

## **IAS 3003 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR FALL 2026:**

### **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 1991 Gulf War & US Foreign Policy, TR 9:00-10:15am, Mr. Rob Andrew**

The 1991 Gulf War marked one of the most successful uses of U.S. military force to resolve an international conflict since World War II. This war re-affirmed the status of the U.S. as the one remaining superpower after the Cold War. In this course, we will delve into the background of the war, including U.S. lessons from Vietnam and the Iran-Iraq War of the 1980s. We will examine the preparation and conduct of the war itself (Operations Desert Shield/Storm) to liberate Kuwait. I will share with students my personal experiences as a frontline soldier from this war. Finally, students will compare and contrast the U.S. experience with the 1991 Gulf War to other late 20th Century and early 21st Century U.S. wars/conflicts, such as Panama in 1989, Somalia in early 1990s, the Balkans Wars in the mid-late 1990s, Second Iraq from 2003-2011, and Afghanistan from 2001-2021.

### **IAS 3003 Sec. 003 Law & Development, MWF 12:00-12:50pm, Dr. Fabio de Sa e Silva**

This course examines the role of law in processes of economic and social change in the Global South. Long treated as a technical tool to promote growth, markets, and good governance, law has been central to development projects from postwar modernization efforts to contemporary rule-of-law and anticorruption reforms. The course explores competing understandings of development, contrasting growth-centered models with approaches emphasizing freedom, power, inequality, and historical context. It then examines different theories of law—from law as an instrument enabling markets to law as a constitutive force shaping power and social relations—and asks how these theories inform development practice. Through classic and contemporary readings, the course traces the rise, crisis, and repeated reinvention of the law and development field. Students analyze legal transplants, global reform agendas, and case studies involving courts, legal education, anticorruption campaigns, and rights-based mobilization, with particular attention to why reform efforts so often cycle between optimism and disappointment. By the end of the course, students will be able to critically assess what law can—and cannot—do in development contexts and to evaluate alternative paths forward.

### **IAS 3003 Sec. 006 Civil Military Relations Southeast Asia, MWF 10:00-10:50am, Dr. Paul Chambers**

Civil-military relations are critical in the historically turbulent region of Southeast Asia because whether civilians control militaries (or not) often determines political stability, civilian supremacy, and policy cohesion. Southeast Asia—with its varied typology of regimes—highlights different variations in the struggle between civilian control and military autonomy. This course examines the military's role in state-society relations, specifically its interactions with civilians in the region of Southeast Asia. Beginning with a survey of civil-military relations literature and comparative politics, it analyzes the often difficult balance between enabling military effectiveness for national security and preventing the misuse of force. With regard to Southeast Asia, the course reviews the historical origins, contemporary trends, and

potential changes in civil-military relations from colonial times until the present. Themes include authoritarian and colonial legacies. The classification of Southeast Asian militaries include professional, neo-patrimonial, praetorian, and revolutionary. Southeast Asian militaries have played crucial roles in regime transitions, political domination, and forcibly preventing change. The region has witnessed military entrepreneurship as a significant part of its clout. Key issues relating to Southeast Asia are: 1) the importance of civilian control; 2) types of military resistance to civilian control; 3) what gives rise to coups d'état; 4) military roles in state and nation-building as well as political decay; and 5) security sector reform. The course scrutinizes civil-military case studies of individual Southeast Asian countries, namely Thailand, Myanmar, the Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, and Cambodia.

### **IAS 3003 Sec. 995 Comparative Politics & Society, *ONLINE*, 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.