Case Studies on Transnational Issues and International Cooperation

Spring Semester 2020

This syllabus is not yet finalized and may change until the beginning of the semester. To account for the shortened semester due to the Coronavirus, the length of the required essay assignments will be adjusted upwards compared to the initial version of this syllabus.

Class Hours: Thursday, 9:30-12:30

Location: Bldg. 140-2, Rm. 202

Instructor: Max Nurnus

Email: MNurnus@gmail.com

Office hours based on appointment

Course Description

This course offers an exploration of contemporary transnational relations. It stands in contrast to the canon of International Relations theory with its focus on state-to-state interactions. Instead, this course looks at a number of other actors, forces and themes in global affairs. Among the topics it deals with are the past and future of nation states, nationalism and cosmopolitanism, the role of cities and transnational elites in international affairs, and prominent arguments such as the Clash of Civilizations and the End of History.

The goal of this course is to equip students with concepts and perspectives to critically examine and interpret currents events on the international stage. The approach of this course, thus, is broad and global in scope. It does not deal with any of its topics in an extensive and in-depth manner but rather aims to provide a variety of perspectives and to illuminate the connections between them. There are no prerequisites for enrollment, although some prior experience with International Relations theory is helpful.

Assignments & Grading

Beyond class attendance and active, critical participation, students are expected to fulfill several writing assignments over the course of the semester.

- Two essays due on May 6th and June 18th at 11:59pm. The goal of these essays is to develop and present an argument based on the course contents of the preceding weeks. The topics of the essays and further details regarding length, style, expectations and grading will be provided two weeks in advance.

- Weekly response papers of one to two pages that must be sent in via email the day before every session by 6pm. These response papers are meant to showcase a critical and creative
engagement with the required reading materials and serve as the foundation for in-class discussions. They do not have to adhere to any specific structure or style and are not meant to summarize the reading materials. Instead, they can raise questions about the reading materials, compare them with each other as well as other course contents, express criticism, link the reading materials to current events, etc. Further details regarding the grading of the response papers will be provided during the first session of the course.

Grading considers three elements: class participation (40%), the two essays (30%), and the weekly response papers (30%). In addition, adherence to the course policies can be reflected in grading.

Depending on the number of students enrolled, the assignments and their relative importance for grading as well as the course policies may be adjusted at the beginning of the semester.

**Course Policies**

Students are expected to be on time, to not miss more than two sessions of the course, and to prepare for class with the reading materials. Please refrain from using laptops, tablets and phones during the class if they interfere with your attention and participation in the class. Violations of these policies will be reflected in grading. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and results in a fail.

**Schedule and Reading Materials**

<table>
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<th>#1 – March 19th: Course Introduction</th>
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<td><strong>Recommended Readings</strong></td>
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<th>#2 – March 26th: The State</th>
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Recommended Readings


#3 – April 2nd: Nationalism


Recommended Readings


#4 – April 9th: Cosmopolitanism


Recommended Readings


**Recommended Readings**


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**Recommended Readings**


April 30th: Buddha’s Birthday – no class

#7 – First Response Essay - Deadline: May 6th, 11:59pm

#8 – May 7th: Transnational Elites


Recommended Readings


#9 – May 14th: The Internet


Recommended Readings


#10 – May 21st: Populism


Recommended Readings


#11 – May 28th: The Clash of Civilizations


Recommended Readings


#12 – June 4th: The End of History


**Recommended Readings**


#13 – June 11th: The Retreat of Doomsday


**Recommended Readings**


#14 – Second Response Essay - Deadline: June 18th, 11:59pm