SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Colorado State University, Academic Partner

Voyage: Spring 2018
Discipline: International Studies
Course Number and Title: INST 301 Global Commodities across the Disciplines
Division: Upper
Faculty Name: Elizabeth Ferry
Semester Credit Hours: 3

Prerequisites: One (1) geography course AND one (1) international studies course
Per professor: One (1) geography OR one (1) international studies course

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course uses an interdisciplinary lens to explore the nature and significance of global commodities. It aims to expose the cultural, political, economic, and environmental dimensions of everyday objects as well as the process of objectification. At the same time, this course familiarizes students with the research methods of International Studies, illustrating the value and applications of interdisciplinary research. Class will be divided among reading assignments, content-based discussions, and research. There will be an in-country field class that will be oriented around a team project tracking selected commodities in one of the ports visited on the Semester at Sea spring 2018 voyage.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Students will:

1. Recognize the global context of everyday commodities,
2. Articulate the implications of consumerism, and
3. Apply interdisciplinary research methods to international topics.

In addition, this course will cultivate the following competencies: written and oral communication, group work, leadership, time management, and critical thinking

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

AUTHOR: Mintz, Sidney
TITLE: Sweetness and Power: the Place of Sugar in Modern History
PUBLISHER: Penguin Books
ISBN #: 978-0140092332
DATE/EDITION: 1986

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE
Depart Ensenada, Mexico — January 5

A1—January 7: Introduction – what is an interdisciplinary study of global commodities? Outline and objectives for the course

A2—January 9: How to study Commodities I

A3—January 11: Sugar in Hawai’i
Sweetness and Power, Introduction & Chapter 1

Honolulu, Hawaii — January 12

A4—January 14: How to study commodities II

A5—January 17: How to study commodities III

No Class — January 19

A6—January 20: Rice in Japan in interdisciplinary perspective

A7—January 22: Guanxi and Social Relations in Interdisciplinary Perspective

Sweetness and Power, chapter 3

Kobe, Japan — January 24-28

A8—January 29:
Film: Mardi Gras: Made in China
Paper 1 due on Mintz

Shanghai, China — January 31 - February 1

In-Transit — February 2-3

Hong Kong, SAR — February 4-5

A9—February 6:
planning for Field Lab; and

Markets and Consumerism in Vietnam in Interdisciplinary Perspective

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam — February 8-13 field class – February 9

A10—February 14:
Field lab follow-up; and Teak in Burma/Myanmar
http://www.kcl.ac.uk/sspp/departments/geography/research/Research-Domains/Contested-Development/Bryant2.pdf

No Class —February 16

A11—February 17: group work on Field Project

Yangon, Myanmar — February 19-23

A12—February 24: Colonialism and Commodities

**A13—February 26: Nationalism and Commodities**
Lucy Norris, ““The Future of Handloom Textiles in Kerala”
Devishobha Ramanan, “The Resurgence Of The Indian Handloom” The Huffington Post
Field Lab project due

**Cochin, India — February 28 – March 5**

**A14—March 6:**
No reading – review of commodities journals and discussion

**No Class — March 7**

**A15—March 9: Nation as Commodity**

**Port Louis, Mauritius — March 11**

**A16—March 12: How to Study Commodities IV**

**A17—March 14: Artistic Production in Cape Town**


**A18—March 16: Gold in South Africa/Labor and Extractive Production**

**Cape Town, South Africa — March 18-23**

**A19—March 24: How to Study Commodities V**
A20—March 26: Commodities and Waste

A21—March 28: An African City
Video: An African City, episode one “The Return”

Tema, Ghana — March 30 - April 1

Takoradi, Ghana — April 2-3

A22—April 4: Orientalism and Commodities

A23—April 6:
Study Day — April 8

A24—April 9: No reading, discussion and review for Final Exam; commodities log and reflection paper due

Casablanca, Morocco — April 11-14

A25—April 15: Final Exam

Arrive Bremerhaven, Germany — April 19

FIELD WORK
Semester at Sea field experiences allow for an unparalleled opportunity to compare, contrast, and synthesize the different cultures and countries encountered over the course of the voyage. In addition to the one field class, students will complete independent field assignments that span multiple countries.

Field Class attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field class. Field Classes constitute at least 20% of the contact hours for each course.
Field Class & Assignment

The Field Class for this course will take place on Friday, 9 February in Ho Chi Minh City.

Field Class Title: Markets and Commodities in Ho Chi Minh City

Field Class Description:

Students will divide into teams and pick a global commodity to be observed in port. They will develop a set of questions for observation or brief interviews. In a market Ho Chi Minh City each team will work together to answer their questions. There will be a group assignment due after the field class reporting on the results.

After lunch, students will visit the Adidas factory to learn about global factory production.

Learning Objectives:

1. Practice interviewing, observation, and note-taking techniques
2. Observe how a given commodity is marketed in one city.
3. Compare to observations in other ports as recorded in commodity journals
4. Learn about global factory production

Independent Field Assignments

Students will keep a commodity journal through their voyage and will collect observations in different ports. These journals will be reviewed periodically and students will develop further questions for observation based on previous observations. The final exam will consist of a series of questions that students will answer based on the material in their journals.

METHODS OF EVALUATION / GRADING SCALE

The following Grading Scale is utilized for student evaluation. Pass/Fail is not an option for Semester at Sea coursework. Note that C-, D+ and D- grades are also not assigned on Semester at Sea in accordance with the grading system at Colorado State University (the SAS partner institution).

Pluses and minuses are awarded as follows on a 100% scale:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Excellent</th>
<th>Good</th>
<th>Satisfactory/Poor</th>
<th>Failing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>97-100%: A+</td>
<td>87-89%: B+</td>
<td>77-79%: C+</td>
<td>Less than 60%:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93-96%: A</td>
<td>83-86%: B</td>
<td>70-76%: C</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-92%: A-</td>
<td>80-82%: B-</td>
<td>60-69%: D</td>
<td></td>
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METHODS OF EVALUATION
Attendance and Participation:  10%
Paper 1 on Sweetness and Power, (3-5 pages):  20%  due A8/January 29
Field Lab Assignment/Team Project:  25%  A13— February 26
Commodities log and reflection paper:  20%  due A24— April 9:
Final exam:  25%  A25—April 15

ATTENDANCE/ENGAGEMENT IN THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

 Attendance in all Semester at Sea classes, including the Field Class, is mandatory. Students must inform their instructors prior to any unanticipated absence and take the initiative to make up missed work in a timely fashion. Instructors must make reasonable efforts to enable students to make up work which must be accomplished under the instructor’s supervision (e.g., examinations, laboratories). In the event of a conflict in regard to this policy, individuals may appeal using established CSU procedures.

LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS

 Semester at Sea provides academic accommodations for students with diagnosed learning disabilities, in accordance with ADA guidelines. Students who will need accommodations in a class, should contact ISE to discuss their individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation.

 A letter from the student’s home institution verifying the accommodations received on their home campus (dated within the last three years) is required before any accommodation is provided on the ship. Students must submit this verification of accommodations to academic@isevoyages.org as soon as possible, but no later than two months prior to the voyage.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

 The foundation of a university is truth and knowledge, each of which relies in a fundamental manner upon academic integrity and is diminished significantly by academic misconduct. Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and taking credit for one’s own work. A pervasive attitude promoting academic integrity enhances the sense of community and adds value to the educational process. All within the University are affected by the cooperative commitment to academic integrity. All Semester at Sea courses adhere to this Academic Integrity Policy and Student Conduct Code.

 Depending on the nature of the assignment or exam, the faculty member may require a written declaration of the following honor pledge: “I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance on this exam/assignment.”

RESERVE BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY
None.
FILM REQUEST:

Title of Film: Mardi Gras: Made in China
Distributor: Carnivalesque Films

An African City, episode one “The Return”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kg7hUuWKe2U

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS


Tenchi Tenno and Katsushika Hokusai “Coarse the Rush-Mat Roof”
http://www.scholten-japanese-art.com/hokusai-16.htm

Nicole Foster, “The Changing Face of China’s Banquet Culture”
https://milieumag.wordpress.com/2014/12/19/the-changing-face-of-chinas-banquet-culture/


http://www.kcl.ac.uk/sspp/departments/geography/research/Research-Domains/Contested-Development/Bryant2.pdf


Devisshobha Ramanan, “The Resurgence Of The Indian Handloom” The Huffington Post, September 6, 2016  
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/devishobha-ramanan/the-resurgence-of-the-ind_1_b_11864286.html


**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

None.