

## **POLS 780 POLITICS OF REGIONS**

**W 5:00-7:30**

**Spring, 2015**

**BUSAD G103**

**Instructor: Kate Zhou**

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### **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 (If we have a small class, two presentations per student)

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 1/14**

#### **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 1/21**

Readings: Gilpin: The Issue of Dependency and Economic Development

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).

### **Week Three: The State, Authoritarianism, and Democracy 1/28**

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 (Student Presentation) 2/4**

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

Zhou&Zierak: Two Models of Economic Development in China

Kornai: Market Socialism

Okazaki: Government-Firm Relationship

Niskanen: Reaganomics

Rosenfielde: Stalinism in Post-Communist Perspective

### **Week Five: Theories of Economic Development (Student Presentation) 2/11**

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

**Week Six: Globalization vs. Regionalization (Student Presentation) 2/18**

Readings: Bhagwati: In Defense of Globalization

**Week Seven: American Foreign Policy: Issues and Elements (Guest Speaker) 2/25**

Readings: Monroe Doctrine

Kennan: The Sources of Soviet Conduct

(<http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/23331/x/the-sources-of-soviet-conduct>)

Krayewski: What the Syria Crisis Tells Us About the Obama Doctrine or Lack Thereof

**Week Eight: Comparative Revolutions (Student Presentation) 3/4**

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) 3/11**

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

**Week Ten: Ex-Communist States: E/C Europe, Balkans, Baltics (Guest Speaker) 3/18**

Readings: Szelenyi&Szelenyi: Why Socialism Failed: Toward a Theory of System Breakdown- Causes of Disintegration of East European State Socialism

Qin Hui: Command vs. Planned Economy “Dispensability” of the Economic Systems of Central and Eastern Europe and of Prereform China

**Week Eleven: SPRING BREAK!!! 3/23-3/27**

**Week Twelve: Middle East and Politics of Energy (Student Presentation) 4/1**

Readings: Garver et al: Moving (Slightly) Closer to Iran: China's Shifting Calculus for  
Managing its "Persian Gulf Dilemma"

**Week Thirteen: Sub-Sahara Africa (Student Presentation) 4/8**

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

**Week Fourteen: South Asia (Guest Speaker) 4/15**

Readings: Bayly: Rammohan Roy and the Advent of Constitutional Liberalism in India  
1800-30 (Modern Intellectual History/Vol 4/Issue 01/April 2007/pgs. 25-41)

**Week Fifteen: East Asia/China (Student Presentation) 4/22**

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

Brafman&Beckstrom: Starfish and the Spider (Chapters 2,4,9)

**Week Sixteen: Latin America (Student Presentation) 4/29**

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

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

**Week Seventeen: Economic Crisis (Student Presentation) 5/6**

Readings: Morgenson&Rosner: Reckless Endangerment