ANSO/SEMN/IAST 233: Capitalisms and Socialisms  
Winter 2012  
Tuesday/Thursday 8:40-10:20, DEW 200

Instructor: Dr. Maksim Kokushkin (maksim.kokushkin@kzoo.edu)  
Office Hours: Tu/Th 2:30-4:00 OR by appointment

SYNOPSIS: This course will look at different political and economic systems around the world and across times. Ideological debates tend to idealize and simplify the notions of capitalism and socialism, thus ignoring the fact that neither of those systems exists in the vacuum of its “pure” theoretical form. We will explore various elements of capitalist and socialist systems and how those elements mix together in different countries.

STUDENT LEARNING: Students can take this course because they are interested in expanding their international perspective or because they are working on their study abroad plans. It is important to have an understanding of how a foreign country is different from one’s own home country. Students will be encouraged to acknowledge and accept the existence structural and ideological differences. We will challenge the construction of capitalism as normal and socialism as deviant and show that in most places around the world socialist ideas are a part of the normal political spectrum.

We will strive to achieve the following objectives:

- Understand of the interplay between individuals, culture, social structures, and power relations in local and global contexts
- Critically analyze social dynamics using multiple theoretical frameworks and diverse perspectives
- Use data and evidence to develop, communicate, defend, and critically assess own theoretical and interpretive claims

After completing the course, you will be able to think about the world in complex terms and:

- Identify different versions of the same socio-economic system
- Identify similar features across different socio-economic system
- Use theoretical concepts support your thoughts and arguments
- Assess the role your background plays in how you see the world
- Recognize and, potentially, accept variations from the contexts you have been socialized into
- Formulate your own ideas about the world’s complexities
- Welcome new experiences during your time abroad even if those experiences might seem strange at first

TEXTS:

- Main:  
  “Free to Choose” by Milton Friedman (1990 edition)  

- Additional: To be announced and made available on e-res or Moodle.

**POLICIES:**

- ADA: In compliance with section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as Amended, and with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), Kalamazoo College recognizes that qualified students who have diagnosed or identified learning, physical, and emotional disabilities are entitled to the same benefits from the educational programs of the College. If you need accommodations based on ADA, please get in touch with me ASAP.

- Honor System: The Honor System is a set of mutually held principles freeing us to create an environment of living and learning that will foster understanding, mutual respect, intellectual curiosity, and social commitment. You are expected to demonstrate honesty and integrity, respect for others’ views, and environmental consciousness.

- Cell Phones: We all how loud a cell phone can be. By being responsible users, we will ensure that there are no disruptions. When in class, please turn your phones off and do not use them in any way. The “McGinty Shutout Policy”. *If a phone goes off during class, all activities will stop until the person whose phone is “misbehaving” leaves the classroom.*

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Together, we can make this class one of the best educational experiences we’ve all had. We will work to meet our learning goals and we’ll have fun in the process. To this end:

In addition to the responsibilities outlined in the Policies section, I expect you to come to class prepared. This means: (1) being familiar with a reading’s discussion of a particular topic, (2) being able to analyze, critique, and discuss the topic with your peers, and (3) being able to answer questions regarding the topic.

I will to come to class prepared and will make sure that each one of you feels like a valuable member of ANSO 233 and K. I will grade your work conscientiously and with a focus on your learning.

**MOODLE:** Please sign up for the Moodle page of our course. You can access it by logging at [https://moodle.kzoo.edu](https://moodle.kzoo.edu). Points, grades, and course documents will be online for you to check. Make sure you’re familiar with the tool, explore it, and check for updates. As a rule, assignments will be posted only on the Moodle. Only handouts will be distributed in class.

**ASSESSMENT AND ASSIGNMENTS:** You will be graded based on your performance on assignments, participation in class activities, research papers and attendance. Pop quizzes can be administered at the discretion of the instructor and counted into your participation grade. Please check the table below for a summary of points.
- Research Paper: You will choose a country from a list of abroad locations and write a paper (12-15 pages) comparing it with your home country. Based on your major and research interests, you will research a social institution (education or healthcare) and compare how that institution works in the country of interest versus your home country (USA). Your choice does not have to be based on your actual or intended study abroad country. To make sure that you all have similar bases of comparison and amount of work, international students should write about the US and their home country. *Detailed description is provided separately.*

- Reading Notes: How effective your learning is depends on how prepared you come to class. To encourage that, you will be handing in reading notes before we tackle a particular set of readings. *Detailed description is provided in the end of the syllabus.*

- Attendance: Your attendance is mandatory. Attendance will be recorded in the beginning of each class. Your attendance score will be based on the percentage of classes you have attended.

- Participation: To be a valuable member of our class, you need to participate. Participation depends on whether you read the assigned readings, understand their arguments and share an informed opinion. You are invited to be critical of the readings and disagree with them, but need to know what points they are making. Disagreeing with an author is not an excuse to skip any reading. A part of your participation grade involves leading discussion during two classes. Keep an eye for the sign-in sheet in the end of Week 1.

- Grades & Points: As you know, +/- grading does not affect your GPA. However, I will use the Moodle +/- scale in the end of the class for final grades.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Notes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL POINTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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A: 90-100  B: 80-89  C: 70-79  D: 60-69  F: < 59

**CHANGES:** Any part of this syllabus can be changed at anytime during the term. I will provide adequate notification if changes are made.
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<tr>
<th><strong>TENTATIVE SCHEDULE:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Reading Selections</strong></th>
<th><strong>Topics/Activities</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WEEK 1</strong> Jan 4 Jan 5*</td>
<td>Engels (online: <a href="http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1880/soc-utop/ch03.htm">http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1880/soc-utop/ch03.htm</a>; Lane (handout))</td>
<td>Introductions – Basic Concepts – Why This Class?</td>
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<td><strong>WEEK 2</strong> Jan 10* Jan 12</td>
<td>Introductions/Ch. 1 (Friedman; Krugman; de Soto; Stiglitz) Friedman: Ch. 1-5</td>
<td>Capitalism Is Freedom</td>
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<td><strong>WEEK 3</strong> Jan 17* Jan 19†</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr., “Letter from Birmingham Jail” (online: <a href="http://web.uvic.ca/polksci/deguerre/letter_birmingham_jail.pdf">http://web.uvic.ca/polksci/deguerre/letter_birmingham_jail.pdf</a>) OR “Where Do We Go From Here?” (online: <a href="http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/45a/628.html">http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/45a/628.html</a>; Friedman: Ch. 6-10</td>
<td>MLK Teach-In (Jan 17); The Market Solves All Problems</td>
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<td><strong>WEEK 4</strong> Jan 24* Jan 26†</td>
<td>Krugman: Ch. 1-7</td>
<td>Everlasting Crisis</td>
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<td><strong>WEEK 5</strong> Jan 31* Feb 2</td>
<td>Krugman: Ch. 8-13</td>
<td>Freedom Through Government</td>
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<td><strong>WEEK 6</strong> Feb 7* Feb 9†</td>
<td>De Soto: Ch. 2, 3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>One Size Does Not Fit All</td>
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<td><strong>WEEK 7</strong> Feb 14* Feb 16</td>
<td>De Soto: Ch. 5, 6 &amp; 7</td>
<td>Searching, Seek and Exploit</td>
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<td><strong>WEEK 8</strong> Feb 21* Feb 23†</td>
<td>Stiglitz: Ch. 1-4</td>
<td>“Freedom” to “choose”</td>
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<td><strong>WEEK 9</strong> Feb 28* Mar 1</td>
<td>Stiglitz: Ch. 5-9</td>
<td>Taming the Beast</td>
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<td><strong>WEEK 10</strong> Mar 5 Mar 7</td>
<td>All conclusions</td>
<td>Healthcare and Education Panels</td>
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<td><strong>FINALS WEEK</strong> Mar 11</td>
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<td>Country Comparison Research Paper Due</td>
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*Reading notes due
† Country Comparison Research Paper: Bibliography, Outline, First Draft and Final Draft Due (consecutively)
Reading Notes

Please read carefully to ensure that you get full credit for your efforts

1. DESCRIPTION
How effective your learning is depends on how prepared you come to class. To encourage that, you will be handing in reading notes before we tackle a particular set of readings. Furthermore, your notes will help you make sense of your research experiences and put together material for your final paper.

2. WHAT TO DO?
Provide summaries of the readings (Friedman, Krugman, de Soto, Stiglitz) for the week. Each summary should do the following:

a. Summarize
   - Provide 2 short quotes that: (a) sum up the reading and/or (b) you found fascinating. Provide page numbers for the quotes;
   - Briefly summarize the main argument of the reading;

b. Reflect
   - Write one paragraph in response to the readings as a whole
   - Write about new knowledge, thoughts, questions that the reading/s provoked
   - Don’t write about how much you loved or hated the reading, your notes should not be opinion-driven

c. Connect
   - Write one or two paragraphs tying the readings to your research project
   - Provide tentative insights, ideas, interpretations

d. Ask
   - Formulate questions that your discussion team could use in class

3. HOW LONG AND WHAT FORMAT?
   - 1-1.5 single-spaced pages per summary
   - Paper copy only. Duplex printing is recommended.
   - Acceptable fonts are Arial size 10 and Times New Roman size 12

4. WHEN TO SUBMIT?
Mondays of Weeks 2-9. Consult the schedule on the syllabus for specific dates. Bring two paper copies of your notes and submit one of them in the beginning of the class.

5. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS
Make sure you keep an electronic copy as a back up and for your own use. In class, you can access your notes in electronic form (instead of a paper copy) only on devices with screens smaller than 12 inches. E-readers and slates are preferred.