

# **Frozen conflicts in the post-Soviet space**

## **Course description**

The main objective of the course is to acquaint students with the current stage of mediation efforts regarding frozen conflicts in the post-Soviet space, focusing on specific and practical diplomatic tools used in mediation process. The course will familiarize students with the actual players and the main participants in international mediation efforts aimed at resolving these conflicts. The course will illuminate the history of the creation, preparation and conduct of the Geneva International discussions, will describe functioning of Incident prevention and response mechanism applied jointly by the EU, UN and the OSCE in Georgia and will explain activities and goals of the EU Civilian Monitoring Mission in Georgia. With regard to the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh the course will focus on functioning of the Minsk Group and will provide examples of EU mediation efforts in this conflict. Important part of the course will be devoted to simulation of the Geneva International Discussions. This simulating role play will allow students to savor specificities of preparation and conducting a major international negotiations aiming at helping to resolve conflicts. All together the course will provide a valuable opportunity for students to learn from practical diplomatic experience and will help them to develop deeper understanding of concrete mediation tools used in the contemporary European diplomacy.

## **Instructor**

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## **Syllabus contents**

The syllabus for this course consists of three parts: part A, B and C.

- Part A defines the learning goals, materials and workload, and rules for the role playing of Geneva International Discussions.
- Part B explains different forms of assessment in the course, the grading system and the written exam deadlines.
- Part C gives a time overview of the content of the course: the course outline.

## **Part A**

Learning goals, course materials, workload and rules of the role playing

### **A.1. Learning goals**

- Understanding the phenomenon of frozen conflicts and unrecognized “de facto” states, the main determinant of regional instability, how they differ from one another in terms of scope, history and international actors involved and how they share some features.

- Outline the current stage of mediation efforts regarding frozen conflicts in the South Caucasus, focusing on specific and practical diplomatic tools used in mediation processes with regards to “parent” and “de facto” states and learn the patterns of dealing with them. Learning to critically reflect on individual policies and understand interests of the main actors in these conflicts.
- Illuminate the history of the creation, preparation and conduct of the Geneva international discussions.
- Crafting own tactics and presentation for the role script of one of the participants at Geneva International Discussions.
- Understand the role of the European Union in frozen conflicts resolution, instruments and tools the EU is using in conflict mediation and the main deficiencies preventing the EU to be more effective.

## **A.2. Course materials and workload**

The course materials are comprised of the individual 80 minutes lectures complemented with PowerPoint presentations, recommended readings, documentary videos, authentic photographs and cartographic materials.

## **A.3. Rules of the role playing**

Simulation of the Geneva International Discussions plays important part of this course. Students will be guided to prepare their own role scripts in the name of individual participant at Geneva International Discussions. All role scripts give students sufficient room for improvisation and presentation. The rule of the game during the role play requires that students do not use this for political discussions and for ventilating own political opinions but try to look into the problem from the eyes of each individual participant bearing in mind his particular interests and goals.

## **Part B**

### **Methods of assessment and the grading system**

#### **B. 1. Methods of assessment**

This course includes three types of assessment:

- 1) presence and level of participation in the discussion during lectures
- 2) contribution to the simulation of the Geneva International Discussions
- 3) written exam

#### **B. 2. Grading**

All three types of activities are graded.

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| 1) presence and activity during lectures                 | 30 points |
| 2) participation in the simulation of the Geneva meeting | 20 points |
| 3) written exam  | 50 points |

The minimum number of points needed to successfully pass the written exam is 30 points.

In total it is possible to obtain 100 points:

A = 100-90 points

B = 89-75 points

C = 74-60 points

D = less than 60 points

To pass a course, the students must earn at least a grade “C” (60 points or better).

### **B. 3. Written exam dates**

There will be three dates for written exam announced by end of November 2015.

## **Part C**

The course outline

<b>Week 1</b>	General introduction to the subject of the course, its focus and outcomes; Current stage of frozen conflicts in the Southern Caucasus, geopolitical environment
<b>Week 2</b>	Involvement of main stakeholders (EU / USA, Russia); Mediating role of the EU and USA, forms of cooperation; The role and forms of involvement of the UN and OSCE
<b>Week 3</b>	Main tools used by International community for solving the conflicts in Georgia
<b>Week 4</b>	Modalities of the Geneva International Discussions
<b>Week 5</b>	Preparation and distribution of role scripts for the Geneva International Discussions role play
<b>Week 6</b>	Role play, practical exercise simulating one round of the Geneva International discussions with the involvement of students simulating roles of negotiating teams
<b>Week 7</b>	Main tools used by international community for solving the conflict over Nagorno-Karabakh
<b>Week 8</b>	Modalities of the Minsk Group,
<b>Week 9</b>	Prospects of future engagement of the European Union in resolving of frozen conflicts in the post-Soviet space, course recap, and final remarks

### **Recommended reading:**

- Report of the Ambassador Heidi Tagliavini - Head of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Conflict in Georgia (IIFFMCG - CEIIG) presenting the results of the investigation conducted by the IIFFMCG to representatives of Georgia,

the Russian Federation, the European Union, the United Nations and the OSCE.  
(<http://www.ceiig.ch/>)

- Thomas De Waal: Black Garden: Armenia and Azerbaijan Through Peace and War, 10th Year Anniversary Edition, Revised and Updated, Publisher: NYU Press; Anv Rev Up edition (July 8, 2013)
- Council decision 2012/326/CFSP of 25 June 2012 extending the mandate of the European Union Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the crisis in Georgia
- Lincoln Mitchell: The colour revolutions, Publisher: University of Pennsylvania Press (May 9, 2012)
- Thomas De Waal: The Caucasus, Publisher: Oxford University Press, USA (September 9, 2010)
- POLITICAL AND SECURITY COMMITTEE DECISION EUMM GEORGIA/1/2012 of 14 September 2012 extending the mandate of the Head of Mission of the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia (EUMM Georgia) (2012/513/CFSP)
- ACTS ADOPTED UNDER TITLE V OF THE EU TREATY COUNCIL JOINT ACTION 2008/736/CFSP of 15 September 2008 on the European Union Monitoring Mission in Georgia, EUMM Georgia