

HISTORY IN THE HEADLINES

Nomundari Baatar

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Mongolian Young Scholars Program 2017

COURSE INFORMATION

History in the Headlines is a week-long course that will be aimed at understanding key issues in the world (through newspaper headlines) by thinking analytically through history. The primary objective of the course is to acquaint Mongolian students to global events that are shaping history today, and teach them critical skills that can help them analyze and interpret news without taking the headlines at face value. By thinking historically, we want to make sense of what is happening today by looking at what human beings have done before, and through that making students into better observers and analysts.

Higher institutions primarily value critical thinking, research, and in-depth analysis skills, so skills gained from this course will be helpful in preparation for not only college applications, but also adjusting to life and communities at Western universities, should the student go to school abroad.

There is a total of five classes covering different topics around the world, and how they are particularly important in terms of their history, their relevance to the global stage, and how they may affect Mongolia directly. Each class will consist of a short lecture on the topic by the TF, a discussion of the reading materials and the students' understanding of the events, and a short conversation on how the particular event impacts Mongolia's future.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Gain exposure to world politics and events as perceived from a typical liberal arts college classroom in an American university
- Become comfortable in discussing complex and multilayered issues in class settings with peers
- Cultivate the students' critical thinking and in-depth analysis skills
- Become better academic writers and learn how to analyze beyond the surface layer

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The students will be provided with the reading and viewing materials, so they are expected to complete the readings before class. The students may have to read the same material several times to fully grasp the assumptions and meanings behind the materials. Additionally, all students will be required to submit 2 short opinions on any of the issues in order to become better writers and communicators. The feedback will be helpful in learning how to write academic papers in the future.

If at any point you are confused with the material and find yourself seeking help, please feel free to come up to me and talk to me!

COURSE SCHEDULE

Day 1: What is the deal with Trump? Presidencies and elections in the Democratic World

Day 2: Russia as our neighbor, protector, and intimidator: Russia's role in politics in Mongolia and the Western World

Day 3: Chinese Nationalism, the One China and "Made in China 2025" policies

Day 4: The many layers of Islam: from ISIS to Progress in the Middle East (and my experiences in the UAE)

Day 5: The New Right and Fascism, (and are they hidden in plain sight in Mongolia?)