

Full Course Title: RAND, Inc.: Defense Institution Building in the Caucasus to Promote Regional Stability

Course Title for Registration System: Rand, Inc.: Defense Institution Building in the Caucasus to Promote Regional Stability

Course Number: SIPAU9000.055

Faculty Advisor: Aaron Jensen

Columbia Email Address: aj2449@columbia.edu

Meeting Date/Times: Mondays 9:00A – 10:50A

Location: IAB 501A

Office Hours: By appointment

Credits: 3

Course Overview:

Brief description of client:

The National Defense Research Institute division of the RAND Corporation advises the Office of the Secretary of Defense and the Defense Security Cooperation Agency in its efforts to promote stability and modernization of partner military forces.

RAND will conduct a project for OSD that analyzes the methods of and opportunities for promoting positive international behavior of the three Caucasian countries – Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia – through their membership in NATO’s Partnership for Peace program.

Current program goals for each of the three countries include:

Georgia – strengthen the institution of the Georgian Ministry of Defense and promote a balanced security strategy

Azerbaijan – develop a national security strategy that focuses on security needs of the offshore energy industry, and reduces the possibility of war over Nagorno-Karabakh

Armenia – advise on necessary reforms in the defense sector and Ministry of Defense; promote a modern and Western personnel policy to replace the older Soviet model.

Summary of project:

The SIPA Capstone Workshop group will analyze the international, economic and strategic context facing the three Caucasian nations. This analysis will form the basis for policy recommendations on how the U.S. Department of Defense, through the Partnership for Peace Program, can deploy available tools to affect the regional and international behavior of the countries in question in a manner that meets U.S. interests.

- 1) Research the security, economic and international context of each Caucasian nation.
- 2) Research the regional policies of the three large regional powers – Iran, Turkey and Russia – and their influence on the three Caucasian countries.
- 3) Analyze U.S. interests in the region and the ideal international behavior the United States should seek to elicit from the three countries.
- 4) Provide policy recommendations on how to best deploy the tools available to the Department of Defense and make suggestions for other options to increase regional stability and meet U.S. goals.

Deliverables to client:

Early to mid December - Meeting with RAND to discuss project

January 17 - Course begins—Discuss scope of project and divide up teams and tasks

January 23 - Draft work plan due to SIPA and presented to RAND Project Directors. Students will participate in teleconferences with RAND to ensure plan is in-line with stated objectives

January 30 - Travel to Washington, DC to meet with the appropriate desk officers within the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, RAND officials, and State Department European Bureau as time and availability allows

February 13 - Complete reports on the security, economic and international context of each individual country - Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia

February 27 - Complete research report on the goals of the three regional powers - Iran, Russia and Turkey

March 5 - Draft outline due to be presented to RAND Project Directors and appropriate RAND staff in Washington, DC; briefing written and practiced

Mid-March - Possible travel to Washington, DC for further meetings

April 9 - Draft final report due

April 23 - Final Report completed and presented to RAND Project Directors and relevant staff in Washington, DC. Report integrates context, tools to be used, and desired international behaviors to be achieved.

Special skills/knowledge needed by team members:

- Research and report drafting skills
- Briefing and public speaking skills
- Specialization or experience in security policy, strategy or political analysis
- Specialization or experience in economic analysis, fiscal policy or energy industries
- Area knowledge of the Caucasian region desirable; area knowledge of Turkey, Russia, Iran or the central Eurasia region also helpful

Initial meeting(s) with your student team in late November or early December, if applicable:

Early to mid December – Meeting with RAND to discuss project

Dates for meetings with client, if already scheduled:

Early to mid December – Meeting with RAND to discuss project

January 24 – Draft work plan due to SIPA and presented to RAND Project Directors. Students will participate in teleconferences with RAND to ensure plan is in-line with stated objectives

Mid-March – Possible travel to Washington, DC for further meetings

April 24 – Final Report completed and presented to RAND Project Directors and relevant staff in Washington, DC. Report integrates context, tools to be used, and desired international behaviors to be achieved.

Field component: Students will be expected to make at least two trips to Washington D.C. though it is possible they will make up to three trips.

Student selection: [All eligible students may apply for up to five workshops through a special online application process from October 15th until October 31st. Assignment of students will be coordinated by the Office of Academic Affairs, and relevant faculty will be consulted about team membership for their workshop(s).]

Grading (students receive an individual grade):

Grades for the workshop will be based on the following criteria:

Quality of individual written work (10%)

Quality of participation in class, Peer review (20%)

Feedback from the client (20%)

Overall professionalism, including timeliness, ability to work with team, etc. (20%)

Quality of team's final report and briefing (30%)

Readings: Assigned and suggested reading will be determined by project directors and faculty advisors prior deadlines.

***Academic Integrity Statement*:**

The School of International & Public Affairs does not tolerate cheating and/or plagiarism in any form. Those students who violate the Code of Academic & Professional Conduct will be subject to the Dean's Disciplinary Procedures. Cut and paste the following link into your browser to view the Code of Academic & Professional Conduct online.

http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources_services/student_affairs/academic_policies/deans_discipline_policy.html

Please familiarize yourself with the proper methods of citation and attribution. The School provides some useful resources online; we strongly encourage you to familiarize yourself with these various styles before conducting your research:

http://sipa.columbia.edu/resources_services/student_affairs/academic_policies/code_of_conduct.html

Violations of the Code of Academic & Professional Conduct should be reported to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs.