Course Description and Learning Objectives

Since the rise of polities, powerful political entities have maintained their relationships with weaker allies and partners by providing or withholding gifts. In modern times, powerful nation states continue this practice by deploying a range of instruments - economic, military, and social - in pursuit of national interests. This course is designed to introduce students to the role of infrastructure financing, construction and ownership as one such tool in the practice of foreign policy. It will explore the intentions and motivations of both providing and receiving countries. We will examine the interaction of these dynamics within the constraints of the norms and institutions of the international system. The course will serve as a foundation for students who intend to pursue careers in international development and foreign policy. It will provide the tools to understand state-led programs like China’s Belt and Road Initiative and the Marshall Plan.

Assignments and in-class exercises will help students to develop skills in the design and analysis of large bilateral and multilateral infrastructure programs. While there are no formal prerequisites, the course structure assumes students already have a reasonable level of familiarity with introductory IR theories.

Course Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course students should be able to:-

1. Explain why infrastructure is a key feature of foreign policy
2. Identify, describe and analyze the motivations, processes and actors involved in bilateral and multilateral provision of infrastructure
3. Describe the importance of IFIs in this sector, especially in low- and middle-income countries
4. Understand, synthesize, and implement strategies to promote the effective use of infrastructure development from the perspectives of providing states, receiving states and multilateral institutions

5. **Credits**: 3

**Method of Student Evaluation:**

**Attendance** 10%

**Reading Response**: 10%

Students are required to submit a 300/350-word response to each set of weekly readings. These responses are not meant to be a summary of readings, but student reaction to concepts and views covered in the readings. Response submissions are due by midnight each Thursday. Responses submitted after midnight will not be accepted.

**Mid-term 40% -**

An in class written exam on the ideas and concepts covered in the preceding weeks. The exam will last 90 minutes, and normal coursework will follow.

**Completion of policy brief 40%**

Students assume the role of countries or international financial institutions offering infrastructure or receiving countries requesting infrastructure. The policy briefs will be addressed to the Principal making the investment decision and will utilize concepts covered in the class to provide a compelling basis/justification for the offer/request.

**ADA student accommodations:** include the following statement “Any student who believes they may need assistance should inform the Harris Dean of Students office by the end of the first week of class. The Dean of Students office will coordinate any student accommodations with Harris instructors.”

**Academic Dishonesty statement and penalties:**

*All University of Chicago students are expected to uphold the highest standards of academic Integrity and honesty. Among other things, this means that students shall not represent another’s work as their own, use un-allowed materials during exams, or otherwise gain unfair academic advantage. All students suspected of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Harris Dean of Students for investigation and adjudication. The disciplinary process can result in sanctions up to and including suspension or expulsion from the University. In addition to disciplinary sanctions, I will impose a grade penalty of a full letter deduction for students who have committed academic dishonesty. The Harris policy and procedures related to academic integrity can be found at [https://harris.uchicago.edu/gateways/current-students/policies](https://harris.uchicago.edu/gateways/current-students/policies). The University of Chicago Policy on Academic Honesty & Plagiarism can be found at [https://studentmanual.uchicago.edu/academic-policies/academic-honesty-plagiarism/](https://studentmanual.uchicago.edu/academic-policies/academic-honesty-plagiarism/).*
### SEQUENCE OF ACTIVITIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, April 1st</td>
<td>Class Session 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, April 8th</td>
<td>Class Session 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>International Institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday April 15th</td>
<td>Class Session 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Historical Precedents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, April 22nd</td>
<td>Class Session 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>US Experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday April 29th</td>
<td>Class Session 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>China in the World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, May 6th</td>
<td>Class Session 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>China in Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Friday, May 13th</strong></td>
<td><strong>Class Session 7</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Midterm/ Private Sector Clinic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, May 20th</td>
<td>Class Session 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Multilateral Clinic/Final Paper Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, May 27th</td>
<td>Class Session 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Final Paper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Due by 11:59 p.m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Prerequisites:** NONE

**Required Readings:**

Syllabus

Week 1: Introduction

- Talk through syllabus, discuss paper, first 10 minutes current affairs
- Introductions
- Lecture: Westphalia and sovereignty, IR theories, National Interests– What is infrastructure? Why is it important?
Week 2: International institutions – (Guest: Scott Morris)

- Students to choose paper position
- [https://www.federalreservehistory.org/essays/bretton_woods_created](https://www.federalreservehistory.org/essays/bretton_woods_created)
- Paris Club – [https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RS21482.pdf](https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RS21482.pdf)
- Birdsall, Nancy and Scott Morris. Five Innovations at the AIIB. 2017. [https://www.cgdev.org/blog/five-innovations-aiib](https://www.cgdev.org/blog/five-innovations-aiib)
- The Global Financial Crisis: The Role of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) - [https://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metacr10813/](https://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metacr10813/)
- ABCs of the IFIs: The African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development [https://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/AfDBADBIFAD.pdf](https://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/AfDBADBIFAD.pdf)
Week 3: Historical Precedents

- [https://hbswk.hbs.edu/item/panama-canal-troubled-history-astounding-turnaround](https://hbswk.hbs.edu/item/panama-canal-troubled-history-astounding-turnaround)
- [https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/panama-canal-helped-make-u-s-world-power](https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/panama-canal-helped-make-u-s-world-power)
- Masuda, Masayuki. *Japan’s Changing ODA Policy Towards China*. China Perspectives, 47 May-June 2003, [https://journals.openedition.org/chinaperspectives/358](https://journals.openedition.org/chinaperspectives/358)
  Chapters 1, 3, 6 & 9

Week 4: US Experience (Guest: Deborah Brautigam)

- Lecture: history of US infrastructure investment
- Mutual Security Act of 1951 – [https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/STATUTE-78/pdf/STATUTE-78-Pg1015.pdf#page=1](https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/STATUTE-78/pdf/STATUTE-78-Pg1015.pdf#page=1)
- (Marshall Plan), DLF, USAID,
- USDFC, USEXIM

Week 5: China in the World

- Afzal, Madiha “At all Costs: How Pakistan and China Control the Narrative on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor
- Belt and Road Economics: Opportunities and Risks of Transport Corridors – World Bank Report (Overview, Chapter 1)
- Economy, Elizabeth C. “The Game Changer Coping With China’s Foreign Policy Revolution” Foreign Affairs November/December 2010
- Gelpern et al, “How China Lends: A Rare Look into 100 Debt Contracts with Foreign Governments” Intro, Section 3 to Conclusion
Nugent, Ciara and Charlie Campbell “The U.S. and China Are Battling for Influence in Latin America, and the Pandemic Has Raised the Stakes”
https://time.com/5936037/us-china-latin-america-influence/

https://www.visualcapitalist.com/global-chinese-financing-is-fueling-megaprojects/


- “Examining the Debt Implications of BRI”

Week 6: China in Africa (Guest: Eric Orlander)

- Lecture: China and Africa –
- Rand Institute. “China in Africa: Implications of a Deepening Relationship”
  https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RB9760.html
- Parks, Brad et al. “Aid on Demand: African Leaders and the Geography of China’s Foreign Assistance”


Week 7: MIDTERM (First 90 minutes for test followed by regular class)/

- Private sector clinic on the structure of a private sector led infra project

Week 8: Clinic/practitioners

- MDB clinic on the process of infrastructure investment from concept to 1st disbursement

Week 9: Paper Due