**Schedule:**

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| December 20th18:00 | Room 214, 1st block | **The Rise of the West, A.D. 1500–2020** |
| December 21st18:00 | Room 214, 1st block | **Rules for Followers: Winners and Losers of Modernization** |
| December 22nd 18:00 | Room 214, 1st block | **Russia - the Modernizing Empire** |

**Lectures:**

**1. The Rise of the West, A.D. 1500–2020**

In the medieval globalization (which once gave Georgia its David the Builder) western Europe was only one of several centers in the Afro-Eurasian world. But in the last four centuries the West topped the world hierarchy of technology, wealth, military power, and prestige. Explaining this first modernization has been the Holy Grail of social science since the times of Adam Smith, Karl Marx, and Max Weber. What do we know, in the early 21st century? Can the Western modernity be emulated? Is it forever?

**2. Rules for Followers: Winners and Losers of Modernization**

Long before 'Reform' became the catchword in Georgia, it had been the obsession of rulers in the states adjacent to the West or directly influenced by the West. Poland-Lithuania and Ottoman Turkey were once the biggest land powers in Europe but eventually they lost. Germany and Japan started from the margins — and won. Can we deduce any logic from these famous examples?

**3. Russia, the Modernizing Empire**

Since 1500 Russia has managed to become an important world power in three periods, each associated with an utterly despotic modernizer: Ivan the Terrible, Peter I, Stalin. What was then Gorbachev's perestroika, where was it really going? Why did the communist China succeed where the more advanced Soviet Union had failed? And finally, where does this leave the ex-Soviet republics now, from Georgia to Russia and to Estonia?