SPRING 2013

MC 221 – Section 001

International Relations II: The Politics of International Economic Relations

Professor: Norm Graham

Prerequisites: MC220 or college approval

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Theories and policy issues in international political economy. Analysis of trade, money and finance, technology, transnational corporations, debt and environment. Globalization, hegemonic power, international regimes.
SPRING 2013

MC 221 - Section 002

International Relations II: The Politics of International Economic Relations

Prerequisites: MC220 or college approval

Professor: G. Benitez

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Theories and policy issues in international political economy. Analysis of trade, money and finance, technology, transnational corporations, debt and environment. Globalization, hegemonic power, international regimes.
International Relations II: The Politics of International Economic Relations

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

MC 221 is the second semester of a year-long introduction to the study of international relations. Building upon the concepts and theories covered in MC 220, this course examines alternative approaches to international political economy (i.e., the politics of international economic relations). The goals of the course are: 1) to obtain analytical skills to understand the changing political dynamics of international economic relations; and 2) to develop problem-solving skills to analyze major problems and formulate policy responses to the major issues in the field of international political economy (IPE).

Typical Readings:


Evaluation

Short papers, a longer research paper, midterm and final exams, presentation, and class participation.
SPRING 2013

MC 221 – Section 004

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS II: POLITICS OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Professor: Mark Axelrod

Prerequisites: MC220 or college approval

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

MC 221 is the second semester of a year-long introduction to the study of international relations. It builds upon the concepts, theories, and actors covered in MC 220, and applies them to the international political economy and globalization. Over the course of this semester, we will address political activities and institutional frameworks related to transboundary flows of products, people, ideas, and money. In the last part of the semester, we will focus on how these flows impact pressing contemporary issues such as criminal justice and the environment.

ASSIGNMENTS: Class participation, short essay, midterm exam, final exam, and research paper

POTENTIAL READINGS INCLUDE SELECTIONS FROM THE FOLLOWING:


In addition, a wide range of recent news articles will be assigned to demonstrate how these concepts apply to current events.
Spring 2013

MC 231—Section 001

CULTURE AND POLITICS IN TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Professor: A. BORCILA

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Building on the approaches, themes and theoretical perspectives introduced in MC 230, MC 231 shifts from a comparative national perspective to examining the relationship between culture and politics from a transnational perspective. In other words, this course extends students’ understanding of culture and public affairs through systematic analysis of cultural encounters, representations, cross-cultural interactions and politics. The big questions that we will grapple with are: How do power relations affect the mobility and circulation of people, representations, and capital in our globalized world? How do they affect cultural encounters? How are cultural identities and practices formed and reconfigured in such encounters, across borders, and in new contexts? How are representations of “others,” of “the global,” of “cultural difference” politicized? And, do the processes associated with contemporary globalization reproduce, ameliorate and/or intensify global inequality and conflict?

As in MC 230, our approach is explicitly interdisciplinary, drawing on a wide range of texts and discourses, including academic texts across the social sciences and humanities (cultural studies, anthropology, tourism studies, media studies, ethnographies, sociopolitical works, critical theory), media, and literary and testimonial narratives.

EVALUATION: Essays, Research Project, Collaborative work, Class participation
SPRING 2013

MC 231 – Section 002

Cultures and Politics in Transnational Perspective

Professor Jennifer Goett

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Building on the approaches, themes, and theory introduced in MC 230, MC 231 shifts from examining the relationship between culture and politics in a comparative national perspective to a transnational global perspective. While the nation is often posited as a paradigmatic form of modern identification and political organization, interdisciplinary scholarship on transnationalism focuses on how global processes unsettle the relationship between cultural formations and discrete national contexts. The central questions we grapple with in this course include: How new are the processes associated with contemporary globalization? Are we indeed living in an era of unprecedented global mobility and interconnection? How do power relations affect the mobility and circulation of people, representations, and capital in our globalized world? How do they affect cultural encounters? How are cultural identities formed and reconfigured in such encounters? Do such processes reproduce, ameliorate, and/or intensify global inequality and conflict?

Possible Texts:

Spring 2013

MC 241 Politics and Markets

Professor: Ross B. Emmett

Prerequisite: EC 201 or EC 251H.

The core course of the Political Economy specialization, an elective in PTCD, and part of the Madison business cognate.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

The fundamental problem of political economy is the creation of institutions that make our individual pursuit of personal interests not fundamentally incompatible with our common interests. The critical study of political economy is, therefore, the comparative appraisal of the variety of institutions that humans devise to meet that fundamental problem. The most familiar of these are political and economic mechanisms – democracy and markets. Yet there are many others between politics and markets, and we consider those as well.

TYPICAL READINGS:

Among the readings used in the last several years are:
De Soto, Hernando. *The Mystery of Capital*
Coase, Ronald. *The Firm, the Market, and the Law* (always used)
Venkatesh, Sudhir Alladi. *Off the Books: The Underground Economy of the Urban Poor*
Leeson, Peter. *The Invisible Hook: The Hidden Economics of Pirates*
Ostrom, Elinor. *Governing the Commons*
A reading packet of articles and shorter essays.
SPRING 2013

MC 271 – Section 001

Constitutionalism and Democracy

Professor: Curtis Stokes

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

This course provides an introduction and analysis of the origins and development of liberal democracy, initially in Western Europe but especially its development and institutionalization in the United States.

TYPICAL READINGS:

John Locke, *Two Treatises of Government*

Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay, *The Federalist Papers*

Robin Blackburn, *An Unfinished Revolution: Karl Marx and Abraham Lincoln*

Baron de Montesquieu, *The Spirit of the Laws*

Alexis de Tocqueville, *Democracy in America*

Curtis Stokes, *Race and Human Rights*

EVALUATION:

Several papers and class participation.
SPRING 2013

MC 271 – Section 002

CONSTITUTIONALISM & DEMOCRACY

Professor Kleinerman

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Origins and development of liberal constitutionalism and its democratization. Theory and practice of the modern state, especially the American variant.
SPRING 2013
MC 271 – Section 003
CONSTITUTIONALISM AND DEMOCRACY
Professor: Folke Lindahl

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:
Origins and development of liberal constitutionalism and its democratization. Theory and practice of the modern state, especially the American variant.
SPRING 2013

MC 271 – Section 004

CONSTITUTIONALISM & DEMOCRACY

Professor: TBD

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Origins and development of liberal constitutionalism and its democratization. Theory and practice of the modern state, especially the American variant.
SPRING 2013

MC 272: Political Theory and Political Issues: The Quarrel Between Reason and Revelation

Professor: M. Richard Zinman

Prerequisites: None

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Do you believe in God (or gods)? Or are you an atheist? An agnostic? Whatever your position, can you defend it?

For many centuries, the answers to such questions were matters of life and death. The burning issue at the center of Western thought was the religious issue: reason versus revelation, human guidance versus divine guidance. During the last two centuries, this issue seemed to lose its immediacy. Many in the West came to believe some version of the so-called "secularization thesis": the motion of modernity, driven by the progress of modern science and technology, would lead to the decline of religious belief or at least of its public significance. The religious issue would become a purely historical issue; religion would be outlived; God, all gods, would die; churches, mosques, synagogues, and temples would become tombs of the dead Deity or deities.

Today many contend that the secularization thesis has been refuted by events. Religion is reasserting itself as a potent public force. In the non-Western world, it is no longer obvious that modernity leads to secularization. The conflict between some forms of Islam and the West is only the most obvious manifestation of the persistence of religion in the modern world. The West itself is divided between the United States, which remains stubbornly religious, and most of Europe, which has become increasingly post-religious. The continuing power of religion in the world and especially in the United States has even generated an intellectual backlash. In the last few years, the so-called "new atheists" (e.g., Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, and Christopher Hitchens) have published a series of books fiercely attacking religion in the spirit of Voltaire and his fellow partisans of the original Enlightenment. After the Cold War, in short, the great dispute within Enlightenment modernity – between socialism and capitalism – has in many ways been supplanted by a much older struggle: the conflict between reason and revelation. This new great awakening, moreover, is no mere historical accident but has powerful intellectual roots. The terrifying dangers posed by unfettered scientific and technological progress – nuclear proliferation, genetic manipulation, environmental degradation – give rise to doubts about the ultimate wisdom of secular rationalism. At the same time, that rationalism is in the process of undermining itself through the postmodernist critique of reason.

This course will attempt to take a fresh look at the quarrel between reason and revelation. We will first explore the claims of revealed religion on its own terms by carefully studying the Bible. We will then examine one of the most powerful attempts to refute the claims of revealed religion, that of Spinoza in his Theologico-Political Treatise. (This book, among other things, laid the foundations for the modern scientific study of the Bible.)

We will discuss questions such as the following: What is the basis of belief or faith according to the Bible? How does the Bible understand the relationship between revelation and reason? Has reason (philosophy and science) refuted the Bible? Can the Bible refute the claims of reason? What bearing do the answers to these question have on public life?
H-OPTION:

An honors option seminar will be offered in conjunction with this course. It will compare one of the most powerful modern defenses of revelation, Soren Kierkegaard's *Fear and Trembling*, and one of the most widely read works of the so-called "new atheists," Christopher Hitchens's *God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything*.

TYPICAL READINGS:

The Old Testament, selections (the books of Genesis, Exodus, and Deuteronomy)
The New Testament, selections (the gospels of Mark and Matthew; Paul's Letter to the Romans)
Baruch Spinoza, *The Theologico-Political Treatise*

EVALUATION:

Two shorter papers (5-6 pages), one longer paper (10-15 pages), and class participation.
SPRING 2013

MC 281 – Section 001

IMMIGRANTS, MINORITIES, AND AMERICAN PLURALISM

Professor: Stein-Roggenbuck

Prerequisites: MC 280 or college approval.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Comparative social history of American peoples, focused on immigrants and ethnic and racial minorities. Comparisons of patterns of adjustment, intergroup relations, and politics.
SPRING 2013

MC 281 – Section 002

IMMIGRANTS, MINORITIES, AND AMERICAN PLURALISM

Professor: Mark Largent

Prerequisites: MC 280 or college approval.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Comparative social history of American peoples, focused on immigrants and ethnic and racial minorities. Comparisons of patterns of adjustment, intergroup relations, and politics.
SPRING 2013

MC 281 – Section 003

IMMIGRANTS, MINORITIES, AND AMERICAN PLURALISM

Professor: TBD

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Comparative social history of American peoples, focused on immigrants and ethnic and racial minorities. Comparisons of patterns of adjustment, intergroup relations, and politics.
SPRING 2013

MC 324A—REGIONAL POLITICS, COOPERATION & CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Prerequisite:  MC 220 or PLS 160) and completion of Tier I writing requirement.

Professor:  UGUR

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Sources of conflict and cooperation in the Middle East through case studies such as the Arab-Israeli conflict. Intrastate, regional, and global factors.
SPRING 2013

MC 324C--Regional Politics, Cooperation, and Conflict in Latin America and the Caribbean

Prerequisite: MC 220 or PLS 160 and completion of Tier I writing requirement

Professor: Galia Benitez

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Domestic and international politics of Latin American or Caribbean countries. Conflict and cooperation among states of the region. Government policies to promote security, democracy, and growth.
SPRING 2013
MC 325--STATE AND SOCIETY IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE
Professor: L. HUNT

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Comparison of political systems and social-economic structures in capitalist and state-socialist societies. Political history, institutions, culture, and current policy issues.
SPRING 2013

MC 326 – Section 001

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

Professor: S. QING

Prerequisite: Mc 221 and completion of the Tier I writing requirement or approval of College

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

This course will examine the interaction between U.S. public policy and the biological and social sciences from the early twentieth century through today through a series of case studies of controversies involving science and social policy. Topics will include the American eugenics movement, the IQ debates, science and homosexuality, and modern debates over vaccines. This course meets requirements for STEPPS, SRP, PTCD, and Lyman Briggs College HPS.
SPRING 2013

MC 362

Public International Law

Professor Matthew Zierler

Prerequisite: MC 221 and completion of a Tier I writing requirement; or college approval.

Description of Course:

This course provides students with an introduction to the field of public international law. We will study how international law is made and applied, and how it has evolved over time. Because this is a course taught in the field of international relations, and not in a law school, we will also be spending some time thinking about how international law fits into the larger field of IR. More directly, we will consider how politics matters in the development, interpretation, and application of international law in the international system. We will also consider where international law comes from, concentrating on treaties and custom as the main sources of international law. We will then turn to some of the major issues in international relations where international law has come to play a major role, which might include: the conduct of war; international criminality; the use of force; human rights; the global environment; and the international economy.

POSSIBLE READINGS:

Journal articles.

EVALUATION:
There will likely be midterm and final exams, case briefs, a research paper, and a simulation.
SPRING 2013
MC 371- Section 001
BEYOND LIBERAL DEMOCRACY? NEW DIRECTIONS IN POLITICAL THEORY
Professor: F. LINDAHL

Prerequisites: MC 370 and completion of Tier I writing requirements; or college approval

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

The contemporary status of liberal democracy. Theory and practice of late 20th century attempts to perfect, transcend, or undermine liberal democracy in light of crisis of rationalism.
SPRING 2013
MC 371- Section 001
BEYOND LIBERAL DEMOCRACY? NEW DIRECTIONS IN POLITICAL THEORY
Professor : T. CRAIG

Prerequisites: MC 370 and completion of Tier I writing requirements; or college approval

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

The contemporary status of liberal democracy. Theory and practice of late 19th century attempts to perfect, transcend, or undermine liberal democracy in light of crisis of rationalism.
SPRING 2013

MC 371- Section 002

BEYOND LIBERAL DEMOCRACY? NEW DIRECTIONS IN POLITICAL THEORY

Professor : F. LINDAHL

Prerequisites: MC 370 and completion of Tier I writing requirements; or college approval

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

The contemporary status of liberal democracy. Theory and practice of late 20th century attempts to perfect, transcend, or undermine liberal democracy in light of crisis of rationalism.
SPRING 2013

MC 371-- Section 003

BEYOND LIBERAL DEMOCRACY? NEW DIRECTIONS IN POLITICAL THEORY

Professor: Eric Petrie

Prerequisites: MC 370.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

This course will investigate the contemporary status of liberal democracy. We will emphasize recent attempts at redefining and defending liberalism as well as some twentieth century theories that try to undermine and transcend the Western liberal tradition. We will evaluate democracy from the perspective of the crisis of rationalism in an age of uncertainty.

EVALUATION:

Essays of various length; quizzes; class participation.
SPRING 2013

MC 375 -- CONTEMPORARY DEVELOPMENTS IN AMERICAN POLITICS

Professor: BERGAN

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Contemporary developments related to persistent issues of American governance. Normative, empirical, and historical inquiry into topics such as the role of popular opinion, policy capacities and democratic and deliberative practice. Examination of case studies. Selected policy problems.
SPRING 2013

MC 377 – CULTURE, POLITICS AND POST-COLONIALISM

Prereqs: MC 221 or MC 271 or MC 231 and Completion of Tier I Writing Requirement

Professor: L. Hunt

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

International politics and power. Relations of colonialism and post-colonialism. Contemporary repercussions. History, literature, culture, and political theory.
SPRING 2013

MC 378: LAW AND SOCIAL GROUPS

Professor:  C. HUNT

Prereqs:  Completion of Tier I writing requirement

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Relationship between fundamental law and the activity of social groups in the American context. Selected Supreme Court, Appellate and State Supreme Court cases examined for their impact on the free exercise and equal protection of social groups.
SPRING 2013

MC 380  Social Policy

Professor :  L. JEZIERSKI

Prerequisites:
   1. Either MC 280 or MC 281 completed.
   2. EC 201 or EC 251H (completed or taken concurrently)
   3. EC 202 or EC 252H (completed or taken concurrently)
   4. completion of Tier I writing requirement.

Restrictions: Open only to sophomores, juniors, or seniors in James Madison College or with approval of the college.

Recommended Background: Completion of one semester methodology course.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

SPRING 2013

MC 387: JEWS AND ANTI-SEMITISM

Professor Kenneth Waltzer

Prerequisites: Completion of a Tier I Writing course

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

MC 387 is a comparative history course that focuses on Jews and anti-Semitism especially during the 1930s-40s, the pivotal decades of modern Jewish experience. It explores the history of anti-Semitism in Europe and the West from medieval Christendom to the Modern era, and also examines contemporary developments in the history of anti-Semitism. It probes the sources and dimensions of the Nazi Holocaust, including the path of Nazi policy to genocide, and European and European Jewish responses to the Holocaust in the ghettos and camps. It also explores aspects of the global response to the Nazi Holocaust, including the American response. Primary concerns include comprehending the rise of modern racial anti-Semitism and the new anti-Semitism which has risen in recent years; the role of Nazi ideology, hatred, and other factors in the path to the Final Solution during the 1930s-40s; the responses of witnesses and of victims to Nazi genocide, including life beyond extremity in the Nazi camps; and the reactions of bystander nations and communities.

TYPICAL READINGS
Laqueur, The Changing Face of Antisemitism
Friedlander, Years of Extermination
Snyder, Bloodlands
Friedrich, Auschwitz
A Holocaust memoir from a list of choices (Auschwitz)
Wyman, The Abandonment of the Jews

These books are subject to change and substitution by newer ones....

EVALUATION
Two papers, final exam, and participation. An approved paper on a specialized topic can be substituted for final exam.

H-option: An honors seminar with five meetings focused on issues of "New Directions in Study of the Holocaust and of Antisemitism." Honors students read an additional book, or selected other readings, and present to a seminar. No additional paper.
ADV TOPICS IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS: ISRAELI POLITICS AND SOCIETY

Professor Yael Aronoff

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

This course focuses on Israeli politics and society and investigates the relationship between society and social and ethnic cleavages, culture and politics, political institutions and parties, and democracy and the Jewish nature of the state. We will also be assessing the influence of these on Israel’s foreign policy. The course aims to give students an understanding of the historical, political and cultural transformations Israel has undergone over the past 63 years of its dynamic existence as an independent state and their consequences.

Founded in 1948, the state of Israel has developed as a democracy, absorbed waves of migration from all over the globe, and engaged in frequent regional wars. In MC 390, we examine the major transformations of the political system over this era – the legacy of the lengthy dominant party system under the Labor Party; the period of a competitive system dominated by the two major parties (Labor and the Likud); following electoral reform, the decline of support for the major parties and the rise of parties based on identity; and the new realignment currently taking place. The transition from a predominantly collectivist to an increasingly individualistic political culture (Americanization or globalization) will also be discussed. Particular attention will be paid to the major challenges to the dominant Zionist discourse. The relation between identity politics and controversial issues like the role of religion in the state, ethnic politics, and the status of Palestinian citizens of Israel will be analyzed. Although Israel is ethnically and religiously diverse, it was conceived for many years by many Israelis as a melting pot with a homogeneous core. Instead, this course examines how diverse parts of Israeli society interact and how Israelis have adapted to the realization that diversity has trumped homogeneity. We will be investigating this through articles written by sociologists, political scientists, historians and economists, as well as interviews of different sectors of the society by journalists and novelists, and documentaries directed by sociologists who interview members of the different societal groups to assess their relationship to the state and to the society at large. We will also explore the impact of immigration, political culture, and organizational culture in analyzing explanations for Israel’s recent economic success in regard to start up entrepreneurial companies.

Finally, the impact of war and peace on elections and the implication of election results for the revival of the peace process will also be discussed. Israeli Prime Ministers will be analyzed as reflective of different interpretations of political culture and as having significant impact on
Israel’s foreign and domestic policies. Israel’s political borders have been contested since the beginnings of the state. Israeli occupation of the Sinai, the Golan Heights, and the West Bank as a result of the 1967 war reopened old issues and brought new ones. The impact of border changes on the crisis of identity which Israel is currently undergoing and related issues will be analyzed. We will discuss the domestic influences on Israeli foreign policy.

There will be collaborative group work in which groups pick an Israeli political party (only one group to each party) and then write a 12-20 page paper together highlighting the party’s interests and political platform for the next election. Among the parties analyzed will be Labor, Likud, Kadima, Yirael Beitenu, Meretz, Ballad, and the United Arab List. Much research is required regarding the history of the party, its changing composition, strength, and platforms. In your party platform you must address your party’s stance on foreign policy (highlighting policy toward the Palestinian Authority), your party’s identity and how it will shape Israel’s identity in terms of ethnic pluralism, stance on Israel as a democracy (what type of democracy, civic, ethnic, or in between), stance on religion and the state, and possibly other issues that are important to your particular constituency. Prioritize your strategies and recommendations for the future (which are you highlighting and will distinguish your campaign?) Base your platform on your party’s actual current party platform, but do not simply regurgitate it. Use some creativity in modifying, expanding, and changing your party’s platform while still grounding it in its present context. We will be holding a simulation of mock elections in which you present your party platform and students vote for parties. The party with the most votes will then try to build a government coalition with other parties in our next simulation. These exercises will not only better familiarize you with the parties and the political cultures, identities, and foreign policies that they represent in the Israeli context, but will also better familiarize you with parliamentary democracy.

**Typical Readings:**


5) Course pack including recent journal articles and think tank reports.

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**Honors Option:**

David Grossman, *To the End of the Land* (NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2010). This is an award winning novel written by one of Israel’s three most prominent novelists that explores the heavy price of war on a society and its individuals, and especially the turmoil of parents whose children serve in the military. David Grossman’s own son was killed in the 2006 Israeli war with Hezbollah while he was writing this book.

**Evaluation:**

Class participation in class discussions and simulations, participation in web discussions, exams, and a research paper
This course will examine how collective identities are constructed and contested by public performances. By studying music, theatre and other forms of performance culture, course participants will better appreciate how pervasive forms of cultural expression significantly contribute to the creation of local, national, and global knowledges and identities. The emergence of a relatively new field of performance studies can offer different ways to understand how different communities imagine themselves. As Kelly Askew notes in Performing the Nation (2002), many perspectives on national imaginations presume that these identities are “cultural artifacts” but fail to explore the implications of that observation. By looking at the way these identities are *staged*, Askew argues that nationalism (and by implication local and global views) can be re-theorized as “a series of continually negotiated relationships between people who share occupancy in a defined geographic, political, or ideological space.” By examining collective identities as they are negotiated in live and recorded performance events, concerns central to performance studies – the relation between performer and audience, the compromise and conflict involved in rehearsal and collaboration, the ritual quality of staged events, the social dramas evoked by different shows, etc. – are revealed to be crucial to these identities. Performance can also provide insights into the “intercultural” aspects of vexed global identities. Class participants will be asked to consider a range of questions that emerge from these central concerns. How does music produced and contested in small gatherings constitute local social relations and national culture? How does that compare with the ways different audiences hear global music produced by large media conglomerates as aspects of national culture? To what extent are stories of national place mythologized by dramatic shows, and how might those dramas enable appropriation and re-mythologizing by people in other countries? In what ways do shows as diverse as music concerts, plays, and parades engender different forms of social ritual? To what extent do local and national rituals performed as part of collective spectacles mask internal community and national rifts? What is the role of technological recording practices in the production of a nation or community’s identity? How do performance cultures that define ethnic/national identities travel, and how do they portray those traveling identities? By paying close attention to performance conventions involving staging, recording, rehearsal, collaboration, and distribution, as well as the range of audience responses to performance events, students will better be able to analyze the role music, theatre, and other performances play in the articulation and negotiation of these collective identities.
SPRING 2013

MC 395 – Section 002

CULTURAL DIMENSIONS OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS:

Professor: Blumberg

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Multiple interrelations between culture and public affairs in American and/or cross-cultural contexts. Uses literature, film, criticism, and history to illuminate issues of conflict, power, and social structure in a variety of historical and geographical contexts.
SPRING 2013

MC 441 -- ISLAM AND WORLD POLITICS

Professor: UGUR

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Manifestations of political Islam within key Muslim countries such as Turkey, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and Pakistan. Use of political Islam by states and groups as an instrument to advance their international goals
SPRING 2013

FW/MC 450

INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAW & POLICY

Professor Mark Axelrod

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Environmental regulation has expanded from a domestic phenomenon to one that has both global participants and global impacts. In this course, you will get a survey of environmental issues in international law and policy. In addition to discussing the current state of international environmental law, we will also spend time addressing how that state of affairs came to be, what stakeholders are involved, and what other policy options exist for handling these concerns. The last part of the semester will address international law in other fields that impact the environment, as well as issues on which international cooperation has not yet emerged.

ASSIGNMENTS: Class participation, discussion papers, midterm exam, analysis of one international treaty, research paper, final exam

POTENTIAL READINGS INCLUDE SELECTIONS FROM THE FOLLOWING:


SPRING 2013

MC 459: STEPPS CAPSTONE

Professor: M. Largent

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

Selected topics in science, technology, environment and public policy (STEPPS). Analysis of key issues and problems. Case studies
DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:
From all-male and male-dominated armies to the heroic masculinization of combat, from systematic rape campaigns to the policing of sexual relations, violent conflicts throughout the world are deeply gendered. An emerging scholarship has documented the profound gender consequences of wars, conflicts and their resolution. This course is designed to review some of that scholarship and to explore specific cases of violent conflict, war and militarization, addressing the theoretical contours, social, cultural and political dynamics, and policy implications of gendered conflict within and between states.

TYPICAL READINGS:
Wenona Giles and Jennifer Hyndman (eds), *Sites of Violence: Gender and Conflict Zones.*
Joshua Goldstein, *War and Gender: How Gender Shapes the War System and Vice Versa.*
Swanee Hunt, *This Was Not Our War: Bosnian Women Reclaiming the Peace.*
Tamara Herath, *Women in Terrorism: Case of the LTTE.*
Janie Leatherman, *Sexual Violence and Armed Conflict.*
Dubravka Zarkov, *The Body of War: Media, Ethnicity and Gender in the Break-up of Yugoslavia.*

EVALUATION:
Exams or quizzes, take home essay, research project, active participation.
**DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:**

This seminar will examine comparatively the current and prospective environmental challenges and natural resource issues in Europe and the Former Soviet Union. The course will begin with a review of relevant theory relating to ecological economics, global climate change and international law and global/regional governance. It will examine energy pipeline strategies and politics in the region, along with the political economy of government policies in energy producing states (e.g., is there an “energy curse” in reality?). It will also address the growing crisis of clean water availability, rights of access, and consequent impacts on food supply, as well as national and international efforts to mitigate future scarcity and political conflict, in the light of population pressure and climate change projections. It will also examine the impact of the socio-cultural context that may influence both the course of the debates and the feasibility of alternative policy strategies in a changing and increasingly interdependent global economy.

The course objectives are to provide an overview of the impact of theory, policy and institutions in transition and an opportunity for conducting detailed research on specific aspects of that impact. It is designed to serve as the “capstone” experience for Madison students majoring in international relations, providing opportunity for using and refining knowledge, skills and a spirit of inquiry developed in previous coursework and experience at Madison College. It will strive to encourage students to reflect on the conflicting perspectives and national experiences examined in the seminar as a means to prepare for engaged citizenship in the coming decades.
SPRING 2013

MC 492 – Section 2

SENIOR SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS:
“U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY: STRATEGY, PROCESS, AND POLICY”

Professor Matthew Zierler

Prerequisite: Completion of Tier I Writing Requirement
Recommended Background: MC 326

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

This seminar will focus on the development and application of U.S. national security policy. It will consider the continuities and changes that have occurred based on the evolution of the United States’ capabilities, interests, and position in a world that has changed dramatically over the last 200 years. We will examine the changes that have occurred since the end of the Cold War and after 9/11 in light of earlier patterns of behavior. We will also examine how America’s national security institutional infrastructure has been adapted over time to meet new conceptions of threat. Throughout the course, we will focus on the interaction between the development of strategic visions, the development and execution of policy options, and the process of national security policy making.

TYPICAL READINGS:
Sapolsky, Gholz, and Talmadge, *US Defense Politics*
Renshon, *National Security in the Obama Administration: Reassessing the Bush Doctrine*
John Lewis Gaddis, *Strategies of Containment*
Derek Chollet and James Goldgeier, *America between the Wars*
Tom Ricks, *The Gamble*

EVALUATION:

Includes active class participation, reaction papers, research paper (in multiple stages), presentation of research, exam.
SPRING 2013

MC 492 – SECTION 003


Professor: Simei Qing

Prerequisites: Completion of Tier I writing requirement.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

This seminar aims to provide an in-depth examination of U.S.- China diplomacy in the 20th century and to shed new light on current U.S.- China relations in the post-Cold War, post-9/11 era. It inquires whether a broad and persistent pattern exists in U.S. – China interactions throughout the 20th century, and whether this pattern may, subconsciously as well as consciously, persist into the early 21st century. Put another way, are there some enduring themes or visions of modernity, identity, and world order, which are deeply embedded in the national history, culture and society on both sides of the Pacific? Could those visions transcend both sides’ ideological rhetoric, transcend the Cold War framework, and continue to exist in the background of U.S. – China interactions in the post-Cold War world?
MC 492 –Section 004
Senior Seminar in International Relations: Transnational Relations for a Cause: Advocacy Networks, Civic Groups and Social Movements
Professor: R. G. Pinto

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:
This senior seminar analyzes cause-oriented action in transnational relations, with emphases on advocacy, organizing, mobilization and resistance. It examines the origins and outcomes of transnational activism. Careful thought is given to specific tactics of activism across borders, research methods, and international relations (IR) more broadly.

Activism between two or more polities is committed to causes including independence, labor, democratization, environmentalism, human rights, gender equity, social justice, pacifism, health, and poverty reduction. We will focus on the transnational activism of advocacy networks, civic organizations, social movements and weak actors who resist through defiance. Well-known examples of these sorts of activists, respectively, range from the Climate Action Network to Transparency International; from Doctors (or Engineers) Without Borders to the National Rifle Association; from the global justice movement to al-Qaeda; and from WikiLeaks whistleblowers to wildlife poachers.

While our semester will begin and end with pre and post surveys of transnational activist relations taken together, steady attention to methods for research on activism will fill a comprehensive toolbox that will strengthen research designs produced as capstones for the seminar (and IR major). The early part of the semester will allow us to assess the theoretical lenses that have been used to understand transnational activism from various angles. During the bulk of the semester we will concentrate on transnational activism while extending consideration to both its upstream origins and downstream outcomes. Sampling varieties of cause-oriented action across borders, we will disaggregate this activism into at least ten specific types of tactical modes on five distinct spatial scales of transnationality. Generalizing to broader IR questions, we will also bring the tactical repertoire to bear on themes such as globalization, governance, multilateral cooperation, state sovereignty, normative change and domestic-foreign frontiers through numerous geographic and issue areas.

Sample books:


**Evaluation:**
Classroom participation, two rounds of discussion papers and facilitation, research design (in three stages), presentation of research design, peer reviews of research designs, and possible quiz(zes).
SPRING 2013

MC 493—Section 001

SENIOR SEMINAR IN COMPARATIVE CULTURES AND POLITICS: Television, Televisuality and Global Events

Professor: A. BORCILA

Prerequisites: MC 230 and MC 231; completion of Tier I writing requirement.

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Television impacts the ways in which we see the world: our understanding of and experiencing of the nation, of places, of ‘others’, of the global, of history. It is inextricable from such global events as the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989, the fall of communism, the Kosovo crisis, the Iraq war. In this seminar, we will grapple with key and competing perspectives on the complex role of television and televisuality in such global events (i.e. movements of protest and wars). Along the way, we will familiarize ourselves with critical work on the politics of televisual representation, on geographies of visibility in American television news, and on how we are implicated as viewers in global events.

As this is a capstone experience in comparative cultures and politics, our intellectual journey will be an interdisciplinary one, and we will draw on readings from a range of disciplinary perspectives. As in all capstone experiences, student participation is a crucial dimension of this seminar, and student research will complement our common readings and case studies.

Typical assignments:
Short writing assignments, informed participation, collaborative work, research project and oral presentation.
SPRING 2013

MC 493 – Section 002

Senior Seminar: Cultural Politics in Latin America

Professor Jennifer Goett

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Upon receiving the 1982 Nobel Prize in Literature, the Colombian novelist Gabriel García Márquez lamented the “solitude” of Latin America in relation to the powerful North. “The interpretation of our reality through patterns not our own,” he proclaimed, “serves only to make us ever more unknown, ever less free, ever more solitary.” He concluded with an appeal for an opposing utopia, “where the races condemned to one hundred years of solitude will have, at last and forever, a second opportunity on earth.” This course juxtaposes and examines the relationship between solitude and utopian promise in Latin American cultural politics. By pairing film, literature, memoir, and cultural critique with interdisciplinary scholarship on the region, we examine the following questions: What kinds of utopian aspirations have fueled popular mobilization and subaltern resistance in Latin America? How have elites responded to these movements from below? Why is the US so deeply implicated in the political fortunes of Latin American societies? What is the relationship between US intervention, military dictatorship, and early neoliberal experiments in the region? After several decades of post-conflict peace and democracy, why have we seen the revitalization of leftist nationalist projects? Do these projects deliver what they promise: more egalitarian societies that transcend a historical condition of solitude?

Possible Texts and Films:

Spring 2013

MC 497: Senior Seminar in Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy

Topic: “Socialism and Race in American Thought and Politics”

Professor: Curtis Stokes

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

James Madison, Alexis de Tocqueville and Karl Marx had more in common than is ordinarily thought. In his own way, each of these theorists understood how social class informs the politics of a nation and they especially understood that the presence of blacks on American soil posed foundational challenges to the American effort at constructing a republic based upon equality and freedom. With the liberal project as backdrop, this course critically examines socialism’s historical and contemporary encounter with race in America; its failures and successes, as well as the continuing quest for a more democratic and just America.

TYPICAL READINGS:

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, *Marx and Engels on the United States*

David Levering Lewis, *W.E.B. Du Bois: A Reader*

Richard Iton, *Solidarity Blues: Race, Culture and the American Left*

Cedric J. Robinson, *Black Marxism: The Making of the Black Radical Tradition*

Patricia Hill Collins, *Black Feminist Thought*

August H. Nimtz, Jr., *Marx, Tocqueville and Race in America*

EVALUATION:

Research paper; research presentation; short reflective essays; seminar participation
SPRING 2013

MC 497 – Section 002

Senior Seminar in Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy: “Technology and Politics"

Professor: T. CRAIG

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

SPRING 2013

MC 497 -- Section 003

Senior Seminar in Political Theory and Constitutional Democracy: "Political Islam in a Historical Perspective"

Professor: EL-RAYES

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

What is the best political regime? What, if any, is the proper role of religion in politics? Is reason a sufficient guide for human happiness, or does happiness require the guidance of divine revelation? What is the correct balance between faith and reason? These are but some of the questions that we will have to wrestle with in this seminar as we examine the teachings of great Muslim philosophers and scholars. In this seminar, the questions raised through the examination of these teachings will be given high priority. In other words, our primary task here is to see how the medieval texts assigned for this seminar can help us think and rethink questions and problems that are of fundamental concern to us today. Among other things, we live today in a world that seems to be increasingly disillusioned and dissatisfied with secular-minded politics—and this despite the great scientific and material benefits that such politics have produced. Through the examination of the relationship between religion and politics in the context of Islamic Political Philosophy, we will be able to step back and consider the possibilities and limits of secularism in an environment that is as free as possible from contemporary biases and prejudices.
SPRING 2013

MC 498 – Section 001

SENIOR SEMINAR IN SOCIAL RELATIONS: RELIGIOUS & SECULAR SOCIETY

Professor: GENE BURNS

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

American social relations and policy. Theoretical issues. Analysis of key thinkers. Case studies.
Spring 2013

MC 498—Section 002

SENIOR SEMINAR IN SOCIAL RELATIONS: Legacies of the Civil Rights Movement

Professor: Allison Berg

Prerequisites: MC 380 and completion of Tier I writing requirement

DESCRIPTION OF COURSE

This seminar will examine legacies of the civil rights movement fifty years after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech at the 1963 March on Washington. The required readings will introduce students to two different ways of thinking about legacies: in terms of current public policy and in terms of civil rights movement historiography. Either approach might guide their individual research projects.

We begin with works suggesting that two of the most celebrated victories of the civil rights era, the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision and the 1965 Voting Rights Act, have been eroded if not eviscerated by subsequent public policy and legal rulings. Michelle Alexander argues that while it is no longer legally or socially permissible to use race as an explicit justification for “discrimination, exclusion, and social contempt,” the criminalization of African Americans via the War on Drugs results not only in disenfranchisement but also in “legalized discrimination in employment, housing, education, public benefits, and jury service.”

Jonathan Kozol offers a similarly pessimistic view of what he terms “apartheid schooling” in urban communities, where public schools are now more racially segregated than they have been at any time since 1968. Martha Minow’s In Brown’s Wake provides a more optimistic account of Brown’s legacies, including its pivotal role in expanding educational opportunities for immigrants, English-language learners, and people marginalized by disability, sexual orientation, or religion.

These and other contrasting assessments of the civil rights movement’s legacies reflect very different assumptions about the goals, strategies, and achievements of the movement. Similar debates are evident in civil rights historiography. Over the past two decades, historians of the movement have focused less on legal victories and national perspectives and more on local movements, the significance of gender, and battles fought in the North, among other previously neglected topics. Danielle McGuire’s highly acclaimed examination of the role of sexualized violence in well-known civil rights milestones is one example of revisionist history that makes a seemingly familiar story “startlingly new.” Course pack readings will illuminate other relatively neglected aspects of the civil rights movement that invite further research by students.

Evaluation: informed participation, discussion leading, oral presentation, major research paper.

Typical Readings:


**Selected Course Pack Readings:**


Jeanne Theoharis, “Hidden in Plain Sight: The Civil Rights Movement Outside the South”

Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, “The Long Civil Rights Movement and the Political Uses of the Past.”
