

# IAS 3003 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS - 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. 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.

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## **IAS 3003 SEC. 004 CAUSES OF WAR, MWF 2:00-2:50PM, DR. MORITZ GRAEFRATH**

This course is an analysis of political developments in Europe, emphasizing state structures, intergovernmental relations, and regional political dynamics. Topics of study will include institutions and processes of European politics from a comparative perspective; the significance of the European Union as a regional integration project that impacts the domestic politics of its member countries; the roles individual European countries, and the European Union itself, play in international politics; an analysis of selected policy areas of concern to European countries.

## **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.