

PASSPORT TO THE WORLD FOREIGN RELATIONS THURSDAYS

Examine the new world order. Since fall 2008 we have seen the inauguration of a new U.S. president; a meltdown of national and international financial systems; new leaders in the Middle East; renewed sanctions against Cuba; and a shift in U.S. relations with Russia. Join us to analyze the meaning of these significant changes on the global stage.

Lectures meet on Thursdays, 1-2:30 p.m., Room A145/A152.

HUM S53-40, OC/SK, 11 Thu., 9/24-12/10, 1-2:30 p.m., \$66 series, in district residents age 60 and above. CRN 61160

HUM S53-41, OC/SK, 11 Thu., 9/24-12/10, 1-2:30 p.m., \$81 series, out of district residents or under age 60. CRN 61165

Registration is by series only. Half-price discounts do not apply. A \$7 processing fee will be charged once a semester.

Thursday, September 24

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE BUT FEWER DROPS TO DRINK: AN INQUIRY INTO THE EMERGING GLOBAL WATER CRISIS

We live in a world of emerging environmental crises that some believe could threaten access to essential resources, especially water. In fact, a recent United Nations report predicts that the shortage of fresh water will eclipse disease, poverty, ignorance, and the collapse of social order, as the most serious challenge facing people in the 21st century. Join **James Marran**, geography educator and editor, to examine the consequences of Earth's soaring need for fresh water, and how, by century's end, it will be in greater demand than petroleum.

Thursday, October 1

THE MIDDLE EAST: A NEW REALITY OR THE SAME OLD SAME OLD?

Emeritus professor **Bill Taylor** returns to analyze the performance of Hillary Clinton and George Mitchell; the new Israeli team headed by Benyamin Netanyahu and Ehud Barack; and the currently evolving leadership situation in Palestine. Are the prospects for peace today any brighter than when Taylor gave his "Only Road to Peace" lecture in fall 2008?

Thursday, October 8

ECUADOR'S SOCIAL CRISES

On one hand, Ecuador faces a deep economic crisis; on the other, new social movements are trying to redefine the country's direction. Join **Peter Hudis**, instructor of philosophy, to discuss Ecuador's fluctuating economic and social climates, and how the recently re-elected populist government is dealing with various challenges. We'll also consider how Ecuador's problems reflect similar situations facing other South American countries.

Thursday, October 15

NIXON TO BLAGOJEVICH: ARE GREEK TRAGIC HEROES RELEVANT?

Join **Rene Ray, Ph.D.**, professor of theatre arts and chair of fine arts at National-Louis University, to examine how the constructs of the classic Greek tragic hero can yield insights into the rise and fall of America's contemporary rich and famous.

Thursday, October 22

BACKGROUND FOR U.S. STRATEGY IN AFGHANISTAN

Join political and strategic analyst **Michael Zimmerman** to analyze the geography, history, and culture of Afghanistan, and review the United States' political and military experience in that country. We'll consider Afghanistan's regional interactions and influences, consider the strategic options being discussed publicly, and evaluate alternate scenarios. Zimmerman has a master's degree in international relations from the London School of Economics.

Thursday, October 29

THE BAILOUT AND BEYOND

Gain a better understanding of the short- and long-term consequences of the federal bailout and economic stimulus with **Tracy Fulce**, assistant professor of marketing and management. Are U.S. banks "nationalized," and what does that mean for taxpayers and businesses? Did the government's stimulus effort help end the foreclosure crisis? Did it help state and local governments to become solvent? What happened to the money that was invested with Lehman Brothers? What does \$1 trillion in U.S. debt mean for U.S. businesses?

Thursday, November 5

COMPETITION IN CENTRAL ASIA: A NEW 'GREAT GAME?'

"Now I shall go far and far into the North, playing the Great Game," Rudyard Kipling wrote in 1901 – and play they did! Join **George Lungu**, associate professor of political science, for an in-depth look at the geopolitical landscape of Central Asia. Throughout much of the 19th century, Britain and Russia competed for spheres of influence in Central Asia. Today, virtually all the world's great powers are engaged in a strategic competition for influence and natural resources in this politically valuable region.

Thursday, November 12

THE GLOBAL MIDWEST

The American Midwest – unlike the South or New England – has rarely considered itself a distinct region, operating rather as a group of competitive states, linked primarily by its many farms and factories. Globalization, however, has rendered useless this mindless balkanization of economic development, education, transportation, and future industries. Join veteran *Chicago Tribune* correspondent **Richard C. Longworth** to consider how the current global economic crisis gives the Midwest a new chance to work together as a region to create a new 21st century economy. Longworth is a Senior Fellow for the Global Midwest Institute at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, a Distinguished Visiting Scholar at DePaul University, and author of *Caught in the Middle: America's Heartland in the Age of Globalism*.

Thursday November, 19

MYTHS OF POWER

Is there a fear more terrifying than the notion that our enemies might be crazy? In recent years, the concern that Saddam Hussein was so fundamentally irrational that he would spare no expense – including the loss of his own societies – to attack the U.S. played a powerful role in America's decision to go to war against Iraq. Similar fears may drive the U.S. toward war against Iran. Join **Robert Pape, Ph.D.**, of the University of Chicago, to learn how to distinguish true political insanity from the far more common "crazy state myth."

Thursday, November 26

No Passport

Thursday, December 3

EUROPE: A COMMENTARY

Examine Europe's military, political, and economic struggles for unity. Join **Andrew Wachtel, Ph.D.**, director of the Center for Comparative and International Studies at Northwestern University, to consider the balance of power among European nations.

Thursday, December 10

THE STATE OF OUR WORLD

Join **John Mearsheimer, Ph.D.**, professor of political science and co-director of the Program in International Security Policy at the University of Chicago, for comments about the state of world affairs. Mearsheimer is the author of *The Tragedy of World Politics*, which attempts to explain, defend, and validate the political theory of "offensive realism," under which each state must ensure its own survival by maximizing its share of world power.

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