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Ph.D. in Social Sciences (Direction of Political Science)

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Room: #...

Days and Time: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 18:50-21:05

Caucasus in the Context of Central and Eastern European Identity

Course Description:

Within the framework of the course we will examine such determinants of Caucasian Identity, as are: Caucasian landscape, common history, traditions, including Georgian Supra, polyphonic songs, Caucasian chivalry, strong family ties, as well as common Caucasian mythology, etc. There will be discussed ethnolinguistic groups of Caucasus, ethnopsychological features of Caucasian peoples, interrelations between ongoing conflicts and multi identities; we will emphasize minority issues and consider ethnic and civic identities in Caucasus, differences between North and South Caucasus, Islam in Caucasus, as well as will explore what European identity is in general and how much Christianity represents one of the major defining factors for European identity. Then we will try to define Central and Eastern European identity, focus on Caucasia's pre-Soviet, Soviet and post-Soviet mentality specificities, address Europeanization processes or emergence of new political identity in the South Caucasus accenting EU's and the US foreign policy in the region, as well as Caucasians' aspirations for Euro-Atlantic integration. There will be explored representation of European and national identity and would question if there is a case of coincidence or contrast. We will target a gap existing in state-identity building of Caucasian peoples and find out if developed civic attitudes and skills are oppositional for strong ethnic identity in the region. Collectivism and collective individualism will also be discussed, as well as we will examine if Caucasus is more productive space for authoritarian liberal practices. In addition, interrelations between national identity and democratic consolidation will be observed in CEE and Caucasus and obstacles for the evolvement of European identity in the region will be debated. We will especially underline such phenomena as are European provinciality and Caucasian micro identities and explore similarities and differences between them. While focusing on Georgia's European identity in the medieval centuries, Rose Revolution and mental transformation of the country taking place since 2003, we will discuss Georgia as a leader of the European Caucasus and address the following formula: "I am Georgian, and therefore I am European". Finally, we will attempt to shape future trends of the development of Caucasian identity.

Course Objectives:

- Raising students' awareness on Caucasus in general and in particular, on its identity and mental specifications in the context of CEE identity;
- Enhancing students' ability to step by step improve their knowledge not only of Caucasus and its identity issues, but also of European and CEE identity;
- Developing students' abilities to critically assess and make prognoses concerning the future of Caucasian identity.

Evaluation:

Students will be assessed through:

- Midterm exam (individual and/or mini group presentations; the material should mainly come from, but is not limited to class lectures and the assigned readings. The midterm is worth 50% of your mark.);
- Final essay (list of the topics you should choose one from will be provided on AGH's Scholar's Panel. You should send me the essays via my e-mail: khatuna.khatuna@gmail.com; the deadline will be announced on AGH's Scholar's Panel). Final essay is worth 30% of your mark.
- Attendance (regular class attendance is highly recommended. Attendance is worth 5% of your mark.);
- Participation and Assignments (participation in class discussions, including about assigned readings is worth 15% of your mark.)

Reading Materials:

All assigned readings for the course will be provided on AGH's Scholar's Panel.

Class Schedule:

(Please, take into consideration that the schedule is tentative and its change is at the instructor's discretion)

March 4: Caucasian Landscape: Cultural Inheritance and Identity; Historical Outline of Caucasus (common history); Caucasian Traditions (political and social significance of Georgian Supra; continuity of tradition: traditional polyphonic songs in Georgia/Tbilisi; Caucasian chivalry; strong family ties; common Caucasian mythology)

March 9: Ethnolinguistic Groups and Caucasian Languages; Ethnopsychological Features of Caucasian Peoples: Similarities, Differences and Discrepancies; Current and/or Frozen Conflicts and Multi Identities in Caucasus; Minorities in Caucasus (ethnic and civic identities); North and South Caucasus (Not Only Geography Matters); Islam in Caucasus (case of multireligiosity)

March 12: Midterm exam

March 18: What is European Identity? (historical approach; European culture, religion; pan-European identity); Christianity as One of the Major Determinants of European Identity? What is Central and Eastern European Identity? (From Alterity to Identity); Caucasia's Pre-Soviet, Soviet and Post-Soviet Mentality Issues; Caucasus in the Context of Europeanization (emergence of new political identity in South Caucasus; EU's and US foreign policy in the region; Caucasians' aspirations for Euro-Atlantic integration); European and National Identity in Caucasian Societies: Coincidence or Contrast? A Gap in State-Identity Building in Caucasus

March 23: Developed Civic Attitudes and Skills vs. Strong Ethnic Identity? Collectivism and Collective Individualism in Caucasus; Trends to Authoritarian Liberal Practices? (In the Crossroads of Europe and Asia); Interrelations between National Identity and Democratic Consolidation in CEE and Caucasus; Obstacles for the Evolvement of European Identity in Caucasus; European Provinciality and Caucasian Micro Identities; Georgia – Leader of the European Caucasus (Georgia’s European identity in the medieval centuries; Rose Revolution and mental transformation; formula: “I am Georgian, and therefore I am European”); What will be the Future of Caucasian Identity?