

HIS/PSC 227
Power and Authority in Non-Western Societies
MC 402

Spring, 2008
Sola/Govea
MWF 1:30-2:35 PM

COURSE SYLLABUS

Instructors' contact information

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COURSE OBJECTIVES

HIS/PSC 227 is an introduction to a facet of social behavior in non-western societies – the use of power and authority. In this course we will examine ways in which authority is challenged and power tested in the cases of Latin America and Central Asia (the latter focusing on Kyrgyzstan).

This is an interdisciplinary course that subsumes the disciplines of Political Science and History. In the course of instruction, students will learn about some of the differences in approach employed by these two fields of inquiry.

At the end of the course, students will be able to understand the concepts of “power” and “authority”, and will be able to understand the ways in which power and authority are universal, and the ways in which the concepts vary according to cultural context.

The instructors in this class have chosen to focus on the concept of dissent. The case studies will recount situations in which there is a challenge to the dominant order, and where the authority of the government is being questioned. Inevitably, such cases test the power of the government and the rival group(s). Often, such tests are resolved by violence. The specific cases we have chosen will thus suggest a set of generalizations about the nature of violence as a tool of governmental control or as a means toward revolutionary outcomes.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There are no textbooks for this course. Instead, there will be individual readings, handouts or web assignments for each unit. Students should complete readings in advance of class sessions.

All students will be required to produce one short (3-5 pg) paper at the end of each module of the course. There will also be a final take-home exam (5+ pages) in which students will be asked to integrate the course material.

EVALUATION

Students will be evaluated according to the following formula:

Class Participation	10%
Three Short Assignments (3X20%)	60%
Final Assignment	30%

COURSE OUTLINE

Date	Topic	Assignment/Reading
1/14	Course introduction	
1/16	Power and Authority defined	
1/18	Types of Power	French and Raven, ECR
1/21	HOLIDAY	
1/23	Foucault on power	Foucault, ECR
1/25	What does "non-western" mean?	
1/28	Globalization and westernization	Barber, ECR
1/30	Intro to Kyrgyzstan	WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE
2/1	Intro to Kyrgyzstan II	

COURSE OUTLINE (continued)

- 2/4 Legacy of the Soviet system
2/6 Independence and Akaev
2/8 Corruption in Kyrgyzstan
- 2/11 The “tulip revolution” of 2005
2/13 Reform denied – the aftermath
2/15 TBA
- 2/18 HOLIDAY
2/20 Uzbekistan spills over, 2006
2/22 Uprising and violence, November 2006
- 2/25 Crisis – April 2007
2/27 The demonstrators appear
2/29 Repression and aftermath
- 3/3 The Kyrgyz University System
3/5 The labor dispute of May, 2007 at IUK
3/7 Notes on Power and Authority in Kyrgyzstan
- 3/10-3-14 SPRING BREAK/NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS
- 3/17 [second unit begins]
3/19
3/21
- 3/24
3/26
3/28
- 3/31
4/2
4/4
- 4/7
4/9
4/11

Assignment due 3/19

COURSE OUTLINE (continued)

4/14

4/16

4/18

writing due 4/18

4/21

4/23

4/25

4/28 Generalizations/conclusions

FINAL EXAM HANDOUT;

4/30 Generalizations/conclusions continued

5/2 Exam session

5/7 WED 1-3 PM Exam period, class will meet, final papers are due.