

## **IAS 3003 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR FALL 2025:**

### **IAS 3003 Sec. 001 Persian Mystical Literature: Rumi & the World, MWF 10:00-10:50am, Dr. Mina Raminsabet**

This course introduces students to mysticism and spirituality as a cross-cultural experience and then focuses on the rich history of Persian mystical literature and Sufism which both are essential to a better understanding of Rumi, the best-selling poet in America. It casts some light on the historical Rumi, the myths and traditions that have been developed around him, the history of his reception in the Islamic world and in the West, and especially the phenomenon of his recent popularity in the United States. We learn to interpret, analyze, and enjoy the works of Rumi while being critical thinkers and close readers. We will identify what is distinctive about Rumi that has made him so popular among diverse readerships through the centuries. This course also aims to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the English translations currently available.

### **IAS 3003 Sec. 002 The Global Politics of Oil, MWF 3:00-3:50pm, Dr. Vahid Abedini**

Oil is widely considered the most strategic and politically charged commodity in the global economy. This course explores the politics of oil through three interconnected dimensions, combining domestic, market-based, and international perspectives.

- (1) The Socio-Political Dimensions of Natural Resources** – This section examines how oil wealth shapes the internal dynamics of oil-producing states. Topics include the “resource curse,” rentier state theory, authoritarian resilience, labor politics, and social movements in resource-rich countries. We also explore how oil has historically drawn foreign intervention and fueled domestic conflict—such as the 1953 coup in Iran, unrest in the Niger Delta, and broader patterns of conflict across the Middle East.
- (2) The Global Oil Market and Producer-Consumer Collaboration** – This section analyzes the structure and evolution of the oil market, including price volatility, technological shifts like shale oil, and unconventional extraction methods. Students will examine the role of major institutional actors such as OPEC, OPEC+, and their influence on market stability, with particular attention to Russia's integration into the global oil regime and the United States' shifting role as both a producer and strategic influencer. The section also considers consumer-producer dynamics and the politics of energy interdependence.
- (3) The Geopolitics of Oil and International Conflict** – The final part addresses the global ramifications of oil, focusing on its role in foreign policy, economic sanctions, and international rivalry. Key topics include oil and war, energy security, climate diplomacy, and the use of oil as an instrument of economic statecraft. The course pays special attention to the foreign policies of the United States and China toward the Middle East, exploring how strategic energy interests shape their engagement in the region. Case studies will include Iran, Venezuela, Ukraine, and the Persian Gulf.

By examining these three layers of oil politics—domestic structures, market systems, and international power dynamics—this course equips students with a comprehensive understanding of how oil continues to shape global political and economic order.

### **IAS 3003 Sec. 003 Comparative Politics & Society, MWF 1:00-1:50pm, Dr. Hannah Chapman**

This course explores political systems and social structures across the globe. This course provides a comprehensive view of how diverse nations govern and how societies function in today's interconnected world. We will explore the different types of regimes that have emerged in the modern world and examine major topics that influence how states govern. Key topics include nationalism and its impact on state policies, political violence and conflict resolution, human rights issues and international norms, development, to name a few key themes. By the end of the course, students will have a thorough grasp of the challenges facing various countries and regimes around the world and understand why countries exhibit such divergent political, social, and economic trajectories.

This topic encompasses a vast array of phenomena, making it impossible to cover every intriguing subject within a single course—or even a lifetime. This course aims to provide students with a brief survey of some of the key questions explored in world politics, which may inspire future in-depth study. The goal is to equip students with the skills necessary for advanced thinking in future courses, research, and their careers.

### **IAS 3003 Sec. 004 Causes of War, MWF 2:00-2:50pm, Dr. Moritz Graefrath**

What causes interstate war? This course surveys a wide array of possible causes—ranging from the structure of the international system to domestic politics and the role of individual leaders—to then test the competing explanations against a variety of case studies, including World War, World War II, and the Russo-Ukrainian War. We will also discuss the question of whether China's rise is likely to lead to great power war with the United States.

### **IAS 3003 Sec. 005 International Security, Literature, & Film, TR 3:00-4:15pm, Dr. Suzette Grillot**

This course explores the intersection of international security, literature, and film, offering a unique approach to understanding contemporary security issues through creative mediums. By examining literature and film as forms of security commentary, students will uncover how authors and filmmakers address complex topics like security dilemmas, war, conflict, violence, tensions, and fear, among others, as well as how they present these issues in ways that resonate with diverse audiences.

The course assumes that security issues are often deeply embedded in everyday life and that literature and film serve as powerful vehicles for security-related expression. Students will engage with a selection of novels and films that reflect on global security themes, discerning and evaluating their underlying messages. Prior knowledge of global security issues and analytical tools, including international relations theory, the role of the state, and the impact of various security actors, will enhance students' ability to analyze these works. Through the study of literature and film, the course spans the globe, fostering a nuanced understanding of how global security issues are portrayed and debated across cultures.