

Global & International Studies Graduate Courses

Fall 2012

GIST 704: Global Cultures & Societies (26303)

Professor Darlene Budd

Tuesdays 7:10-10:00 p.m.

354 Regnier Hall, Edwards Campus

The political, economic and social aspects of multiculturalism and cultural hybridity are examined. The impact of cultural differences are analyzed and critiqued in the context of East-West and North-South global scenarios.

GIST 750: Contemporary East Asia (26304)

Professor Hal Wert

Mondays 7:10-10:00 p.m.

154 Regnier Hall, Edwards Campus

China, Japan, and Rising Tensions in the Far East: This course will trace the development of the China/Japan rivalry since the mid-19th Century. Special emphasis will be placed on China as it flexes its emerging economic and political muscle in the areas just outside its borders. Tensions have dramatically increased as China, Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Vietnam all lay claims to the Spratly Islands. Japan and China contend as well over a small group of islands in the East China Sea. A part of the reason is off shore oil, but other factors include access to the South China Sea and national pride. China's diplomatic problems also include the status of Taiwan, the difficulties with North Korea and the ongoing problems surrounding Tibet and China's border disputes with India. Ethnic troubles in Zhenjiang amongst the Uighur population and other areas of ethnic unrest and economic unrest abound. Anti-government demonstrations occur daily. Coupled to these problems is a large increase in Chinese military power and a stronger voice for the military in Chinese policy decisions. What these rising dangers pose for the Far East is the focus of this course. As a reading/discussion class you will be expected to do an in-class presentation on parts of assigned books and articles and produce a research paper. The paper may be the beginnings of your thesis.

GIST 750: Culture & Psychology (26305)

Professor Glenn Adams

Wednesdays 7:10-10:00 p.m.

108 Regents Center, Edwards Campus

Critics have noted that the vast majority of the knowledge base in psychological science (a conservative estimate is 85%) comes from research in which primarily European American investigators collect data from primarily European American participants located in North American spaces. In contrast, this course strives toward a more global psychology informed by the 15% of work in psychological science that comes from outside North American spaces.



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The goal of the course is not a vicarious “cross-cultural” research tour in which we try to make sense of exotic strangers in faraway lands (often concluding in Disney-like fashion that they’re not so different from “us” after all). Instead, the goal is to illuminate a process or level of analysis that is often invisible in mainstream psychological science: the extent to which the architecture of mind exists not only in genetically evolved brain structures, but also in socially constructed technologies of mind that vary across communities.

GIST 750: Making War & Peace (26306)

Professor Robert Baumann

Thursdays 7:10-10:00 p.m.

352 Regnier Hall, Edwards Campus

Modern Dimensions of Conflict and Conflict Resolution: From Terror and Ethnic

Cleansing to Diplomacy, War, and Peace Enforcement: This course will introduce students to the complexity of conflict and conflict resolution since the end of the Cold War, paying particular attention to efforts of the international community to come to grips with genocide, failed states, and terror. This course begins with a paradox: Although the Cold War brought our modern world as close to total destruction as it has ever come, it came to be remembered almost fondly by many who lived through it by virtue of its seeming moral clarity and predictability. During that time, two massively armed and mutually opposed systems of states dominated international affairs. Then, with the dissolution of the USSR and the collapse of the Berlin Wall, a brief euphoria ensued. However, international institutions were poorly prepared to deal with the civil wars, disintegrating states, clashing legal and moral imperatives, and human disasters that would characterize the 1990s.

By design, the readings for this course reflect the views of soldiers, diplomats, journalists and scholars. The early lessons address the spectrum of modern conflict and the mechanisms of the international community, such as the United Nations or NATO, to create or enforce peace through the controlled application of violence or the threat thereof. Subsequent meetings will then consider a series of revealing case studies that reflect the intricate interaction of ideologies, cultures and institutions that shape contemporary conflict. This course will focus on a series of recent conflicts and interventions including the cases of Cambodia, Rwanda, Iraq, Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, Kosovo, and Afghanistan.

