

**New Course Request – Georgian 101-104
Attachment 1**

GEC Rationale for Georgian 101-104 language sequence

I. Relevance to GEC Category 1. Skills, C. Foreign Language

Georgian 101-104 language sequence will satisfy GEC Category 1. Skills, C. Foreign Language. All four courses in a sequence aim to develop students' skills in communication across ethnic, cultural, ideological, and national boundaries, and to help students develop an understanding of other cultures and patterns of thought.

Students completing Georgian 101-104 language sequence will:

- demonstrate basic skills of speaking, reading, writing, and understanding contemporary Georgian
- describe cultural differences in communities of the Caucasus region, and demonstrate an appreciation of these differences.

Throughout the language sequence, students will develop the skills necessary to interact in Georgian and to learn about contemporary Georgian culture and society. Practice of all four language skills – listening, reading, speaking and writing – will be stressed throughout the sequence and will be placed within a cultural context. Students will be exposed to authentic materials, such as audio and video clips, newspaper and magazine articles, excerpts of literary works and poetry, and pictures that will not only supply rich language material, but will also provide students with invaluable insights into the cultures of the region and will allow them to reflect on the differences and similarities between these cultures and their own. The courses will give students an understanding of the geography, history, literature and customs of the cultures and communities of the Caucasus region.

II. Importance of the region

Knowledge of the Georgian language is extremely important to understanding the history and the culture of the entire Caucasus region and its diverse communities. Georgian is the official language of over four million people in Georgia and another 500000 speakers in diasporas in Russia and former Soviet Union states, Europe, and US.

Georgia is located in an increasingly important part of the world, bordering Russian Federation, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Turkey. A former Soviet republic, Georgia today is an independent state, a member of the United Nations and the Council of Europe, looking to join NATO and eventually to become a member of the European Union. The region

also holds rich but understudied literary and artistic tradition which is of great interest to a wide range of scholars in the humanities. Thus, Georgia and the Caucasus region are of great interest for specialists working with all of the countries mentioned above and particularly for students with International studies, Political Science, History, and Art majors.

Language instruction in Georgian will provide OSU students with a unique opportunity to expand their academic interests and enhance their portfolios by learning about and studying this important area of the world, an opportunity rarely available to students at other institutions across US. Georgian language sequence will undoubtedly attract a wide audience of undergraduate and graduate students working in a wide range of academic areas.