



**Sokhumi State University**  
**Syllabus**

<b>Name of the Course</b>	<b>Russia and Post-Soviet Countries</b>
<b>Course Code</b>	POLS M208
<b>Course Status</b>	Faculty of Social and Political Sciences. Master's Program - Political Sciences. Second Term. Obligatory course.
<b>ECTS – Number of Credits</b>	<p>6 ECTS - 150 hours.</p> <p>50 contact hours, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ lecture -30 hours;</li> <li>➤ working group/seminars -15 hours;</li> <li>➤ midterm exam – 2 hours;</li> <li>➤ final exam - 3 hours.</li> </ul> <p>100 hours of individual work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Information and material processing- 50 hours;</li> <li>➤ Homework assignments - 25 hours;</li> <li>➤ Preparation for a Midterm exam- 10 hours;</li> <li>➤ Preparation for a Final exam - 15 hours.</li> </ul>
<b>Course Format</b>	Lecture/seminar: 2+1 per week (15 weeks);
<b>Lecturer</b>	<p>Abdaladze Gvantsa – Associate Professor at the Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Department of International Relations</p> <p>Mobile: 593 900 674</p> <p>E-mail: <a href="mailto:g.abdaladze@sabauni.edu.ge">g.abdaladze@sabauni.edu.ge</a></p>
<b>Course Objective</b>	The aim of the course is to review the contemporary problems of post-soviet countries in comparative context. The course will review not only different regions, but also different topics, such as foreign policy, interests of great powers, conflicts, state-building and dilemmas of transition.
<b>Course Prerequisites</b>	N/A
<b>Course Content</b>	See Attachment N1
<b>Required Reading</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reader (in Georgian)</li> <li>2. Handouts done by the lecturer</li> <li>3. Saldadze M. Post-soviet society and government in Russia. BTKK-Policy Research Group. Tbilisi. 2008</li> <li>4. Urushadze E. Russian Foreign Policy Strategies. BTKK-Policy Research Group. Tbilisi. 2006</li> </ol>

	<p><b>Literature, used for the reader:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nation-Building and Identity in the Post-Soviet Space: New Tools and Approaches. Edited by Rico Isaacs and Abel Polese. Routledge. 2016</li> <li>2. Pal Kolsto. Political Construction Sites: Nation Building in Russia and The Post-soviet States. Westview Press. 2000.</li> <li>3. Frederik Coene. Euro-Atlantic Discourse in Georgia: The Making of Georgian Foreign and Domestic Policy After the Rose Revolution. 1st ed. Routledge.2016</li> <li>4. Semi-Presidentialism in the Caucasus and Central Asia. Edited by Robert Elgie, Sophia Moestrup. 1st ed. Palgrave Macmillan. 2016</li> <li>5. Dilemmas of Transition in Post-Soviet Countries. Edited by Joel C. Moses. Rowman and Littlefield. 2003</li> </ol> <p><b>Literature, used for the handouts:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Public Administration in Post-Communist Countries: Former Soviet Union, Central and Eastern Europe, and Mongolia. Edited by Saltanat Liebert, Stephen E. Condrey, Dmitry Goncharov. Taylor and Francis group. 2013</li> <li>2. Nicu Popescu. EU Foreign Policy and Post-Soviet Conflicts. 1st ed. Routledge. 2016</li> <li>3. Jakob Tolstrup. Russia vs. the EU: The Competition for Influence in Post-Soviet States. 2013</li> <li>1. Bobo Lo. Russian Foreign Policy in the Post-Soviet Era. Reality, Illusion and Mythmaking. Palgrave Macmillan. 2002.</li> <li>2. South Caucasus. 20 Years of Independence. Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. 2001</li> <li>3. M. Wesley Shoemaker. Russia and the Commonwealth of Independent States. The World Today Series, 45th Edition. 2014-2015. Rowman and Littlefield.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Supplementary Reading</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Vladimir Gel'man. Authoritarian Russia: Analyzing Post-Soviet Regime Changes. 2015</li> <li>2. Rajan Menon, Eugene B. Rumer. Conflict in Ukraine: the Unwinding of the Post-cold War Order. 2015</li> <li>3. Arkady Ostrovsky. The Invention of Russia: From Gorbachev's freedom to Putin's War. 2016</li> <li>4. M. Petrovic. The Democratic Transition of post-Communist Europe: In the Shadow of Communist Differences and Uneven Europeanisations. 2013</li> <li>5. Alexander Sergunin. Explaining Russian Foreign Policy Behavior: Theory and Practice. 2016</li> <li>6. U.S.-Russia Relations: Refocus, Rebuild, Reenergize. United States Air Force. 2016</li> <li>7. U.S. Strategic Interests and Georgia's Prospects for NATO Membership - Russian Aggression in Georgia and Ukraine, Fear in Central and Eastern European Nations, Georgia Geostrategic Importance . 2016</li> <li>8. Thomas de Waal. The Caucasus: An Introduction. 2010</li> <li>9. Pavel Zemliansky and kirk St. Amant. Rethinking Post-Communist Rhetoric: Perspectives on Rhetoric, Writing, and Professional</li> </ol>

	<p>Communication in Post-Soviet Spaces (Communication, Globalization, and Cultural Identity). 2016</p> <p>10. Angela E. Stent. The Limits of Partnership: U.S.-Russian Relations in the Twenty-First Century. Princeton University Press. 2015</p> <p><b>Internet Resources:</b>  <a href="http://www.jofcp.org/jcp-current-issue">http://www.jofcp.org/jcp-current-issue</a>  <a href="http://carnegie.ru">http://carnegie.ru</a>  <a href="http://www.radiotavisupleba.ge">http://www.radiotavisupleba.ge</a>  <a href="https://www.rt.com">https://www.rt.com</a>  <a href="https://www.state.gov/p/eur/ci/rs/200years/">https://www.state.gov/p/eur/ci/rs/200years/</a></p>
<p><b>Course Outcomes</b></p>	<p><b>Applying knowledge</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate knowledge of general political processes in post-soviet countries</li> <li>• Identify the main challenges of post-soviet region</li> <li>• Analyze the different aspects and controversial character of relations between Russia and other post-soviet countries</li> <li>• Asses critically different sources and information</li> </ul> <p><b>Knowledge and understanding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrate knowledge of processes in post-soviet countries</li> <li>• Identify the main challenges and changes in post-soviet region</li> <li>• Analyse the controversial information</li> <li>• Connect the theoretical knowledge with real cases.</li> </ul> <p><b>Making judgments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asses critically different informational sources.</li> <li>• Focus on different levels of analysis (systemic, domestic, individual)</li> </ul> <p><b>Communication skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to participate in professional disputes about the post-soviet region</li> <li>• Ability to prepare reports and analysis</li> <li>• Ability to use modern technologies</li> </ul> <p><b>Learning skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ability to schedule his/her personal learning and</li> <li>• Ability to achieve scheduled tasks independently.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Teaching Format</b></p>	<p>Teaching methodologies include interactive sessions and participative involvement of the students in in-class discussions. Sessions will include an introduction to the main topics, that are explored through the analysis and discussion of recommended readings, bringing out different approaches and allowing extensive discussion of theories and practice.</p>
<p><b>Grading and Evaluation</b></p>	<p>Grading is based on 100 point scale.  Positive assessment includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (A) - Excellent - Minimal 91% and more;</li> <li>• (B) - Very Good - Maximal 81-90%;</li> <li>• (C) -Good - Maximal 71-80%;</li> <li>• (D) - Fair - Maximal 61-70%;</li> <li>• (E) - Satisfactory - Maximal 51-60%;</li> </ul>

	<p>Negative assessment includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (FX ) - Failure – maximal points from 41-50%, student can take make-up exam once;</li> <li>• (F) - Failure – maximal points from 40% and less, student must take course again.</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attendance and Participation: 10%</li> <li>• Individual Presentation: 20%</li> <li>• Midterm Exam (Article Review): 30%</li> <li>• Final Exam (Research Paper): 40%</li> </ul>
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## Attachment N1

### Course Schedule

Week	Session Hours	Lectures/ Discussion (Participation) Boards/presentation
I	Lecture (2 Hours )	Russia in search of itself - Post-Soviet Russia
	Working Group (1 Hour)	
II	Lecture (2 Hours )	Foreign Policy of Post-Soviet Russia
	Working Group (1 Hour)	
III	Lecture (2 Hours )	Nation-Building and Identity in the Post-Soviet Space: Russia
	Working Group (1 Hour)	
IV	Lecture (2 Hours )	Nation-Building and Identity in the Post-Soviet Space: Caucasus countries
	Working Group (1 Hour)	
V	Lecture (2 Hours )	Nation-Building and Identity in the Post-Soviet Space: Stan countries
	Working Group (1 Hour)	
VI	Lecture (2 Hours )	Nation-Building and Identity in the Post-Soviet Space: Ukraine
	Working Group (1 Hour)	
VII	Lecture (2 Hours )	Nation-Building and Identity in the Post-Soviet Space: Baltic States
	Working Group (1 Hour)	

VIII	Midterm Exam (2 Hours)	
IX	Lecture (2 Hours)	Dilemmas of Transition in Post-soviet countries: political and party systems
	Working Group (1 Hour)	
X	Lecture (2 Hours)	Dilemmas of Transition in Post-soviet countries: public administration and legal systems
	Working Group (1 Hour)	
XI	Lecture (2 Hours)	Dilemmas of Transition in Post-soviet countries: varieties of capitalism
	Working Group (1 Hour)	
XII	Lecture (2 Hours)	Russia and Commonwealth of Independent States
	Working Group (1 Hour)	
XIII	Lecture (2 Hours)	Russia vs. the EU in Post-soviet states – competition for influence
	Working Group (1 Hour)	
XIV	Lecture (2 Hours)	EU and Post-Soviet conflicts
	Working Group (1 Hour)	
XV	Lecture (2 Hours)	Russia vs. the US in Post-soviet states – competition for influence
	Working Group (1 Hour)	
XVI	Lecture (2 Hours)	U.S. Strategic Interests and Georgia
	Working Group (1 Hour)	
XVII	Final Exam (3 Hours)	
XVIII -XIX	Supplementary Examination	