Course Description:

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. Clearly explain infrastructure as a key foreign policy tool
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.

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. The University of Chicago Policy on Academic Honesty & Plagiarism can be found at https://studentmanual.uchicago.edu/academic-policies/academic-honesty-plagiarism/
Course Timeline:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>WEEK #/CLASS DATE</th>
<th>KEY IN-CLASS ACTIVITIES, ASSIGNMENTS &amp; MILESTONES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1/ Fri Mar 24</td>
<td>Course Orientation and Overview/ Introduction</td>
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<td>Week 2/ Fri Mar 31</td>
<td>International Institutions</td>
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<td>Week 3/ Fri April 7</td>
<td>Historical Precedents</td>
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<td>Week 4/ Fri April 14</td>
<td>US Experience</td>
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<td>Week 5/ Fri April 21</td>
<td>China in the World</td>
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<td>Week 6/ Fri April 28</td>
<td>China in Africa</td>
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<td>Week 7/ Fri May 5</td>
<td>Midterm Exams/Private Sector Workshop – Project Cycle</td>
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<td>Week 8/ Fri May 12</td>
<td>Multilateral Workshop – Project Cycle</td>
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<td>Week 9/ Fri May 19</td>
<td>Draft Policy Memo Overview /Final Paper Review</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finals Week/May 26</td>
<td>Final Paper Due at 11:59 PM</td>
</tr>
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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?
- Corporate Finance Institute
Week 2: International institutions – (Guest: Scott Morris - @Morris_ScottA)

- 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/metacrs10813/](https://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metacrs10813/)

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
• Wolmar, Christian. Railroads and the Raj: How the Steam Engine Transformed India
  Washington: Atlantic Books 2018 (Chapters 1,5,7)

Week 4: US Experience

• 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
• (Marshall Plan), DLF, USAID,

• Millennium Challenge Corporation – https://www.cgdev.org/publication/ft/overview-millennium-challenge-corporation
• USDFC, USEXIM
• White House B3W Factsheet - https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/12/fact-sheet-president-biden-and-g7-leaders-launch-build-back-better-world-b3w-partnership/

Week 5: China in the World (Guest: Damien Ma - @damienics)

• 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)
• Brautigam, Deborah and Meg Rithmire “Chinese ‘Debt Trap’ is a Myth” The Atlantic, 6 Feb. 2021 https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2021/02/china-debt-trap-diplomacy/617953
• 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/

Picture:  

- “Examining the Debt Implications of BRI”  

Week 6: China in Africa  (Guest: TBD)

- Lecture: China and Africa –
- "African Scramble."  
  Financial Times, London, United Kingdom, 28 September 2007,  
https://www.ft.com/content/bf484d66-6df3-11dc-b8ab-0000779fd2ac
- Chen, Yunnan. “Cooperation with European characteristics? Lessons from China for the EU–Africa summit”  
- Global Gateway Press Release:  
- “China in Africa: Implications of a Deepening Relationship”  
  Rand Institute. Arlington, VA., 31 December 2013,  
https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RB9760.html
- Why it Costs so Much to Move Goods Around Africa.”  
  Economist, London, United Kingdom, 25 March 2022,  

Leslie Ngoma, Agnes, “Zambia and China: Workers’ Protest, Civil Society and the Role of

**Week 7:** MIDTERM (First 90 minutes for test followed by regular class)/
  • Private sector workshop on private finance of infrastructure (Project Cycle – concept to financial close)

**Week 8:** Multilateral Financing/practitioners
  • MDB clinic on the process of infrastructure investment from concept to 1st disbursement

**Week 9:** Policy Memo Review/Final Paper Overview

**Week 10:** Final Paper Due at 11:59 PM