Syllabus

ECON 360  Comparative Economic Systems
St. Cloud State University  Professor King Banaian
Fall 2008  SH 386A, office phone 308-4797

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Bulletin description:
Real and ideal economic systems including capitalism, socialism, and communism.

Elaborate description:
This course is designed to be a discussion of the different ways societies organize to advance from subsistence to a better material life. Historically mankind lived at a subsistence level from the start of human history until approximately 250 years ago. Since then there has been a rapid increase in living standards, more in the West than elsewhere. Comparing those countries that achieved that breakthrough and those that did not will make up the majority of the work in this course.

Texts:
Mancur Olson, Power and Prosperity. (Basic Books, 2000.)
Daniel Yergin and Joseph Stanislaw, The Commanding Heights. (Simon and Schuster, 2002.)

Both books available at campus bookstores and through other booksellers on the internet and through bookstores.

There will be much reading and writing in this course. If you are looking for an easy upper division course, this is not the one for you. Be prepared to take time to read and write!

Evaluation:
- Midterm Exam – 25% of grade, to be held October 21.
- Final Exam – 35% of grade, to be held Tuesday December 16 at 10:15am in this classroom.
- Reaction papers – 15% of grade to three reactions to readings or lectures to be offered in class. First one will be given in class today, the first class day. If you miss the class, you miss that offering. There are at least six such reactions offered; you need only do three. You are welcome to do more than three, in which case I will give you your three highest scores. These are the easiest points in the course.
- Book review – 25% of grade. The books on the last page are all available via Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Borders or other such booksellers. I expect you to write a 6-8 page, double-spaced review of the book. Grades for both reaction papers and the book review depend both on form and content. Marking sheets (what I use to determine paper grades) will be distributed after the first reaction paper.
- There is no attendance policy. However, missing class is a surefire way to do poorly on exams.
NOTE: The readings below contain hyperlinks that will allow you to retrieve materials over the internet. All links were good as of 8/26/2008. Please email me with any links that you think have gone dead. In many cases you are getting access through licenses purchased by the campus and thus need to log into your Huskynet account to be able to use the links provided. All readings are required unless otherwise noted as “recommended.” Those I will lecture from, but not test on.

This list may change with little notice – particularly the portion after the midterm – so please return to this page frequently on the website.

| Week of (set on Tuesday) |  
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| August 26                | ✓ Leonard Read, *J. Pencil*.  
|                          | ✓ Olson, Chapter 1  
|                          | ✓ *Economical Writing*  
|                          | ✓ Podcast with Bruce Bueno de Mesquita (recommended)  
| September 16             | ✓ Olson, Chapters 2-3.  
| September 23             | ✓ Olson, Chapter 4.  
| September 30             | ✓ Olson, Chapter 5  
| October 7                | ✓ Olson, Chapter 6  
|                          | ✓ Yergin, Introduction  
| October 21               | **MIDTERM EXAM.** Covers Olson chapters 1-6 and readings by Read, Roberts, Kremer, Simons, Posner, Hirshleifer, and Greif.  
| October 28               | ✓ Yergin, Chapters 1-2.  
|                          | ✓ Buchanan and Wagner, *Democracy in Deficit, Chapter 3*  
| November 4               | ✓ Yergin, Chapters 3-4.  
|                          | ✓ Olson, Chapter 7.  
| November 11              | ✓ Yergin, Chapters 5-6.  
|                          | ✓ Interview with Amy Chua.  
| November 18              | ✓ Yergin, Chapters 7-8.  

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 25</td>
<td>✓ Olson, Chapters 8-9.</td>
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<td>✓ Yergin, Chapters 9-10.</td>
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<td>✓ Olson, Chapter 10.</td>
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<td>December 2</td>
<td>✓ Yergin, Chapters 11-12.</td>
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<td>December 9</td>
<td>✓ Yergin, Chapters 13-14.</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 16</td>
<td>FINAL EXAM at <strong>10:15 am</strong></td>
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BOOK LIST FOR REVIEWS: You are responsible for finding your own book. More than one student may do any of these books, but I want to know which title by November 4, at which time you will assure me that you have located a copy of that book.


