

International Studies Seminars

Spring 2024

INST 4850.001/5500.003 Asian Youth: Culture, Activism, Media

Dr. Sing Hui Lee

The senior and MA seminar on Asian Youth: Cultures, Activism, Media investigates the forces that drive Asian youths to become wavemakers & gamechangers in shaping the Asian region and beyond.

INST 4850.006 Middle East Politics & Society Through Film

Dr. Ozlem Altioek

Using film and literature, this course provides a nuanced understanding of the political, economic, and cultural changes that have occurred in the modern Middle East and North Africa in the 20th and 21st centuries.

The specific topics covered in the course include European colonialism, rise of nationalism and the creation of modern states, World Wars and the Cold War; the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the politics of oil and U.S. policy in the region, the rise of Islamist movements, social movements, including feminist ones, and the 2011 Arab uprisings. We will also pay attention to some of the ongoing issues and conflicts in the broader region. The countries of focus include Turkey, Iran, Egypt, Tunisia, Iraq, Syria, Israel/Palestine and Saudi Arabia.

INST 4850.008/5500.009 Human Security in 21st Century

Dr. Ozlem Altioek

This course is designed as a reading and discussion intensive seminar. It is structured around seven areas of human security: economic, political, food, environmental, health, community and personal security with a focus on armed conflict, social and economic inequality, climate change and displacement. We will cover cases primarily, though not exclusively, from Africa, Asia and Europe.

INST 4850.009/5500.010 Authoritarianism in Global Politics

Dr. Dariga Abilova

The course investigates why, despite intense international effort to promote and support democracy worldwide, authoritarian regimes continue to survive. The course examines both domestic and external forces that shape authoritarianism and prepares students to make advanced inferences about the future of the international system.

INST 4850.010 Putin's Russia

Dr. Dariga Abilova

This course examines political, economic and social development of modern Russia under Vladimir Putin's leadership. In addition to the study of Putin's domestic policies, considerable time is also dedicated to his foreign policy interests and growing geopolitical appetites. The course will also investigate the real roots of Putin's popular support and attempt to make inferences about his system's future.

INST 4850.011 Refugees: Histories and Contemporary Issues

Dr. Dariga Abilova

The course examines the history and the causes of human displacement worldwide. The types of human flights are also examined, along with international responses to them.

INST 4852.001 Critical Issues in Global Economics

Dr. Sing Hui Lee

The senior seminar on Critical Issues in Global Economics examines the global forces challenging the current global economy and explores sustainable solutions to some of these contemporary economic concerns.

INST 4853.001 Global Development: Issues and Challenges

Dr. Dariga Abilova

The senior seminar introduces students to the existing global inequalities and attempts to investigate historical, political and economic reasons creating and maintaining those inequalities. Students will also gain practical knowledge of designing projects and proposals in the field of international development.



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