SEC 6391
Directed Studies: Lauren Novak
Fall B 2017

Introduction: The course will be a substitute for the SEC 6329 course.

Course Description: While Security Issues in Asia I focuses on issues of conflict and tension, this course is an introduction to the political economy of Asia. Students will explore the theory and practice of how economic motives affect political decisions and how most political decisions have economic repercussions, both domestically and in Asia. This course reviews and explores the key themes of Asia’s contemporary political economy. In doing so, it concentrates on Asia’s relationship with the global political economy, and raises questions about the nature of state action in Asian countries.

Background: China has played an increasing role in issues related to the South China Sea. Some would argue that China’s role there is resource driven and that their practices may be more harmful than beneficial. Likewise, China’s growing presence may also be seen displacing United States influence and partnership in the region. In addition, China’s interests in the region have gone beyond energy resources and development and have larger economic and security ramifications.

Lesson Objectives for Directed Studies Course:

- Investigate the nature of the contentions that exist in the South China Sea
- Research the role of China’s involvement in the South China Sea and how it is affecting international politics.
- How does developments in the South China Sea affect world trade.
- Understand the economic factors relating to fisheries and other development.
- Evaluate the role of militaries in the South China Sea.
- Determine what economic interests China has in Africa outside of energy and fisheries resources and the economic ramifications of such pursuits

Assessment: You will write one 25 page essay in order to satisfy the lesson objectives.

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Student Signature                                                                                                 Date
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Faculty Signature                                                                                                  Date
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