

POLS 780 POLITICS OF REGIONS

R 6:00-7:30

Fall, 2016

Instructor: Kate Zhou
katezhou@hawaii.edu

Office Phone: 956-8777

E-mail:

Office: Saunders 609

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This is an interdisciplinary review and analysis of the social, political, and development issues affecting different regions of the world. The special characteristics of these issues for each region derive from the public policies and developmental practices found in the countries comprising that region.

This course provides you with conceptual tools to place these issues in the context of the global economy. What political, economic, and social institutional adjustments result from the interaction of region and globe? What additional adjustments are contemplated and/or needed? How can an understanding of these forces better inform American foreign policy?

Students will develop a critical understanding of key issues, and present a scholarly presentation on an assigned topic. Students will demonstrate a deep understanding of how regional considerations both do and should affect American foreign policy in a paper on an approved topic.

PAPER

Explain, critique, and improve a specific American foreign policy of importance regarding two regions studied in this class. The policy you choose need not be the same for each of the regions, but should feature some aspects of either similarity or relatedness. Explain how each recommended improvement would improve outcomes in light of specific regional considerations. Think regionally, not in terms of one specific country. Write a conclusion that compares and contrasts the foreign policy changes you are suggesting for the two regions. How do you explain the similarities and differences in the changes themselves, and in the effects of the changes? Present a proposal for your paper to Prof. Zhou no later than Week 9 (March 11). Paper should be between 4,500 and 6,000 words. (Don't pad it; make every word count.) Paper is due no later than Week 15 (April 22).

GRADING

Presentation: 40 Points

Paper: 40 Points

Participation: 20 Points

Part of participation is class attendance record, and the other part is active involvement in seminar discussions while in class. Presentation power points and notes to be distributed to Prof. Zhou and class members one week before presentation.

OUTLINE OF COURSE

+Week One: Politics in Regional Perspective: Elements of Study

8/25

American Approach to Foreign Policy

Closed and Open Access Orders

Readings: Hook&Spanier: American Foreign Policy Since World War II (Chapter 1)

North et al: Violence and Social Orders (Chapters 1,5,6)

+Week Two: Different Views of Politics of Development 9/1

Readings: Marion Levy, Modernization Theory

Lenin: Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism (IX and X)

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1916/imp-hsc/>

Smith: Theory of Moral Sentiments (part 1).

<http://www.econlib.org/library/Smith/smMS1.html>

+Week Three: The State, Authoritarianism, and Democracy 9/8

Readings: Toqueville: Democracy in America (Vol 2, Part 2: 1-8; Vol 2, Part 4: 1-8)

Hayek: Road to Serfdom (the whole book)

Week Four: Economic Models for Political Systems 9/15

Readings: Zhou&Gregory: Why China Won & Russia Lost

Zhou&Zierak: Two Models of Economic Development in China

Kornai: Market Socialism

Mancur Olson, "Dictatorship, Democracy, and Development," *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 87, No. 3. (Sep., 1993), pp. 567-576.

Okazaki: Government-Firm Relationship

Niskanen: Reaganomics

Rosenfeld: Stalinism in Post-Communist Perspective

Week Five: Theories of Economic Development 9/22

Readings: Easterly: The Tyranny of Experts: Economists, Dictators, and the Forgotten Rights of the Poor

Week Six: Globalization vs. Regionalization 9/29

Readings: Bhagwati: In Defense of Globalization

Erik Gartzke, The Capitalist Peace Theory

Week Seven: The Crisis of Welfare State and Democracy (Guest Speaker) 10/6

Michael D. Tanner, **Going for Broke**: Deficits, Debt, and the Entitlement Crisis

+Week Eight: Comparative Revolutions 10/13

Readings: Rummel: American vs. French Revolution

Cucchise: The Causes and Effects of the Chinese Civil War (pgs 40-71)

Zhou&Zierak: China in the Information Age—The Strength of Unorganized Power

+Week Nine: Russian and Central Asia (Guest Speaker) 10/20

Readings: Susanu: Development Pathway of Eastern Europe: A Comparative Study between

Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia, and Latin America

Guriev&Rachinsky: Oligarchs—Past or Future of Russian Capitalism

Paul Gregory, *The First Decade of Transition* http://www.euv-frankfurt-o.de/de/forschung/institut/institut_fit/publikationen/1999/99-12-Gregory.pdf.

+Week Ten: Middle East, Islamic economics and Politics of Energy (Guest speaker)10/27

Timur Kuran, "[Why the Middle East Is Economically Underdeveloped: Historical Mechanisms of Institutional Stagnation](#)." *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 18 (2004): 71-90.

Week Twelve: Ex-Communist States: E/C Europe, Balkans, Baltics (Guest Speaker) 11/3

Readings: Szelenyi&Szelenyi: Why Socialism Failed: Toward a Theory of System Breakdown-

Causes of Disintegration of East European State Socialism

*Joseph Stiglitz, Whither Reform? 1999 Conference, Washington DC: World Bank.

http://econc10.bu.edu/economic_systems/Theory/Transition/joseph_stiglitz.htm

*M. Dabrowski et al, "Whence Reform: A Critique of the Stiglitz Perspective,"

<http://cep.lse.ac.uk/pubs/download/dp0471.pdf>

+Week Fourteen: Sub-Sahara Africa (Student Presentation) 11/10

Readings: The Idealist: Jeffrey Sachs and the Quest to End Poverty

Poverty Inc.

Kiss/Zhou, (2011), Chinese New Burden in Africa.

Week Fifteen: East Asia/China: The Cooperative Model and Market socialism 11/17

Readings: Zhou: How the Farmers Changed China (Chapters 1,2,3,8,9)

Lessons from the Kibbutz on the Equality-Incentives Trade-off

Ran Abramitzki, *Journal of Economic Perspectives*—Volume 25, Number 1—Winter 2011—Pages 185–208 <http://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1257/jep.25.1.185>

Week Sixteen: Latin America 12/1

Readings: De Soto: Mystery of Capitalism in the Third World

Harrison: Latin America: The High Costs of the Dependency Theory Myth

Cuba

Readings: Morgenson&Rosner: Reckless Endangerment

Philip R. Lane, The European Sovereign Debt Crisis, Journal of Economic Perspectives—
Volume 26, Number 3—Summer 2012—Pages 49–68

<http://pubs.aeaweb.org/doi/pdfplus/10.1257/jep.26.3.49>