Course Title:
Topics in International Studies: International Activism

Course Number:
IAS 5940-116

Course Description:
This course examines the role that nongovernmental actors and individuals play in international relations as they work independently and in concert to advocate for various transnational causes. The goal of this course is to raise awareness and enhance our understanding of the multitude of actors that work internationally to address issues of concern and how we might potentially contribute. As such we will explore the history of the study of activism, the evolution of activism and activist causes, the tools and messaging used as well as explore the different types of activism.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:

Dates: September 11-13 & 18-20, 2015
Location: Room 2039, College of Allied Health, OU Health Sciences Center, 1200 N. Stonewall, Oklahoma City, OK 73117-1215
Hours: Fri 5:30-9:30 p.m.; Sat 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Sun 1:00-5:00 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: August 13, 2015

Site Director:
Steve Watson. Assistant: Kay Crawford. Phone: (405) 739-7365 or DSN 339-7365; Fax: (405) 739-7365; E-mail: apokc@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:

Course Professor: Rebecca J. Cruise Ph.D.
Mailing Address: College of International Studies
729 Elm St.
Hester Hall 118
Norman, OK 73019
Telephone Number: (405) 325-1075
E-mail Address: rebeccajcruise@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
Student materials are available at the OU Follett Bookstore located at 1185 Asp Avenue; Norman, OK, and can be ordered online, by phone, by email, or by fax. Ordering online at http://www.bkstr.com/oklahomastore/home is strongly recommended – students can track the status of their order within 48 hours. If an order has not been shipped within three days, students can contact the Follett textbook manager by phone (405) 325-3511, (800) 522-0772 (toll-free) or email 0831mgr@fheg.follett.com. Phone orders (ask for the textbook manager and identify yourself as an Advanced Programs student) can be placed 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday (CST). Summer hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (CST). Fax orders can be placed 24 hours a day at (405) 325-7770. Text prices are available online.


5. Additional materials posted on the OU Desire to Learn (D2L) system: Access D2L at http://learn.ou.edu; enter your OU NetID and password, and select course to access material. Please contact your local Site Director if you require assistance.

Note: Follett is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through Follett.

Course Objectives:
1. Students will understand that activism is much more than protesting in the street, it is an ever-evolving means of advancing a cause or challenging the status quo.
2. Students will know the difference between political activism, social activism and social entrepreneurialism.
3. Students will investigate an international Non-Governmental Organization to see not just what cause the NGO is advocating for, but how it is doing so.
4. Students will leave this class understanding that activism is incredibly difficult, but that it is also empowering- small steps can add up.

Course Topics and Readings:
The Study and Practice of Activism
- Read: The Life you Can Save in its entirety (it is a relatively easy read)
- Read: Activists Beyond Borders Chaps. 1 & 2

Social and Political Activism
- Read: Activists Beyond Borders Chaps. 3, 4, & 5
- Read: Networks of Outrage and Hope in its entirety

Social Entrepreneurialism
- Read: Banker to the Poor in its entirety
- View: The New Heroes from PBS.org (Kailash Satyarthi, Albine Ruiz and Muhammad Yunis)

Assignments, Grading, and Due Dates:
This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.
- Participation – 15%
- Essay x 2 – 20% each
- Group Presentations – 15%
- Final Exam – 30%

Notice: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc…in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc…; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at http://studentconduct.ou.edu/

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA

Rebecca J. Cruise PhD

Education

- PhD Political Science, University of Oklahoma. 5/2011
- Fields: Comparative Politics, International Relations, American Politics

Current Positions

- Assistant Dean and Lecturer OU College of International Studies
- Teaching at OU, in some capacity, for 6 years

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

- Security Studies
- International Institutions
- Comparative Politics of Post-Communist Europe
- Female Political Participation
- International Activism and Leadership
- Maritime Security

Representative Publications

Representative Honors and Awards Received

- DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Grant: 4 Months research in Leipzig, Germany
- American Council of Learned Societies: Language Training Grant: Study in Romania
- University of Oklahoma POLL Fellowship for Quantitative Research
- Presidential International Travel Fellowship for Fieldwork in the Western Balkans

Major Professional Affiliations

- American Political Science Association
- Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies
- Association for Women in Slavic Studies
- Midwest Political Science Association