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## **Neoliberalism and Globalization**

## Course Description

The course offers a comprehensive examination of key concepts of neoliberalism and globalization as of one of the most influential phenomena for every aspect of social life in the contemporary world. Besides addressing all the main issues first of all of neoliberalism and discussing the rule of the market, cutting public expenditure for social services, deregulation, privatization, TINA-concept ("There Is No Alternative!"), eliminating the concept of the "public good" or "community", as well as John Williamson's "Washington Consensus", including his popular ten points, also the effects of neoliberalism changing especially the world economy of the 20<sup>th</sup> century for forever, when debating on supporting economic liberalism, we will explore how neoliberal policy has influenced on living standards of people, increased the indexes of "happiness", as well as of perception of "peace" and resulted political freedom in different countries. During our lectures and seminars we will examine the state-centered approach, quite controversial idea first of all among neoliberals. The world's economic crisis of the first decade of 2000s will be analyzed in the context of the crucial crisis of neoliberalism itself and we will attempt to elaborate some valid alternatives to neoliberal economic and political system for the upcoming future on a global scale. Along with introducing wide range of popular definitions of globalization, we will explore the ways how this process can be assessed as a worldwide phenomenon defined as a result of global fostering of the neoliberal doctrine by such global neoliberal actors, as are: IMF, WTO, WB, a diverse variety of transnational corporations, etc. After summarizing neoliberal theory and practice, as well as policy implications and different effects of globalization, we will focus on the case study of Georgia, which became one of the most successful post-communist countries where radical neoliberal reforms were efficiently implemented particularly, but not limited to the period from 2004 to 2012 following after one of the "Colored Revolutions" of 2000s, the Rose Revolution of 2003. We will additionally attempt to envision the future of neoliberal globalization in the light of the rise of the right wing movements, populism, radical nationalism, religious extremism, and isolationism even in the classical and leading liberal democracies of the Western world.