



## **CIEE Moscow, Russia**

<b>Course name:</b>	Conflicts in the Zone of the New Russian Frontiers
<b>Course number:</b>	INRE 3003 MBIR
<b>Programs offering course:</b>	Moscow Business and International Relations
<b>Language of instruction:</b>	English
<b>U.S. Semester Credits:</b>	3
<b>Contact Hours:</b>	45
<b>Term:</b>	Summer 2019

### **Course Description**

This course is designed to provide knowledge about regionalism, regional integration and conflicts in the Eurasian region where Russia plays an active role. The course gives theoretical and empirical knowledge about regionalism, regional integration, conflict resolution and about specific conflicts in Eurasia after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Discussion of conflicts is important to understand Russian role in Eurasia and the processes of conflict settlement and crisis management in the region. Regional integration can either foster some political conflicts or lead to more cooperation, thus, regionalism is studied from this perspective as well.

### **Learning Objectives**

The main goal of the course is to provide students with theoretical and practical knowledge about conflicts in Eurasia.

Course course objectives are:

- To introduce students to the contemporary theoretical approaches to regionalism, conflict settlement and regional cooperation.
- To provide students with main facts and different opinions on regionalism and conflicts in Eurasia.
- To orient students towards independent thinking on regionalism and regional conflicts in Eurasia.

By the end of this course students should be able to:

- Understand the logic of regional processes in Eurasia, including regional integration.
- Detect biased opinions of the parties to the conflicts and critically assess them by eliciting these parties' values and ideologies.
- Understand the mechanisms of conflict settlement and be able to formulate practical recommendations to politicians of different states.

### **Course Prerequisites**

None



### **Methods of Instruction**

The basic principle of the course is individual and group discussion of the topics to find conflicting opinions on the discussed conflicts and try to reconcile them; or to discuss the problems of effectiveness of different regional integration projects. Classes are generally held to promote critical thinking skills. Teaching methods used include Socratic dialogue and discourse analysis.

### **Assessment and Final Grade**

The final grade is assessed by the following criteria:

Class participation	25%
Mid Term Quiz	20%
Group Presentation of Conflict	25%
Policy Memo	20%
Policy Memo Presentation	10 %

### **Course Requirements**

#### **Class Participation**

Students are required to participate actively in the seminar. The **class participation** grade will be determined by attendance, engagement (active listening and participation), and evidence of completion of assigned readings. Attendance for this CIEE course strictly follows the CIEE Moscow attendance policy. In case of absence, students must inform both the Resident Director and course instructor in advance of the absence. The student should speak with the instructor to develop a plan to make up missed material.

#### **Mid-Term Quiz**

At the week two, students will an **in-class written quiz** on the material covered during the first half of the course. The quiz will consist of short answer and essay questions. Students may use their notes, but no published or online resources.

#### **Group Presentations**

Group presentations will cover a conflict, selected with assistance from the course instructor.

Presentation Guidelines:

Length 15-20 minutes.

Number of slides:

- 1<sup>st</sup> slide with the title of the presentation, date and your name, may contain a picture (flag, map...)
- Usually 10-12 slides (to be able to fit into 20 min max)
- Final slide with bibliography list.

Please, include maps, infographics, charts, cartoons or any other type of visual information (including video, if needed). Make the font large enough, however, do not insert too much text.

Sources:



For factual information, start with the Uppsala University Conflict Encyclopedia

<http://www.pcr.uu.se/research/ucdp/database/>

They have short (2 page) description of all conflicts, including the parties involved, their interests and claims, death toll, number of refugees, etc. Continue with the International Crisis Group (ICG) website, where they publish reports with recommendations. Take them as a basis for your policy papers <https://www.crisisgroup.org/> However, some area experts claim that the ICG reports tend to be biased, so find alternative sources of information.

Structure of a presentation:

- Causes of a conflict (ethnic, economic, mixed...)
- Time frames (military phase, cease-fire, phase of political settlement)
- Main actors/parties to the conflict and their interests
- Third parties (external, regional or non-regional states or organizations) in conflict settlement/ mediation and their interests
- Type of peacekeeping operation (if any), type of political agreements signed
- Causes that impede definitive political settlement (why are conflicts still frozen?)
- Possible solutions
- Questions from students and instructor

We will compare conflicts on the basis of these questions.

### **Policy Paper**

Policy papers are not about facts, but about perspectives and recommendations. They should serve as a reality check and try to give an assessment alternative to the political mainstream.

Length: 1500-1600 words

Structure:

- Security problem
- Why current solutions do not work (give different opinions by different parties to the conflict or mediators; also give different opinions of the experts)
- Alternative solutions and recommendations (suggested by policy-makers or by think tanks; make your own suggestion). Instead of recommendations, you can make three scenarios: best-case, normal, worst-case.

Include footnotes with references to the sources of information (any quotation style).

### **Policy Paper Presentation**

Students will create a poster (one PowerPoint slide) to present their policy paper.

5-minute presentations, followed by 5-minute Q&A session.

### **Course Schedule**

#### **Week 1**

- **1.1 Introduction to the course**  
Course outline, Literature, Main requirements. Critical thinking methods
- **1.2 Writing Policy Papers and Making Presentations**

Methods. How to write policy papers and make presentations: making hypotheses; creating research design; structuring your thinking; making conclusions. Examples of good and bad essays and presentations.

- **1.3 Theoretical Approaches to the Study of IR**  
Levels in the study of international relations: global, regional, national levels. State-centric approach, civilizational approach. Influence of the research method on the outcome of the study. Creation of competing integrative schemes on post-Soviet space. Multi-vector policies of most of the NIS. Re-configuration and erosion of post-Soviet space.
- **1.4 Methods Conflict Settlement**  
Discussion of a recent event in Russia that had a wide international coverage and analysis of media discourses in Russia and other countries. The seminar is directed by the lecturer, who shows how to critically assess and reconcile different discourses.
- **1.5 Methods of Conflict Settlement (part 2)**

## Week 2

- **2.1 & 2.2 UN Charter and Evolution of UN Peace Support Policies**  
Principles for conflict mediation and “soft peace-keeping” in Chapter 6 of the UN Charter. Principles for coercive peace-enforcement in Chapter 7 of the UN Charter. Mixed formats (operations “Six-and-a-Half” and “Seven-and-a-Half”). Commission on Sovereignty and Conflicts and “Responsibility to Protect” UN Report. UN Department of Peace Operations. Modern typology and statistics of peace operations. UN lessons learned from engagements in conflicts.
- **2.3 & 2.4 Regionalism and Subregionalism in Eurasia**  
Regional identity: is it real or constructed? What are the main components of a region/subregion identity? What factors contribute to the creation of a regional identity? Does regional identity influence conflicts and cooperation in a region? Choose one of the subregions in Eurasia (Black Sea region, New Eastern Europe, Caspian Sea region, Central Asia, Caucasus) and answer the above questions in your poster presentation.  
  
Readings: In Defence of Greater Central Asia; The EU’s New Black Sea Policy: What Kind of Regionalism Is This?; Caspian Region: Local Dynamics, Global Reverberations; EU-promoted Regionalism in the EU’s Eastern Neighbourhood.
- **2.5 & 2.6 Global and Regional International Institutions in the Security Fields and Conflict Resolution**  
Principles of decision-making on security issues in UN Security Council, General Assembly and in G-8 format. Regional security organizations under provisions of the Chapter 8 of the UN Charter. “Families” of regional security/political regional organizations on five continents. Relations between global and regional institutions, share of responsibilities and functions.

- **2.8 MID TERM**

**Week 3**

- **3.1 NATO**  
Evolution of NATO's role in post-Soviet period. NATO's enlargement policy and conflicts. Rome Declaration, Lisbon summit Strategic concept. NATO's role in former Yugoslavia. NATO's role in international operations in Afghanistan. NATO operation in Libya. Rules and exceptions. International debates on responsibilities and methods of NATO's involvements into conflicts.
- **3.2 OSCE & European Union**  
OSCE as a universal interstate organization for Eurasia. Results and weaknesses of the OSCE policies. Conflict Prevention Center in Vienna. OSCE summit in Kazakhstan (2010). European Union in search of European security and defense identity. Failure of initial attempts to create EU joint military forces. Creation of EU Rapid Reaction contingents (CJTFs). EU participation in 14 operations on 3 continents.
- **3.3 Regional Security Organizations in Eurasia**
- **3.4 Introductions: Conflicts in Eurasia**  
Political conflicts in Eurasia: democracy vs stability, "color" revolutions What are the factors of political instability in Eurasia? Did color revolutions lead to greater stability and prosperity?
- **3.5 Conflicts in Eurasia: Ukraine**  
Presentations & Discussions
- **3.6 Conflicts in Eurasia: Baltics**  
Presentations & Discussions

**Week 4**

- Conflicts in Eurasia I**
- **4.1 Conflicts in Eurasia: Arctics**  
Presentations & Discussions
  - **4.2 Conflicts in Euraisa: Nagorno Karabakh**  
Presentations & Discussions
  - **4.3 Conflicts in Eurasia: Moldova & Transnistria**  
Presentations & Discussions
  - **4.4 Conflicts in Eurasia: Georgia**  
Presentations & Discussions
  - **4.5 Policy Paper Presentations**
- 4.6 Wrap up and course closure**  
**Policy Papers Due**



## **Course Readings**

### **Readings**

- A. Moshes. A Special Case? // Russia in Global Politics. – 2008. – N 2 (April-June)  
[http://eng.globalaffairs.ru/number/n\\_10926](http://eng.globalaffairs.ru/number/n_10926)
- A. Makarkin. An Orange-Tinged Revolt // Russia in Global Politics. – 2005. – N 2 (April-June)  
[http://eng.globalaffairs.ru/number/n\\_4957](http://eng.globalaffairs.ru/number/n_4957)
- A. Schipani-Aduritz. Through the Orange-Coloured Lens: Western Media, Constructed Imaginery, and Colour Revolutions // Demokratizatsiya. - 2007. – Vol. 15. – Issue 1.  
<http://www.demokratizatsiya.org/bin/pdf/DEM%2015-1%20Schipani-Aduriz.pdf> (This article shows how, while covering the events in these three former Soviet republics, Western journalists depicted scenarios in a similar vein to the October 2000 Serbian election and the Czechoslovakian Velvet Revolution of 1989)
- K. Zatulín. Fighting for Ukraine: What's Next? // Russia in Global Politics. – 2005. N2  
[http://eng.globalaffairs.ru/number/n\\_4955](http://eng.globalaffairs.ru/number/n_4955)
- L. Way. The real causes of colour revolutions // Journal of Democracy. – 2008. – Vol. 19, Issue 3. (access it in the MGIMO library databases)
- M. Zherebkin. In search for a theoretical approach to the analysis of “colour” revolutions: transition studies and discourse theory // Communist and Post-Communist Studies. – 2009. – Vol. 42, Issue 2. (access it in the MGIMO library databases)
- Nikolai Petrov, Masha Lipman, Henry E. Hale. Overmanaged Democracy in Russia: Governance Implications of Hybrid Regimes  
[http://carnegieendowment.org/files/overmanaged\\_democracy\\_2.pdf](http://carnegieendowment.org/files/overmanaged_democracy_2.pdf) (28 p.)
- R. Medvedev. A Splintered Ukraine // Russia in Global Politics. – 2007. N3.  
[http://eng.globalaffairs.ru/number/n\\_9136](http://eng.globalaffairs.ru/number/n_9136)
- Steven Levitsky and Lucan A. Way THE RISE OF COMPETITIVE AUTHORITARIANISM  
[http://scholar.harvard.edu/levitsky/files/SL\\_elections.pdf](http://scholar.harvard.edu/levitsky/files/SL_elections.pdf) (15 p.)
- V. Dubnov. The Orange Color of the Bourgeoisie // Russia in Global Politics. – 2005. N1.  
[http://eng.globalaffairs.ru/number/n\\_4412](http://eng.globalaffairs.ru/number/n_4412)
- Yu. Sharkov. “Colour Revolution”: Uniformity in Diversity // International Affairs. – 2008. – Vol. 54, Issue 4. (access it in the MGIMO library databases)

### **Online Resources**



Alyson J. K. Bailes, Pál Dunay, Pan Guang and Mikhail Troitskiy. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization. SIPRI Policy Paper No. 17 <http://books.sipri.org/files/PP/SIPRIPP17.pdf>

Alyson J.K. Bailes, Vladimir Baranovsky, Pal Dunay. Chapter 4. Regional security cooperation in the former Soviet area. SIPRI Yearbook 2007  
<http://www.sipri.org/yearbook/2007/files/SIPRIYB0704.pdf>

Alyson JK Bailes. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Europe. China and Eurasia Forum Quarterly, Volume 5, No. 3 (2007) p. 13-18  
[http://www.silkroadstudies.org/new/docs/CEF/Quarterly/August\\_2007/Bailes.pdf](http://www.silkroadstudies.org/new/docs/CEF/Quarterly/August_2007/Bailes.pdf)

Anna Matveeva and Antonio Giustozzi THE SCO: A REGIONAL ORGANISATION IN THE MAKING. Working Paper 39, LSE Crisis States Research Centre, September 2008  
<http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/22937/1/wp39.2.pdf>

Collective Security Treaty [http://www.dkb.gov.ru/start/index\\_azbengl.htm](http://www.dkb.gov.ru/start/index_azbengl.htm)

Collective Security Treaty Organization official website  
[http://www.dkb.gov.ru/start/index\\_aengl.htm](http://www.dkb.gov.ru/start/index_aengl.htm)

CSTO Charter [http://untreaty.un.org/unts/144078\\_158780/5/9/13289.pdf](http://untreaty.un.org/unts/144078_158780/5/9/13289.pdf)

CSTO: Responsible Security / S.Kulik, A.Nikitin, Y.Nikitina, I.Yurgens. - M.: INSOR, 2011. - 21 p. <http://www.insor-russia.ru/files/CSTO%20Synopsis.pdf>

Dr Marcel de Haas. THE SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION'S MOMENTUM TOWARDS A MATURE SECURITY ALLIANCE. Scientia Militaria, 2008, pp. 14-30  
[http://www.clingendael.nl/publications/2008/20080100\\_cscp\\_haas\\_art\\_sm.pdf](http://www.clingendael.nl/publications/2008/20080100_cscp_haas_art_sm.pdf)

Major (P) John A. Mowchan. The Militarization of the Collective Security Treaty Organization. Center for Strategic Leadership US Army War College, Issue Paper Volume 6-09, July 2008  
[http://www.csl.army.mil/usacsl/publications/IP\\_6\\_09\\_Militarization\\_of\\_the\\_CSTO.pdf](http://www.csl.army.mil/usacsl/publications/IP_6_09_Militarization_of_the_CSTO.pdf)

SCO official website - <http://www.sectsco.org/EN/>