



Certificate and Academic Course : Disinformation and Propaganda Studies: History, Theories and Means of Debunking

Detailed description of courses / Qualification of lecturers

The following courses and seminars will be available in the fall semester:

1. Strategic thinking

Lecturer (s): David Nardaia

Time: Monday, 19:00

Format: Online, via Zoom platform

Course language: Georgian

Level: Bachelor (III-IV year) and Master

Course objectives and results: The aim of the course is to introduce students to the etymology of strategy and the basics of modern strategy, the connections between strategy and policy, based on the work of strategic thinkers. After completing the course, students should be able to use the theoretical knowledge gained to analyze practical examples.

Course topics: Etymology of strategy; Clausewitz and the Basics of Modern Strategy; Sun Tzu and Grand Strategy; Unconventional war strategy; Unconventional war counter-strategy; Post-Cold War strategic thinking; The Peloponnesian War; The American Revolution; Soviet-Afghan War; Lebanon 2006 War; Strategy problem.

Lecturer qualification (s):

- **Davit Nardaia** Lecturer (s) Qualifications: David Nardaia has been Georgia's Deputy Representative in NATO since 2020. He has 19 years of experience in diplomacy and international relations. From 2002 to 2015, he held various positions at the Ministry of Defense, including Head of the Department of International Relations and Euro-Atlantic Integration, Head of the Department of Defense Policy and Planning, and Head of the Information-Analytical Department. In 2015-2018 he was the Civilian Representative of the Ministry of Defense of Georgia in NATO. In 2018-2020 he was the Director of the Euro-Atlantic Integration Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia. In 2020 he was awarded the diplomatic rank of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. Nardaia holds a Bachelor's degree in International

Relations and Diplomacy from TSU (Sukhumi Branch) (2002), a TSU Master's Degree in International Relations and Diplomacy (2004), and a Master's Degree in International Security from the National Defense University of the USA (2011).

2. Recent history archives for media

Lecturer (s): Anton Vacharadze, invited lecturer - Anna Oliinyk

Time: Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

Format: Online, via Zoom platform

Course language: Georgian, English

Level: Bachelor (III-IV year) and Master;

Course objectives and results: Course participants will gain the basic knowledge needed to create their own media projects based on archival materials. Course participants will receive information about working with archival documents, answers to how to convert it to media format, and how to persuade editors to publish materials related to a historical topic. Articles and projects that have already been published on Georgian and international portals such as Public, Radio Liberty, BBC, International Memorial, Arzamas, etc. will be discussed.

At the end of the course, each student will prepare a topic or micro-research based on archival documents.

Course topics: The essence of archives and types of archival documents; Archives preserved in Georgia and the possibility of research; Practical visits to the archives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia and other relevant archives in the country.

Lecturer(s) qualification:

- **Anton Vacharadze**, Master in Humanities, Head of IDFI Archive, Memory and Disinformation Studies Direction. He worked for 8 years in the National Archives of Georgia, including the position of Director of the Historical Archive for 6 years. He has many years of research experience in archives. In 2018 he was a visiting lecturer at Caucasus University.
- **Anna Oliinyk**, Director of the Center for the Study of the Liberation Movement of Ukraine, project - *Deconstruction*. Author of Archives of the KGB for the media. Partner of IDFI through the project - "Openness of Archives in the Former Soviet Republics and the Eastern Bloc Countries".

3. Identifying and researching misinformation

Lecturer (s): Sopho Gelava.

Time: Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.

Format: Online, via Zoom platform

Course language: Georgian

Level: Bachelor (III-IV years) and Master

Course objectives and results: In the modern world, information is a tool. Information warfare plays an important role in each stage of hybrid warfare. The use of disinformation in this information war to manipulate public opinion is increasing. Throughout this course,

the students will gain knowledge of modern disinformation and information operations strategies, misinformation research methods and practical tools, as well as the role of public collective memory, memory policy, and historical narratives in combating misinformation. At the end of the course, each student will prepare a topic or micro-research on disinformation issues.

Course topics: Types of disinformation in the modern world; disinformation research; the role of memory policy in disseminating and combating misinformation.

Lecturer qualification (s):

- **Sopho Gelava**, Lecturer Qualifications: Sopho Gelava, MA in Political Science, Researcher at the Atlantic Council Digital Investigation Research Laboratory, Technical Information and Data Specialist at Zinc Network Georgia Information Credibility Program. She has many years of experience in disinformation and information operations research. Teaches the course "Fact-checking and verification techniques" at the University of Georgia. Sopho was a researcher in the Myth Detector project of the Media Development Foundation and the head of the media literacy program.

4. *Workshop: What Exactly Is Disinformation and What Can I Do About It?*

A four-days workshop will be composed of four training sessions each covering a different aspect of disinformation and the ways to tackle it. During the course, participants will not only learn about the mechanisms of verifying information, but also listen to modern ways of how disinformation is disseminated and discuss the ways to fight against misinformation. The seminar will be conducted within the framework of UG short courses.

The main questions that will be answered in the seminar are:

- What is so specific about disinformation (as opposed to propaganda, misinformation, fake news)? Lecturer- Rezi Topuria
- How can a citizen who is not specialized in fact-checking still be a professional fact-checker? Trainer- Jaroslav Valuch
- How does disinformation work online and offline? / Basics of Disinformation Studies Lecturer - Sopho Gelava
- Impact of disinformation on society and democracy / Who is responsible for disinformation? Lecturer - Nino Gozalishvili.

The seminar will be held online by invited lecturers of the University of Georgia and trainers of Transitions Online Prague.

Lecturers: Nino Gozalishvili; Revaz Topuria; Sopho Gelava; Yaroslav Valuh.

Courses to be available in the spring semester:

1. Cyber Security and Disinformation in the Modern World

Lecturer (s): Giorgi Iashvili TBD.

Time: TBD
Format: TBD
Course language: Georgian
Level: Bachelor (III-IV years) and Master

Course objectives and results: During the course, participants will learn about the theories of hybrid warfare, the basics of cyber security and modern methods of combating disinformation in cyberspace. Students will also discuss the importance of cyber security in international relations, various cases of cyber-attacks between states, and existing practices of interfering in foreign elections. The course aims to teach students how to identify cyber threats, verify information through artificial intelligence and analysis, as well as the modern methods of dealing with cyber-attacks.

Course topics: The importance of cyber security in foreign relations; the impact of fake news and disinformation on politics; Means of verifying information through artificial intelligence and analysis; Hybrid war; The importance of cyber security in foreign relations; the impact of fake news and disinformation on politics; Means of verifying information through artificial intelligence and analysis;

Lecturer qualification (s):

- **Giorgi Iashvili** TBD, Master Degree holder in Cyber Security. Information Security Consultant with more than 14 years of experience. Since 2018, he has been working as an International Cyber Security Advisor in the Ukraine office of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems. He has also held the position of International Cyber Security Consultant at the Service Agency since 2019. Mr. Iashvili is a visiting lecturer at the University of Georgia and Caucasus University.

2. Disinformation and Society

Lecturer (s): Nino Gozalishvili

Time: TBD
Format: TBD
Course language: Georgian, English
Level: Bachelor (III-IV years) and Master

Course objectives and results: Disinformation has a growing and multifaceted impact on modern global politics. Against this background, it is important to analyze the short- and long-term effects of disinformation and propaganda on democratic regimes, as well as on the transformation of the idea of democracy as a basic form of government. Course participants will be able to discuss the connection between disinformation and political discourses such as nationalism and right-wing populism. Particular attention will be paid to the impact of disinformation on democratization processes, in which students will be able to learn about and discuss examples from the post-socialist countries.

Course topics: Theoretical relation of disinformation and propaganda to democracy; Instrumentalization of disinformation by right-wing radical actors; the role of disinformation in populist politics and discourse; Effects of disinformation on the democratization process.

Lecturer qualification (s):

- **Nino Gozalishvili**, PhD candidate in the Joint Doctoral Program in Nationalism Studies and Comparative History at Central European University (CEU). She is a researcher at IDFI memory and Disinformation Studies direction. Since 2019, Nino has been a teaching assistant at CEU, and a visiting lecturer at IliaUni and the University of Georgia. In terms of teaching at the higher education level, Nino holds a certificate issued by the CEU Training Center (CTL Program for Excellence in Teaching in Higher Education). Nino has conducted short and long term research with local and international research organizations such as the Center for Euro-Atlantic Integration and Democracy in Budapest, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, the Freedom House, and the Georgian Policy Institute. Nino's publications cover the Soviet history of Georgia, issues of right-wing populism, democratization and disinformation, as well as the policy of soft power towards Georgia. Nino Gozalishvili holds a Master's degree in Nationalism Studies from Central European University and a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from Tbilisi State University (TSU). She also attended the University of Warsaw and the Viadrina European University in Frankfurt (oder) as an invited student.

3. The collective memory of nations and its role in international relations

Lecturer (s): Shalva Dzebisashvili, Invited Lecturer - Misha Gabowitsch TBD

Time: TBD

Format: TBD

Course language: English, Georgian

Level: Bachelor (III-IV year) and Master

Course objectives and results: The collective memory of nations plays a major role in international relations and politics. Given that on the one hand most European countries have forgiven each other for the crimes of the past and are trying to create a common cultural and political space. At the same time, we see that in the post-Soviet space, Russia is trying to wrap its own narrative of memory for the states that left the Soviet Union and to define the political processes in this regard. Therefore, for international relations specialists, a correct understanding of memory policy should be one of the main goals. After passing the course, students will have in-depth knowledge of memory policy and research, modern trends in memory policy, as well as the so-called "Memory Wars".

At the end of the course, each student will prepare a topic or micro-research on collective memory issues.

Course topics: How the collective memory of nations is formed; the means of expressing collective memory (monuments, memorials, cemeteries, symbolism, etc.) and the struggle of symbols in the international arena; Historical boundaries, the importance of ethnic, religious and linguistic issues in the self-determination of nations; The Impact of Historical Memory on International Relations and Politics.

Lecturer qualification (s):

- **Shalva Dzebisashvili**, Doctor of Political Science, Associate Professor at the University of Georgia. He is a co-founder of the Georgian Center for Strategic Analysis (GSAC) and a member of various non-governmental organizations, such as the Civic Security and

Defense Council (CCDS) and the Georgian Center for Strategic Analysis (GSAC). In September 2012 he became a member of the European Commission Doctoral Program (GEM), successfully defended his dissertation and received his doctorate at the Institute for European Studies (IEE, ULB, Brussels) in January 2016. Since 2003 he has held various positions in the Ministry of Defense of Georgia related to defense policy and planning. In 2008-09, he successfully completed a Master's Degree in Strategic Security Studies at the NDU (Washington) and then held the position of Civilian Representative (Defense Adviser) at the NATO Mission to Georgia at NATO Headquarters. Dr. Dzebisashvili is the author of several academic publications and a number of analytical articles.

- **Mischa Gabowitsch**, Memory Research Specialist, Einstein Forum, Potsdam, Germany. His career and research interests are linked to the programs and institutions of Oxford, Paris, Moscow, Princeton, Bremen, Tyumen, Madrid and other universities, he has been a visiting lecturer at various universities, the author of numerous scientific articles and research.

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