

**Georgian Language and Culture**  
Eurasian Studies 289, Section 1 (2-4 units)

Shorena Kurtsikidze  
shorena@berkeley.edu

**Course Description**

The two-year course in Georgian Language and Culture is designed for students who are interested in studying the non-Indo-European languages of the Caucasus and also traditional cultures and contemporary life of the region. The course is based on widely used method of oral and situational language teaching, also grammar-translation and audio-lingual methods. Beginning course focuses on Georgian grammar and basic skills including reading, writing and conversation. No previous knowledge of Georgian is required. A second year course focuses on using the learned essentials of Georgian grammar through reading, writing and conversation. Readings include Georgian folk tales, historical and ethnographic texts, and literary pieces and poetry. The methodology of the extensive use of different folklore materials is based on the specifics of folklore texts that contain a large variety of repeated sentence structures and the vocabulary and phrases that help in better acquisition of language skills. Previous experience and knowledge of the essentials of Georgian grammar is required. The course gives students the opportunity to become acquainted with language, history, traditions and contemporary life of Georgia.

Grades are based on class participation, exercises, home assignment tests and a final.

**First Year: Beginning Level**

Essentials of Georgian Grammar, Part 1

**Fall Semester**

Week 1

Overview of the Georgian Literary Tradition and Georgian Alphabet

Vowels *a, e, i, o, u*. Consonants *b, g, d, v, z, t*

Consonants *k, 'l, m n, p, 'zh, r, s*

Week 2

Consonants *t', f, k, gh, q', sh, ch*

Consonants *ts, dz', ts', tch', kh, j, h*

Week 3

Practicing the Consonants and Consonant Clusters

Practicing the reading of the learned material

Week 4

Nouns

The Groups of Nouns

Cases. Declension of Nouns

Week 5

Declension of the Vowel-end Nouns

Declension of Noun Phrases

Week 6

Subjects in the Dative Case

Week 7

Adjectives

Declension of the Adjectives

Week 8

Adjectives Derived from the Case Markers

Repeating the Learned Material

Week 9

The Groups of Numerals

Ordinal Numerals

Declension of the Numerals

Week 10

Thematic Vocabulary “Time, Months of the Year, Days of the week”

Learning some useful words and expressions

Week 11

Cases and Postpositions

Week 12

Adverbs

The Categories of Adverbs

Repeating and Practicing the Learned Material

Week 13

Pronouns

The Groups of Pronouns

Declension of the Personal Pronouns

Repeating and Practicing the Pronouns

Week 14

Particles, Conjunctions and Interjections

## **First Year: Beginning Level**

Essentials of Georgian Grammar, Part 2

### **Spring Semester**

#### Week 1

Verbs; The Properties of Georgian Verb  
Conjugation and Tenses

#### Week 2

Active Voice Verbs, First Series; Present and Future Tenses

#### Week 3

Past Continuous and Past Frequentative Tenses

#### Week 4

Present Subjunctive and Future Subjunctive Tenses  
Repeating Different Forms of Verbs

#### Week 5

Active Voice Verbs, Second Series; Past/Aorist Tense

#### Week 6

Second Subjunctive Tense (Aorist Subjunctive)

#### Week 7

Active Voice Verbs, Third Series; First Resultant Tense

#### Week 8

Second Resultant Tense

#### Week 9

Repeating the Tenses through Sentences and Exercises;  
Conditionals Sentences (real and unreal conditions)

#### Week 10

Some Mono-personal Medial-Active Voice Verbs through Thematic Vocabulary

#### Week 11

Motion Verbs  
Repeating the Motion Verbs through Thematic Vocabulary

#### Week 12

Medial Voice Verbs with Subjects in the Dative Case  
Other Medial Voice Verbs

### Week 13

Passive Voice Verbs

Passive Voice Verbs with Subjects in the Dative Case

### Week 14

Irregular Verbs

Repeating and Practicing the Verbs through Thematic Vocabularies

Useful Expressions and Phrases

### **Textbook:**

*Essentials of Georgian Grammar* by Shorena Kurtsikidze, 2004

### **Suggested Readings:**

B.G. Hewitt, *Georgian, A Structural Reference Grammar*, John Benjamins Publishing Company, Amsterdam/Philadelphia, 1995

*Georgian, A Reading Grammar*, by Howard Aronson, Slavica Publishers, 1990

## **Georgian Language and Culture Second Year: Intermediate Level**

### **Fall Semester**

#### Weeks 1-14

Reading, Translating and retelling the Georgian Folk Tales in the following order (includes vocabulary and conversation):

1. *The Earth Demands Its Own* or *The Lad Seeking for Immortality*
2. *Blue Fish*
3. *The Tale of John Dawn*
4. *The Tale of a Poor Man who knew the Language of Birds*
5. *The Son of the King*
6. *Three Sisters*
7. *Tush Man's Son and the King's son*
8. *Golden Man*
9. *Sun's Daughter*
10. *The Shepherd Blind Dev and the Weaver's Apprentice*
11. *The Cane Lady*
12. *The Tale of Devtagan and His Brother*
13. *The Tale of the Valley Flower*
14. *Nine Brothers*

### **Spring Semester**

#### Weeks 1-14

Reading, Translating and retelling the Georgian Folk Tales, Epic tales, Historical and Ethnographic texts in the following order (includes vocabulary and conversation):

1. *Adventures of Mamatsashvili George*
2. *The Tale of the Brother and Sister*
3. *Clumsy Man*
4. *The Tale of the Master and the Apprentice*
5. *The Hunter*
6. *Amiran (Georgian Prometheus)*
7. *Abesalom and Ether*
8. *Lintural*, by Besarion Nizharadze
9. *Description of Ushguli*, by Besarion Nizharadze
10. *Folk Traditions in Tusheti*, by Sergi Makalatia
11. *Kakheti*, by Jacob Gogebashvili
12. *Ossetia*, by Jacob Gogebashvili
13. *Abkhazia*, by Jacob Gogebashvili
14. *Aspects of Mingrelian Culture*, by Tedo Sakhokia

### **Required Readings:**

*Georgian Language and Culture*, Reader with Georgian and English parallel texts, folk tales, myths, poetry and anthropological articles, translated and compiled by Shorena Kurtsikidze

George Hewitt, *Georgian Reader with Texts, Translation and Vocabulary*, School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London, 1996

*An Anthology of Georgian Folk Poetry*, Translated and edited by Kevin Tuite, London and Toronto, 1994

### **Audio, Visual and Video Materials, Documentary and Ethnographic Films and Movies**

*Visual Anthropology and Folklore of Georgia*, Parts 1 and 2, Berkeley, 2004

PowerPoint Presentation by Shorena Kurtsikidze and Vakhtang Chikovani

*Conversations and Dialogues*,

Audio Recordings by Shorena Kurtsikidze and Vakhtang Chikovani

*Georgia's Tree of Life*, 1990

*Bagpipes*, 1982

*Phenomenon (About Georgian Culture)*, 1992

*Salt For Svanetia*, 1929

*Legend of Surami Fortress*, 1983

*Color of Pomegranate*, 1988

*Tree of Life*, 1978

*Tush Shepherd*, 1974

*You Will Never See What You have Seen Before*, 1968