2014.  
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/armenia/2014-05-03/nagorno-karabakh-after-crimea>

**SEMINAR TOPICS:** What kind of challenges lie ahead of Armenia? Why does Yerevan tend to cooperate both with Russia and with Europe? What kind of regime governs in Azerbaijan?

**DISCUSSION:** How and when did the Nagorno Karabakh conflict start and develop? Is there a chance for its resolution? How would you describe relations between Armenia and Azerbaijan?

**GEORGIA. POLITICS AND SOCIETY.**  
**THE 2008 GEORGIAN WAR and ITS CONSEQUENCES**

Required reading:

*How the Rose revolution happened.* BBC, 10.5.2005. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/4532539.stm>

CECIRE, Michael. *Georgia's Long-Shot Democracy. Not Quite Liberal.* Foreign Affairs, 20.10.2016. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/georgia/2016-10-20/georgias-long-shot-democracy>

FISCHER, Sabine. *Worst Case: Escalation of the Unresolved Conflicts in Georgia.* European Union Institute for Security Studies, August 2008.  
<file:///C:/Users/Mark%C3%A9ta/Documents/Documents/ReseniKonfliktu/STUDENTS/FormerUSSR-St/RF-Georgia-War08/SabineFischer-Gru-RF-August08-St.pdf>

*Let Georgia Join NATO. Tbilisi's Case.* Foreign Affairs, 12.4.2016.  
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/georgia/2016-04-12/let-georgia-join-nato?cid=int-rec&pgtype=art>

MENABDE, Giorgi. *Georgian Opposition Attacks Bank of Billionaire Ivanishvili.* Eurasia Daily Monitor, Jamestown Foundation, 28.9.2017. <https://jamestown.org/program/georgian-opposition-attacks-bank-of-billionaire-ivanishvili/>

*Tree makes sea voyage for Georgia park project.* BBC, 24.3.2016.  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-news-from-elsewhere-35891764>

**SEMINAR TOPICS:** Which wars were fought in Georgia at the beginning of the 1990s? Who was Eduard Shevarnadze? When and why the Rose revolution happened? How would you describe the Saakashvili era? Who is Bidzina Ivanishvili? Is Georgia strengthening its democracy?

**DISCUSSION:** What happened between Russia and Georgia in 2008? What are the consequences of the military conflict? Should Georgia join NATO?

## **INTEGRATION IN THE POST-SOVIET AREA**

Required reading:

DRAGNEVA, Rilka – Katarina WOLCZUK. *The Eurasian Economic Union. Deals, Rules, and the Exercise of Power*. Russia and Eurasia Program, Chatham House, May 2017.

MICHEL, Casey. *Where Did the Eurasian Economic Union Go Awry?* The Diplomat, 8.5.2017. <https://thediplomat.com/2017/05/where-did-the- Eurasian-economic-union-go-awry/>

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**SEMINAR TOPICS:** How has been integration of the post-Soviet countries developing since 1992?

**DISCUSSION:** When was the Euroasian Economic Union established and who are its members? Where did the Eurasian Economic Union go awry? What are the goals of the Collective Security Treaty Organization? Why are Western analysts sceptical about the CSTO's performance?

## **FINAL EXAM.**

See the instructions above.

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