

**2008 AGBU Summer Program in Armenia at the American University of Armenia
in collaboration with
Yerevan State University, State Engineering University of Armenia,
and Yerevan State Medical University**

COURSE LIST

Human Rights and Civic Development in the Caucasus

Faculty: Vahan Bournazian and Theresa Khorozian, AUA

This course reviews in comparative format the development of individual rights and of civil society in the three Caucasian republics during their continuing post-soviet transition. Upon declaring independence, each state quickly acceded to international human rights treaties; to what degree have these societies been successful in internalizing these values? Topics for discussion include: the universality of human rights vs. cultural relativism, sources and consequences of violations, the scope and limits of minority rights, respect for the prohibition on the use of torture, free and fair elections, respect for women's rights, the rights of the child, public health and the AIDS pandemic. International, regional and national mechanisms, institutions and NGO's seeking to promote and protect human rights will also be discussed.

Regime Development and Transformations in Post Soviet Politics

Faculty Alexander Markarov, YSU

Course description: This course covers a wide spectrum of issues related to the problems of transition, democratization, regime formation and development, and democratic consolidation. The course will deal with the issue of how authoritarian regimes become democracies with a focus on constitution building, the building of market economies, the formation of new political institutions, and the resolution of ethnic-political conflicts.

History and Politics of the Caucasus

Faculty: Vahram Petrosyan, YSU and Armen Aivazian, AUA

Course Description: This course covers the recent history of the Caucasus region with a focus on current political developments. Areas covered include border disputes and conflicts, Armenian-Turkish relations, Armenian-Georgian relations, Iran's role in the Caucasus, and Russian interests in the region.

Armenian Art through the Ages

Faculty: Levon Chookaszian

Course Description: In the history of Armenian culture, architecture holds a special place and along with miniature painting have dominated artistic production over the centuries. This course provides a review of Armenian architecture from ancient times to urban examples from the twentieth century. Bridges, fortresses, churches, and other buildings will be studied including the sites of Zvart'nots' and Dvin. The course will cover also the art of ancient manuscript illuminations and the original Armenian art form of khach'k'ars (cross stones).

Web Application Development

Faculty: Benjamin Janpoladyan, YSEU

Course description: This course provides students with the skills needed to develop software for web applications. Students will learn the principles of how web applications are built and the course covers both beginning and advanced web technologies.

Health Care Systems in Transforming Economies

Faculty: Varduhi Petrosyan, AUA; Michael Narimanyan, Marina Ohanian, Yerevan

Course description: This course provides an overview of the conceptual aspects of the macro level organization of health care systems worldwide with a focus on economies in transformation. The course presents the economic and financing mechanisms underlying changes occurring in the health sector. It also provides a critical comparison of the philosophy, organization, financing, and benefit packages of different health care systems; comparing low, medium, and high-income countries.

Trauma Related Psychological Defense Mechanisms

Faculty: Khachatur Gasparyan, Yerevan State Medical University

Course description: This course provides an introduction and general overview of psychological defense mechanisms (DM) and covers the influence of trauma on the development of children and adolescents with special emphasis on the role of the cultural environment. Diagnostic tools for the assessment of trauma are reviewed.