



ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2022-2023

COURSE TITLE

War and Conflict in the Post-Soviet Space

SEMESTER

2

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

LANOSZKA Alexander

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

NIZOWICZ Nicolas

COURSE TYPE

Specialist Course

MAJOR(S)

EUN

ECTS CREDITS

4

TEACHING HOURS

20

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

80

TUTORIAL(S)

COEFFICIENT

1

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVE

To develop a theoretically informed understanding of why those states and societies that once were part of the Eastern bloc in the Cold War sometimes conflict with each other, and why such conflicts vary in intensity.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

- to learn several of the most prominent theories of war in international relations;
- to understand some of the basic bargaining dynamics that underpin inter-state conflict;
- to apply such theoretical understandings towards key cases involving countries in East Central Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia and their relations towards Russia.

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

Reading key studies by contemporary historians, political scientists, and other analysts on how countries in East Central Europe, Central Asia, and the Caucasus have related to Russia since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

Lectures and discussions in seminar style.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

- Students will write an essay of about 1800-2000 (footnotes included) that they will submit after the end of the course but before the exam session. This essay will take 50% of the final mark.

- An open-book digital two-hour in-class final exam with no page limit will account for 50 % of the final mark. Students will be asked to answer one question out of four.

The College of Europe reserves the right to change the delivery and assessment of the course in case of circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the College (force majeure). Any communication from the campus administration in this regard takes precedence over the information provided in this ECTS card.

Retake examinations, i.e. exams passed in the second examination session, will have the same format as those taken during the first exam session. The only exception concerns oral exams, which are replaced in the second exam session by written exams. When a student takes an examination during the second session, the final mark for the course is based solely on the result of the retake examination. No other element of evaluation which would have been taken into consideration in the calculation of the final mark during the first examination session will be considered in the second session.

COURSE CONTENTS

The first, shorter part of the course will develop a theoretical toolkit for understanding war and conflict. The second, longer part of the course will examine different case studies of conflict in order to tease out why some escalated into full-blown war and why others exhibit a low level of intensity.

[section A]: Theories of War and Conflict

1. The Bargaining Model of War
2. Domestic Politics and War
3. Status Anxiety, Symbolic Politics, and War

[section B]: Empirical Cases

4. A Background: Nationalist Mobilization and the Collapse of the Soviet Union
5. Case #1: Georgia, Abkhazia, and South Ossetia
6. Case #2: Chechnya
7. Case #3: Ukraine and Russia
8. Case #4: The Baltic Countries and Russia
9. Case #5: Moldova and Transnistria
10. Case #6: Kazakhstan and Russia

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Please see the bibliography in the course outline.