Tufts University, Spring 2013

Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:30-2:45 p.m. (Block G+)
Location: Science & Technology Building 136

Professor Nimah Mazaheri
Office: Packard Hall 306
Office Hours: Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
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Syllabus draft: 01/16/13

Course Description:

This course examines the relationship between governments, the private sector, and the citizenry in countries around the world. It discusses the relationship between governments and private sectors throughout history and describes the political, regulatory, institutional, market, legal, and civic context in which private sectors function. The course also looks at how business owners and entrepreneurs have shaped political and economic outcomes in both the United States and other countries. The roles of entrepreneurship, credit, and the informal economy are examined in detail. Throughout the course, a central theme is exploring and understanding the nature of government regulation, how regulation affects businesses, and how regulation affects societal welfare.

Course Texts:

The following three texts are required and available for purchase at the Tufts bookstore:

- Sylvia Maxfield and Ben Ross Schneider, Business and the State in Developing Countries (Cornell University Press, 1997)
- Hernando De Soto, The Other Path (Basic Books, 2002)

All other course readings will be made available through Trunk. Many readings are also available on JSTOR or online. If you have difficulties accessing a text please let me know as soon as possible.
Course Requirements:

Class participation (10 percent)
Exam 1 (25 percent)
Exam 2 (25 percent)
First Draft of Research Paper (10 percent)
Final Draft of Research Paper (30 percent)

Numerical grades are converted to letters based on the following scale:

97 – 100 = A+
94 – 96 = A
90 – 93 = A–
87 – 89 = B+
84 – 86 = B
80 – 83 = B–
77 – 79 = C+
74 – 76 = C
70 – 73 = C–
65 – 70 = D
Below 65 = F

Information about the Exams:

There will be two exams that each count for 25 percent of your final grade. They will both be taken in class and will consist of short identification questions and essays.

Information about the Research Paper:

The major requirement for this course is a 15-page (double-spaced) research paper on a topic that pertains to government and business. All topics should be developed in consultation with me and I encourage you to come to my office hours to discuss your ideas.

A two-page proposal outlining your paper is due on February 13th. Failure to hand in a proposal will result in the final paper being graded down one letter grade.

The proposal should do the following: (1) explain what your research question is; (2) explain your working hypothesis/hypotheses; (3) briefly describe how you will empirically assess your hypothesis/hypotheses (i.e., what kinds of source materials will be used). Feedback will then be provided on your proposal.

A first draft of the paper will be due April 1st. This will be worth 10 percent of your final grade. The final draft of the paper will be due May 8th at 11:59 pm.
Expectations and Other Notes:

1. For any short questions, brief requests, etc., please contact me via email and I will try to respond within 24 hours. For questions about the readings, discussion about research paper topics, etc., I encourage you to visit me during my office hours which are Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm in Packard Hall room 306.

2. Attendance is mandatory and readings must be completed by the class for which they are assigned. Bring your readings to class as we will refer to them during discussions.

3. If you are requesting an accommodation, as a result of a documented disability, you must register with the Disability Services Office at the beginning of the semester. To do so, call the Student Services Desk at 617-627-2000 to arrange an appointment with Sandra Baer, Program Director of Disability Services.

4. Please be sure to familiarize yourself with the university’s handbook on Academic Integrity which is found here: http://uss.tufts.edu/studentaffairs/handbook/campus/academicintegrity.asp. Students who are found to be cheating on exams, plagiarizing the work of others, or committing other actions that violate academic integrity will receive an “F” as the final grade for the course. If you have any concerns about what constitutes plagiarism, feel free to visit me during office hours and we can go over some examples.

Important Dates

February 13 – Paper proposal due
February 21 – Exam 1
April 1 – First draft of paper due
April 24 – Exam 2
May 8, 11:59 p.m. – Final draft of paper due

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Wednesday, January 16: Introduction to the Class

Wednesday, January 23: Key Concepts
   1. Levi. 2010. “World Bank Institute Learning Briefs” (there are five to read)
   2. Maxfield and Schneider. 1997. Business and the State in Developing Countries, Ch. 1

Monday, January 28: Studying Government and Business
   1. Maxfield and Schneider. 1997. Business and the State in Developing Countries, Ch. 2

Wednesday, January 30: Regulation

**Monday, February 4: Regulation and Deregulation**


**Wednesday, February 6: Regulation and Deregulation**


**Monday, February 11: Regulation and Deregulation**


**Wednesday, February 13: Intro to Government and Business in Developing Countries**

*Paper Proposal Due*

2. Thorp and Durand. 1997. “A Historical View of Business-State Relations: Colombia, Peru, and Venezuela Compared.” Chapter 8 in *Business and the State in Developing Countries*.

**Wednesday, February 20: Interest Groups**


**Thursday, February 21**

*Exam 1*

**Monday, February 25: Government and Business in the U.S.**


**Wednesday, February 27: Government and Business in the U.S.**


**Monday, March 4: Government and Business in the U.S.**


**Wednesday, March 6: Business Associations**

Monday, March 11: The “Asian Tigers”

Wednesday, March 13: Business and Social Insurance

Monday, March 25: Trade and Foreign Direct Investment

Wednesday, March 27: International Forces and Innovation

Monday, April 1: Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs)
*First Draft of Paper Due*

Wednesday, April 3: Entrepreneurship

Monday, April 8: Government, Institutions, and the Informal Sector
1. De Soto, Hernando. The Other Path, Preface and Chs. 1-3

Wednesday, April 10: Government, Institutions, and the Informal Sector
1. De Soto, Hernando. The Other Path, Chs. 4-6

Wednesday, April 17: Government, Institutions, and the Informal Sector
1. De Soto, Hernando. The Other Path, Chs. 7-8

Monday, April 22: The Politicization of Business
Wednesday, April 24

* Exam 2 *

Monday, April 29: The Politicization of Business


** The research paper is due Wednesday, May 8, 2013 at 11:59 pm. Please send it to me as an email attachment (Word or PDF file).