

REES-549: The Caucasus: Histories, Cultures, Politics

Summer Session I: 22 May-30 June 2017

MW 6:00-9:10pm, ROOM TBD

Instructor: Dr. Claire P. Kaiser

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Course Description:

This course examines the history of the Caucasus as a discrete area – that is, including both North and South Caucasus in the current parlance – in the period of Russian interaction and incorporation. We will explore how such concepts as religion, nation, ethnicity, territory, and class have been employed to explain components of Caucasian history and the extent to which they succeed or fail to explain developments from the perspective of the Caucasus' diverse populace. Moreover, we will explore how entanglements and tensions among actors in the Caucasus in the imperial period evolved through the twentieth century.

Though the focus of the course is on the Caucasus region during the Russian encounter (18th-20th centuries), students are encouraged develop projects highlighting other key imperial interactions in the region (e.g. Ottoman/Turkish and Iranian). In addition to history, we will incorporate perspectives from anthropology and ethnography, literature, and sociology to broaden our conceptual and methodological toolkit for examining this region.

Course Requirements:

This class is a discussion seminar. Active, informed, thoughtful, and constructive class participation is a part of the assessment criteria for the course. Students are expected to come to class fully prepared to engage in a critical analysis of the assigned readings. Strong and effective class participation is characterized by:

- Demonstrated mastery of the assigned material;
- Critical examination of the assumptions and implications of the assigned readings;
- Ability to identify key issues, synthesize information (including making connections or exploring contrasts with previously assigned readings); and
- Respectful but probing examination of the contributions of your peers and effective facilitation in clarifying different points of view, thereby contributing to the learning of the whole group.

Students are expected to attend all classes and to complete assigned readings in advance of class. Students will be graded on both class participation and written work based on the following distribution:

- Active participation in seminar preparations and discussions (30%)
- Book review of one of the recommended books and its reception (8-10 pages, double-spaced) (30%)
- Research project proposal (10 pages, double spaced, plus bibliography) on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor (40%)

Reading knowledge of Russian is not required, but is encouraged. Students with reading knowledge of Turkish, Persian, or a Caucasian language (in addition to or in lieu of Russian) are especially welcome in the course. A good deal of German- and French-language secondary literature is also available on the Caucasus. Students must draw from their own foreign language toolkit for their research proposals.

Required Reading:

Required and recommended readings are listed in the course schedule. To ensure informed discussion, it is essential to read that day's items prior to the session's date. Articles may be found via JSTOR or Project Muse. I will provide pdfs of book excerpts from required readings, and books are available on reserve in Lauinger Library and/or as e-books.

Policy on Late Assignments:

Writing assignments are due on the date/time listed in the syllabus. For each 24-hour period thereafter, a submitted assignment will be penalized by one letter grade increment (e.g. from B+ to B for an assignment that is a day late, from B+ to B- for two days late, etc.).

University Honor System:

Academic work at Georgetown is governed by an Honor System (see <http://gervaseprograms.georgetown.edu/honor/system/>). Plagiarism – defined as when a writer deliberately uses someone else's language, ideas, or other original (as opposed to common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source – is a serious academic offense. Copying published or online information or prose into a paper without source attribution for the purposes of claiming the information as your own, or turning in material written by someone else, will be treated as academic misconduct.

Academic Resource Center:

If you believe you have a disability, then you should contact the Academic Resource Center (arc@georgetown.edu) for further information. The Center is located in the Leavey Center, Suite 335. The Academic Resource Center is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students with disabilities and for determining reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and University policies.

Instructional Continuity:

In case of a disruption to our weekly meetings due to weather or other causes, Dr. Kaiser will send regular updates via e-mail to ensure content and discussion continue.

Course Schedule:**May 22: Frames and Maps**

Bruce Grant and Lale Yalcin-Heckmann, eds., *Caucasus Paradigms: Anthropologies, Histories, and the Making of a World Area* (Berlin: LIT-Verlag, 2007): 1-21, 47-74 [273-306]

Charles King, *The Ghost of Freedom: A History of the Caucasus* (New York: Oxford UP, 2008): xiii-19.

Ronald Grigor Suny, *Looking Toward Ararat: Armenia in Modern History* (Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1993): 1-11.

Ronald Grigor Suny, *The Making of the Georgian Nation* (Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1994): 3-41.

May 24: Encounters, Annexations, Conquests

Mikhail Khodarkovsky, "Of Christianity, Enlightenment, and Colonialism: Russia in the North Caucasus, 1550-1800," *The Journal of Modern History* 71:2 (1999): 394-430.

Thomas Barrett, "Lines of Uncertainty: The Frontiers of the North Caucasus," *Slavic Review* 54:3 (Fall 1995): 578-601.

Muriel Atkin, "Russian Expansion in the Caucasus to 1813," *Russian Colonial Expansion to 1917*, Michael Rywkin, ed., (New York: Mansell Publishing, Ltd., 1988): 139-187.

Recommended: Michael Khodarkovsky, *Russia's Steppe Frontier: The Making of a Colonial Empire* (Bloomington: Indiana UP, 2002).

Michael Khodarkovsky, *Bitter Choices: Loyalty and Betrayal in the Russian Conquest of the North Caucasus* (Ithaca: Cornell UP, 2014).

Thomas Barrett, *At the Edge of Empire: The Terek Cossacks and the North Caucasus Frontier, 1700-1860* (Boulder: Westview Press, 1999).

Muriel Atkin, *Russia and Iran, 1780-1828* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1980).

May 29: NO CLASS – MEMORIAL DAY**May 31: In the Service of Empire vs. Antimonies of Empire**

Austin Jersild, *Orientalism and Empire: North Caucasus Mountain Peoples and the Georgian Frontier, 1845-1917* (Montreal: McGill-Queen's UP, 2002): 1-109, 145-153 [E-BOOK]

Alexander Knysh, "Sufism as an Explanatory Paradigm: The Issue of Motivations of Sufi Resistance Movements in Western and Russian Scholarship," *Die Welt des Islams* 42:2 (2002): 139-173.

King, *The Ghost of Freedom*: 64-98.

Suny, *Looking Toward Ararat*: 31-51.

Recommended: Eva-Maria Auch, *Muslim-Untertan-Bürger: Identitätswandel in gesellschaftlichen Transformationsprozessen der muslimischen Ostprovinzen Südkaukasiens (Ende 18.-Anfang 20 Jahrhunderts). Ein Beitrag zur vergleichenden Nationalismusforschung* (Wiesbaden: Reichert, 2004).

- Nicholas Breyfogle, *Heretics and Colonizers: Forging Russia's Empire in the South Caucasus* (Ithaca: Cornell UP, 2005).
- Vladimir Bobrovnikov and Irina Babich, eds., *Severnyi Kavkaz v sostave Rossiiskoi imperii* (Moscow: Novoe literaturnoe obozrenie, 2007).
- Michael Kemper, *Herrschaft, Recht und Islam in Daghestan – von den Khanaten und Gemeindebündem zum gihad-Staat* (Wiesbaden: Reichert, 2005).
- Anna Zelkina, *In Quest for God and Freedom: The Sufi Response to the Russian Advance in the North Caucasus* (New York: New York UP, 2000).

Book review due via email to instructor by 11:59am Monday, 5 June

June 5: The Caucasus in the Age of Nationalism

- Stephen F. Jones, *Socialism in Georgian Colors: The European Road to Social Democracy* (Cambridge: Harvard UP, 2005): 1-75.
- King, *The Ghost of Freedom*: 142-173.
- Suny, *Looking Toward Ararat*: 52-93.

June 7: Wars, Independence, Revolutions

- Peter Holquist, "The Politics and Practice of the Russian Occupation of Armenia, 1915-February 1917," in Ronald Grigor Suny, Fatma Müge Göçek and Norman Naimark, *A Question of Genocide: Armenians and Turks at the End of the Ottoman Empire* (New York: Oxford UP, 2011):151-174.
- Suny, *Making of the Georgian Nation*: 165-208.
- Ronald Grigor Suny, "Writing Genocide," in Suny, Göçek and Naimark, *A Question of Genocide*: 15-41.

- Recommended*: Michael Reynolds, *Shattering Empires: The Clash and Collapse of the Ottoman and Russian Empires, 1908-1918* (New York: Cambridge UP, 2011).
- Ronald Grigor Suny, *"They Can Live in the Desert but Nowhere Else": A History of the Armenian Genocide* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 2015).

June 12: The Caucasus, Imagined

- Susan Layton, *Russian Literature and Empire: Conquest of the Caucasus from Pushkin to Tolstoy* (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1994): 1-14, 36-53, 156-211.
- Read one of the following works of fiction:
- Mikhail Lermontov, *A Hero Of Our Time*
 - Leo Tolstoy, *Hadji Murat* [E-BOOK] and *The Cossacks*
 - Aleksandre Qazbegi prose
 - Kurban Said, *Ali and Nino*

- Recommended*: Bruce Grant, *The Captive and the Gift: Cultural Histories of Sovereignty in Russia and the Caucasus* (Ithaca: Cornell UP, 2009):

June 14: Into the Soviet Fold

- Bruce Grant, "An Average Azeri Village (1930): Remembering Rebellion in the Caucasus Mountains," *Slavic Review* 63:4 (Winter 2004): 705-731.
- Erik R. Scott, *Familiar Strangers: The Georgian Diaspora and the Evolution of Soviet Empire* (New York: Oxford UP, 2016): 37-86.
- Oleg V. Khlevniuk, "Kremlin—Tbilisi: Purges, control and Georgian nationalism in the first half of the 1950s," in Timothy K. Blauvelt and Jeremy Smith, eds., *Georgia after Stalin: Nationalism and Soviet Power* (New York: Routledge, 2016): 13-31.

Recommended: Jörg Baberowski, *Der Feind ist überall: Stalinismus im Kaukasus* (Munich: Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt, 2003). Available in Russian as Йорг Баберовски, «Враг есть везде. Сталинизм на Кавказе» (Москва: РПЭ, 2011).

June 19: The Caucasus in "Developed Socialism"

- Maike Lehmann, "Apricot Socialism: The National Past, the Soviet Project, and the Imagining of Community in Late Soviet Armenia," *Slavic Review* 74:1 (Spring 2010): 9-31.
- Maike Lehmann, "The Local Reinvention of the Soviet Project: Nation and Socialism in the Republic of Armenia after 1945," *Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas* 4 (2011): 481-508.
- Scott, *Familiar Strangers*: 155-193.

Recommended: Maike Lehmann, *Eine sowjetische Nation: nationale Sozialismusinterpretationen in Armenien seit 1945* (Frankfurt am Main: Campus, 2012).

June 21: Caucasus as Site of Contestation

- Georgi M. Derluguian, *Bourdieu's Secret Admirer in the Caucasus: A World-System Biography* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005): 84-128.
- Krista A. Goff, "'Why not love our language and our culture?' National rights and citizenship in Khrushchev's Soviet Union," *Nationalities Papers* 43:1 (Jan. 2015): 27-44.
- Claire P. Kaiser, "'A Kind of Silent Protest? Deciphering Georgia's 1956,'" Blauvelt and Smith, *Georgia after Stalin*: 92-115.
- King, *The Ghost of Freedom*: 200-220.

June 26: Wars of Collapse and "Frozen" Conflicts

- Derluguian, *Bourdieu's Secret Admirer in the Caucasus*: 1-28, 166-287
- Michael Reynolds, "Myths and Mysticism: A Longitudinal Perspective on Islam and Conflict in the North Caucasus," *Middle Eastern Studies* 41:1 (Jan. 2005): 31-54.
- King, *The Ghost of Freedom*: 220-242.

Recommended: Valery Tishkov, *Chechnya: Life in a War Torn Society* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2004).

Mathijs Pelkmans, *Defending the Border: Identity, Religion, and Modernity in the Republic of Georgia* (Ithaca: Cornell UP, 2006).

June 28: The 21st Century Caucasus

The Stalin Puzzle: Deciphering Post-Soviet Public Opinion, available:

http://carnegieendowment.org/files/stalin_puzzle.pdf

Caucasus Research Resource Center Caucasus Barometer survey analysis, available:

<http://caucasusbarometer.org/en/datasets/>

Bruce Grant, "The Edifice Complex: Architecture and the Political Life of Surplus in the New Baku," *Public Culture* 26:3 (2014): 501-528.

Alisa Ganieva, *The Mountain and the Wall*, Carol Apollonio, trans., (2015).

Research proposals due via email by 11:59pm on Wednesday, 5 July