The Graduate School of Political Management
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

M.P.S. in Political Management
Semester: Summer

Political Risk Assessment
PMGT 6490.10
3 Credits
Syllabus version 0.9.3
Syllabus version date 5/1/2017

Thursday evenings 7:10-9:40 p.m.
Funger Hall, Room 221

BASIC INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instructors</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M. Robert Carr, JD</td>
<td>+1-202-251-7755 <a href="mailto:bcarr@gwu.edu">bcarr@gwu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Woo, Ph.D.</td>
<td>+1-646-463-3038 <a href="mailto:davidwoo101@yahoo.com">davidwoo101@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Communication
Carr: If urgent, as in notification of absence or tardiness, text to mobile number above. Text messages are usually answered within minutes. If not urgent, as in submission of papers or routine questions, email to address above. Emails are usually answered within 24-48 hours. I am normally available on the day of class after 5 p.m. or by mutually agreed upon appointment.

Woo: If urgent, as in notification of absence or tardiness, text to mobile number above. If not urgent, as in submission of papers or routine questions, email to address above. Emails are usually answered within 24-48 hours. I will be available for phone calls or Skype by mutually agreed upon appointment.

Blackboard Site
A Blackboard course site has been set up for this course. Each student is expected to check the site throughout the semester, as Blackboard will be the primary venue for outside classroom communications between the instructors and the students. Students can access the course site at https://blackboard.gwu.edu. Support for Blackboard is available at 202-994-4948 or helpdesk.gwu.edu.

Academic Integrity
All members of the university community are expected to exhibit honesty and competence in their academic work. Students have a special responsibility to acquaint themselves with, and make use of, all proper procedures for doing research, writing papers, and taking exams. Members of the community will be presumed to be familiar with the proper academic procedures and will be held responsible for applying them. Deliberate failure to act in accordance with such procedures will be considered academic dishonesty. Academic dishonesty is defined as “cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one’s own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information.” Acts of academic dishonesty are a legal, moral, and intellectual offense against the community and will be prosecuted through the
proper university channels. The University Code of Academic Integrity can be found at http://studentconduct.gwu.edu/code-academic-integrity.

Support for Students with Disabilities
GW’s Disability Support Services (DSS) provides and coordinates accommodations and other services for students with a wide variety of disabilities, as well as those temporarily disabled by injury or illness. Accommodations are available through DSS to facilitate academic access for students with disabilities. Please notify your instructor if you require accommodations. Additional information is available at https://disabilitysupport.gwu.edu/.

In the Event of an Emergency or Crisis during Class
If we experience some an emergency during class time, we will try to stay at this location until we hear that we can move about safely. If we must leave here, we will meet at the southwest corner of the intersection of 22nd and G Streets, NW to account for everyone and to make certain that everyone is safe. Please refer to Campus Advisories for the latest information on the University’s operating status: http://www.campusadvisories.gwu.edu/.

Attendance Policy
Attendance is required. Further, prior notification of absence or expected late arrival or early departure is required. Notification must be made to the professor of the class session at issue. Two or more absences from the summer semester (1/5 of the classes) will result in a failing class participation grade.

Out-of-Class/ Independent Learning Expectation
Over the course of the semester, students will spend at least 3.5 hours (210 minutes) per week in class. Required reading for the class meetings and written response papers or projects are expected to take up, on average, 7 hours (350 minutes) per week. Over the course of the semester, students will spend 35 hours in instructional time and 87.5 hours preparing for class.

Course Evaluation
At the end of the semester, students will be given the opportunity to evaluate the course through GW’s online course evaluation system. It is very important that you take the time to complete an evaluation. Students are also encouraged to provide feedback throughout the course of the semester by contacting the following:

Michael Cohen, Ph.D.
Deputy Director, Political Management Program
michaeldcohen@gwu.edu 202-994-5512

Jack Prostko, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Learning and Faculty Development
College of Professional Studies
jackp@gwu.edu | 202-994-3592

Suzanne Farrand
Director of Academic Administration, GSPM
sfarrand@gwu.edu | 202-994-9309
THE COURSE

Political Management Program Objectives
A Political Management degree prepares students to win campaigns for elective office and policy positions, and to do so in a manner that benefits democracy and society as well as their organization and clients.

In completing the degree, students will be able to:
1. Assess a political environment, develop a strategy to achieve specified goals, and execute that strategy;
2. Draw upon a repertoire of effective campaign communication skills;
3. Collect, evaluate, and incorporate empirical evidence to shape and optimize the strategy;
4. Find, engage, and motivate the right leaders, professionals, and citizens;
5. Recognize and work through recurring political dilemmas in a manner that upholds ethical standards and professional conduct.

Graduate School Expectations
Students enrolled in a graduate program should take their academic responsibilities seriously and be prepared to meet the following expectations:
1. Utilize effective time management skills to complete and submit their assignments on their required due dates and times.
2. Have attained a mastery of written communication skills including proper sentence structure, grammar, spelling, and word usage.
3. Understand how to properly format in-text citations and references for resources and information integrated into their written assignments.

GSPM prepares students for careers in the professional political world. In politics, words and deadlines matter. Excellent written communication skills are essential for success. Every word used, whether it is in a television or radio ad, direct mail piece, social media, or a press release, will be scrutinized. Similarly, deadlines are important. Election Day does not get postponed because a candidate and their campaign are not prepared. There are no “do-overs” because a direct mail piece did not arrive to its intended recipients until after the election was concluded. Students will be best positioned for success in the practical political world if they have developed and exercise excellent written communication and time management skills.

Course Description and Overview
Organizations, whether public or private, must continually monitor their operational environment about their mission, their opportunities, and their responsibilities. While this monitoring is, multidimensional and involves many disciplines, a key is making risk assessments. Since every organization operates in a political environment, political risk assessment is an essential element of decision-making. It is particularly important for organizations in the global environment, in many countries, and regions of the world that host multiple political systems.

This course focuses on learning the tools of political risk analysis and their use in identifying opportunities and pitfalls as organizations seek to maximize their mission advantage in the global environment.
The course uses a combination of theoretical underpinnings and case studies, that will lead to familiarity in assessing the operational characteristics of the political culture and institutions in the target countries. There will be a focus on governance competence, regulatory regimes, the health of civil society, the rule of law, fiscal integrity, demographics, to name a few. From those assessments, students will learn how to make recommendations regarding management of risk, mitigation of risk, and comparative risk evaluation.

**Course Learning Objectives**

1. Students will be able to employ the key tools of political risk analysis.

2. Students will gain an aptitude for analyzing key public finance and regulatory decisions that impact on organization’s objectives.

3. Students will be able to formulate and communicate comparative recommendations weighing the differentials and political risk.

**Course Requirements**

The course requirements as of this version (0.9) of the syllabus are still under consideration. It is likely the class will be divided into groups. The groups will likely be responsible for the constructing of political risk assessment projects. Additional, individual papers (no more than two) may be required.

**Evaluation and Grading**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Learning Objective(s) Addressed</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
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**Following is the grade scale for all GSPM classes:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade*</th>
<th>Grading Standard</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>94-100 Your work is outstanding and ready for submission in a professional</td>
</tr>
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</table>
environment. Your material, effort, research, and writing demonstrate superior work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-93</td>
<td>Represents solid work with minor errors. Overall, excellent work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>Very good. Represents well-written material, research, and presentation, but needs some minor work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
<td>Satisfactory work, but needs reworking and more effort. Note that although not a failing grade, at the graduate level, anything below a “B” is viewed as unacceptable.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>You’ve completed the assignment, but you are not meeting all the requirements.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>Needs improvement in content and in effort. Shows some motivation and concern.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>Needs reworking, improved effort, and additional research. Shows minimal motivation and concern.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72 (lowest grade to pass)</td>
<td>Poor performance. Major errors, too many misspellings, problems with accuracy, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 70</td>
<td>Unacceptable performance, or inability to submit the assignment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please note that you may be penalized for late submission of assignment(s).*

**Late Assignments**

For each day an assignment is late, it will be marked down one grade (e.g., from a B to a B-). An assignment that is one full week late will be counted as an "F." If you believe you have a legitimate "emergency" that makes it so that you will be unable to complete an assignment on time, please notify me as soon as possible to make alternate arrangements.

**Required Text and Learning Materials**


**Tentative Course Calendar**

Note: we reserve the right to alter course content and/or adjust the pace to accommodate class progress. Students are responsible for keeping up with all adjustments to the course calendar. Further, this is the first time this class is taught at GSPM. Expect modifications. The schedule lists the instructor responsible for the session even though the other instructor may also be in attendance.

**May 25, 2017**

Week 1 (Carr)

Topic and Content Covered:
Introductions, coarse organization, student/instructor expectations, and broad overview of course content.

Reading Due Today:

Assignment(s) Due Today:
Submit (via DOCX/PDF) a copy of your recent résumé or biography, noting your expected graduation date. Follow the file naming convention [last name] – Résumé (DOCX/PDF).

Submit via email message a request (if any) for a meeting to discuss any disability per the university standards.

**June 1, 2017**

Week 2 (Woo)

Topic and Content Covered:
Quantifying risk and a survey of major political-economic crises in the past 50 years

Reading Due Today:
Coleman, Ch. 1 and 2
Bremmer and Keat, Ch. 2 and 4
Reinhart and Rogoff, Ch. 1

Optional reading:
June 8, 2017  
Week 3 (Carr)

Topic and Content Covered:
Part I: Understanding the parameters of the political environment, institutional/legal structures, electoral and party systems, development stage analysis.

Reading Due Today:
Bremmer/Keat, Ch 4, 5, and 7

Assignment(s) Due Today:
TBA

June 15, 2017  
Week 4 (Carr)

Topic and Content Covered:
Part II: Understanding the parameters of the political environment, institutional/legal structures, electoral and party systems, development stage analysis.

Reading Due Today:
Acemoglu and Robinson, Ch. 3-4 and 13.

Assignment(s) Due Today:
Paper #1

June 22  
Week 5 (Woo)

Topic and Content Covered:
Part I: Understanding the economic environment

Reading Due Today:
Moss, Ch. 1-4

June 29  
Week 6 (Woo)

Topic and Content Covered:
Part II: Understanding the economic environment

Reading Due Today:
Moss, Ch. 6-7
Cimadomo, Claeys, and Poplawski-Ribeiro
Frankel and Rose
July 6, 2017
Week 7 (Woo)

Topic and Content Covered:
Political economy and introduction to game theory

Reading Due Today:
Oatley, Ch. 1-4
Bueno de Mesquita, Ch. 2-3

July 13
Week 8 (Carr)

Topic and Content Covered:
Political risks in post-Brexit, post-Trump
Reading Due Today:
TBA

Assignment(s) Due Today:
TBA

July 20
Week 9 (Woo)

Topic and Content Covered:
Managing risk techniques: transfer, pooling, diversification, reduction

Reading Due Today:
TBA

Assignment(s) Due Today:
Paper #2

July 27
Week 10 (Carr & Woo)

Topic and Content Covered:
Student presentations

Reading Due Today:
None

Assignment(s) Due Today:
Presentations
Copyright Statement

Unless explicitly allowed by the instructor, course materials, class discussions, and examinations are created for and expected to be used by class participants only. The recording and rebroadcasting of such material, by any means, is forbidden.