Interest in Course Continues to Grow

Global Seminar in Turkey Offers Undergraduates a Unique Experience

Like the Ottoman Empire, the Global Seminar in Turkey has staying power. When Professor Sükrü Hanioglu proposed the course for PIIRS’ fledgling global seminar initiative in 2008, he was confident that it would be successful for a year—or two. Four years later the course, the longest-running of the seminars, continues to evolve and to inspire students whose interest helps to shape it.

Based in Istanbul, the course provides an analysis of change and continuity in Turkish society with a focus on history, major cultural transformations, and the modern era. The city, the capital of the Eastern Roman and Ottoman empires, was the seat of military might, ceremonial pomp, and state policy for 16 centuries and, like Turkey itself, bridges two cultures, two continents, two major religions, and the past and present. The seminar is taught by Hanioglu, the Garrett Professor in Foreign Affairs and a professor and the department chair of Near Eastern studies, and Erika Gilson, a lecturer in Turkish.

“Teaching the seminar on the spot makes such a big difference,” says Hanioglu. “Students seem to benefit from this more than they would if it were taught in New Jersey. Perhaps it is because we meet four days a week and they have access to scholars, leading thinkers, and Turkish students. They seem to develop a deeper understanding for the history, culture, and transformations of the society; it is apparent in the quality of their papers.”

Fifteen Princeton students are joined by five undergraduates from Koç University, where the group resides while in Istanbul. They live, study, and travel together. A typical week includes four days of lectures and question-and-answer sessions presented by Hanioglu and guest lecturers, and local excursions to relevant sites. In Istanbul, this is complemented by daily instruction in Turkish by Gilson and a weekly community service project.

Hanioglu, who has taught Ottoman history at universities in Turkey as well as at the University of Chicago, believes the Turkish students enrolled in the course add a dimension that is unparalleled. “When I teach the course in America, the students are interested; they know Ottoman history is important, they appreciate it, and they want to learn more. But for the Turkish students, it’s a different kettle of fish; it’s their history,” he says. In the seminar, he explains, the Turks’ enthusiasm for the material ignites the already-motivated Princeton students, and the result is a high-level course that broadens everyone’s perspectives inside and outside the classroom.

Kate Costello ’12, who participated in the seminar in 2010, concurs. “Some of my most valuable experiences during the six weeks came from our friendships and discussions. Each of the [Turkish students] was very generous in showing us their city and communicating their views.”

Because the seminar and the spring semester at Koç overlap by one week, since 2009 the first week of the six-week

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2010–11 Events and Conferences

The research cluster received funding from other sources to develop the following events and conferences during the PIIRS-supported initial year of planning:

**September 24–25** “Problematizing Asian Languages, Vernaculars, and Literacies,” a workshop that discussed the need for an alternative research methodology for understanding languages and literacies in Asia that goes beyond the classical/vernacular dichotomy and that reflects the actual use of languages.

**November 1–6** “Forum on Asia in the Early Modern World,” a Princeton–Fudan conference sponsored by Fudan University’s National Institute for Advanced Humanistic Studies and held in Shanghai.

**November 12** “An Investigation of Late Imperial Liuli Glazed Ceramics,” a workshop held in conjunction with the Princeton University Art Museum’s fall semester exhibition, “Green, Amber, Cream: Forgotten Art of a Ceramic Workshop in Shanxi, China.”

**December 11–12** “Intermateriality: Porcelain and Painting,” a workshop for graduate students on painting on porcelain in Qing dynasty Canton (Guangzhou).

**February 18–19** “The Medical Classics and Medical Philology in Early Modern East Asia, 1550–1800,” a research/reading module to discuss “early modern” authenticity debates and textual issues related to the Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and Japanese editions of traditional medical classics and other texts from China.

Tentative events for spring 2011 include a graduate student workshop organized by Yulia Frumer (History of Science) in April on reading early modern calendars and a conference in May on comparing the historiographies of early modern East and South Asia. Unless otherwise noted, 2010–11 events are by invitation only.

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**Research Cluster Galvanizes Scholars Interested in New Directions**

*East Asia and the Early Modern World*

With new directions for scholarship and the teaching of early modern East Asia and enhanced collaborations as goals, the principal investigators of the research cluster “East Asia and the Early Modern World: Fresh Perspectives on Material Culture, Social Formation, and Intellectual History, 1550–1800” are ready to call the undertaking a success.

After a year of planning, professors of East Asian studies and history Benjamin Elman and Susan Naquin have organized a number of events in 2010–11 that will bring together faculty and graduate students from around the globe to reexamine current frameworks for understanding East Asia in the early modern era.

The workshops and conferences funded by the PIIRS-supported cluster investigate two new areas—doctors, classical languages, and textbooks in early modern China, Japan, and Korea; and artisans and artifacts in China before 1800—and ask whether and why China and Japan should be called “early modern,” and whether European modernity is an appropriate standard at all. (See sidebar.)

According to Elman, who also is the chair of East Asian studies, the research cluster has galvanized scholars here and abroad interested in pursuing new directions. In particular, he says, it has strengthened an ongoing collaboration of faculty from Princeton and Columbia universities working to show how the “orientalization of Asians in the 19th century has been used retrospectively to refract historical judgments of the region and to apply uncritically European standards of modernity.” Among the assertions the group is testing is whether the story of capitalism as it evolved from Europe after 1500 was really the driving force.

The cluster also has provided a forum for deepening international collaboration. In addition to involving scholars from Oxford, Cambridge, Tel Aviv, and Hong Kong, Elman’s well-established ties to Fudan University and the University of Tokyo bring colleagues from those institutions into discussions.

“These collaborations were already in the works,” explains Elman, “but funding from PIIRS gave us resources to cement things with institutions here and abroad. The research cluster was supposed to set this work off in new directions, and it’s done just that.”

Elman’s enthusiasm for the undertaking is apparent. “We know far less than we should about regional developments within East Asia in this period because contemporary approaches prioritize baseline comparisons with Europe rather than draw on interregional assessments of Qing China (1644–1911), Tokugawa Japan (1600–1866), Choson Korea (1392–1910), and Le Vietnam (1428–1778),” he says. The early modern East Asia project will “provincialize Europe and reassess modernity by looking for other, more appropriate frameworks,” explains Elman.

The final year of the cluster, 2011–12, will focus on public seminars and conferences to present the papers and findings generated by this year’s events. According to Elman, two volumes based on the cluster’s meetings are expected to be published. In addition, both he and Naquin plan to publish their new work in forthcoming books and articles.

When the research cluster concludes in spring 2012, the project will continue with support from the East Asian studies program and department and with foundation support that was pending at press time.
2010–11 VISITORS

PIIRS Fellows to Work on Democracy, Development, the Economic Crisis, Ethnic Conflict, Environmental Politics, Income Inequality, and Religion and Politics

Larry Bartels, the Donald E. Stokes Professor in Public and International Affairs and director of the Woodrow Wilson School’s Center for the Study of Democratic Politics, will be a Princeton faculty-in-residence at PIIRS with the Politics of Economic Crisis research cluster in spring 2011. He has written extensively on American electoral politics, public opinion, and representation. His most recent book, Unequal Democracy: The Political Economy of the New Gilded Age (2008), received the American Political Science Association’s Gladys M. Kammerer Award for the year’s best book on U.S. national policy and the Leon D. Epstein Award for an outstanding contribution to scholarship on political organizations and parties.

Nancy Bermeo will be a visiting senior scholar with the Politics of Economic Crisis research cluster in spring 2011. She is the Nuffield Professor of Comparative Politics and director of the Oxford Centre for the Study of Inequality and Democracy at the University of Oxford. She is the author and editor of nine books on comparative politics and public policy, including Unemployment in the New Europe (2001) and Ordinary People in Extraordinary Times: The Citizenry and the Collapse of Democracy (2003), which received the Best Book Award from the American Political Science Association’s democratization section.

Naokatsu Hikotani is at PIIRS for a second year as a visiting professional specialist. Hikotani joined Japan’s Ministry of Finance in 1990, serving most recently as secretary to the finance minister. He has worked in the ministry’s tax bureau, where he participated in policy discussions on raising the consumption tax, creating tax exemptions for basic-needs goods, and rolling back the capital-gains tax. Hikotani also headed the public works budgeting and financial regulation during Japan’s 1997 economic crisis. His research at Princeton focuses on recent tax reforms in Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development countries and income inequality and redistribution policies. He also is examining the policy implications and policy options for fundamental tax reform in Japan.

Takako Hikotani is an associate professor in the Department of Public Policy at the National Defense Academy in Yokosuka, Japan. She joins PIIRS for a second year as a visiting professional specialist. Hikotani’s research interests include how the U.S. has influenced the national security identity of Japan and the U.S.-China military-to-military relationship. While at Princeton, Hikotani will participate in a project comparing national identities in Asia.

Larry Bartels, Bermeo, Naokatsu Hikotani, and Takako Hikotani.

2010 Global Seminars

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The seminar has been held in one of the Ottoman provinces. This fortuitous circumstance gives students perspective on the reach of the empire and insight into how the Ottoman past is perceived in different regions, says Gilson. The 2011 course begins in Budapest at the Central European University. In 2010 it was convened in Cairo, and in 2009 it was held in Crete.

Costello was one of 42 students who applied for last summer’s seminar, an increase of 26 over 2009. At Princeton’s Study Abroad Fair held earlier this fall, 50 students expressed an interest in the seminar.

For Hanioglu and Gilson, the increase in the number of applicants translates into a stronger course. For the 2010 seminar, “We interviewed applicants for two days,” Hanioglu says. “We eliminated a good number and chose the most motivated students we could.”

According to PIIRS Acting Director Mark Beissinger, the Global Seminar in Turkey “exemplifies precisely what the Global Seminars program is about: combining classroom and experiential forms of learning so that students gain a much deeper understanding of what it is they are studying than could possibly be obtained in the classroom at Princeton. This is what makes the Global Seminars program so exciting to students and professors alike. It is a learning experience like no other.”

The experience inspired Costello, who changed her major to Near Eastern studies and is one of four seminar alumni over the years to continue with Turkish language study at Princeton. She currently is writing her junior paper about some of the works of Turkish author Nazlı Eray, who gave a guest lecture about her writing. Robert Finn ’78, the first U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan and the translator of many of Eray’s works into English, also was a guest lecturer. He is advising Costello on this paper.

Elizabeth Shakman Hurd is a fellow with the Luce Project on Migration, Participation, and Democratic Governance in the U.S., Europe, and the Muslim World. She is visiting from Northwestern University, where she is an assistant professor of political science. Her current research focuses on how religion has been governed at the international level both legally and politically. At Princeton, she will teach a graduate seminar on secularism, religion, and politics for the M.P.A. and M.P.P. programs at the Woodrow Wilson School; participate in Luce activities; and present her research at the Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance and the Program on Religion, Diplomacy, and International Relations.

Christophe Jaffrelot is a fellow with the Luce Project on Migration, Participation, and Democratic Governance in the U.S., Europe, and the Muslim World this fall. Jaffrelot is a senior researcher at the Centre d'études et de recherches internationales (CERI-Sciences Po/CNRS) in Paris; he also was the center’s director from 2000 to 2008. His research focuses on the politics of India and Pakistan. Jaffrelot is teaching a course with Luce codirector and Assistant Professor of Near Eastern Studies Mirjam Künnkler on Muslim politics in India, Iran, Pakistan, and Indonesia, and participating in the project’s other activities.

Hanna Lerner is a fellow with the Luce Project on Migration, Participation, and Democratic Governance in the U.S., Europe, and the Muslim World. She is an assistant professor of political science at Tel Aviv University, where she teaches courses on sovereignty and democracy, religion and state, and constitution making. Her book, Making Constitutions in Deeply Divided Societies, is forthcoming from Cambridge University Press. At Princeton, Lerner is working on her own research and participating in Luce project activities.

Jin Sato is a fellow with the Project on Democracy and Development. He is an associate professor at the Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia at the University of Tokyo and a Fulbright scholar for the academic year 2010–11. He has studied issues related to the politics of natural resources and foreign aid, focusing on Southeast Asia in general, and Thailand in particular. His current research addresses how state control of natural resources may evolve into the control of people. His works in English have appeared in journals such as Development and Change, Sustainability Science, Journal of Southeast Asian Studies, and Development in Practice.

Murat Somer is a fellow with the Project on Democracy and Development. He is visiting from Istanbul’s Koç University, where he is an associate professor of international relations. His research on ethnic conflict and nationalism, public and private polarization, religious politics and secularism, democratization, political Islam, and the Kurdish question has been published in book volumes and journals such as the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, Comparative Political Studies, the Middle East Journal, and Third World Quarterly. At Princeton, Somer is working on a book on religious and secular values.

2011 Global Seminars
Germany, Ireland, Italy/Poland, Japan, Turkey
Open to all freshmen, sophomores, and juniors
Application deadline
Monday, February 14, 2011
For more information, please visit the PIIRS website:
www.princeton.edu/~piirs/curriculum/index.html


PIIRS Streamlines Application for Faculty Research, Creates Conference Fund

Effective this fall, funding for the PIIRS exploratory and advanced seminars has been restructured and combined into a single PIIRS Conference Fund. The change reflects the PIIRS executive committee’s desire to promote faculty research by streamlining the application process for support of conferences or workshops aimed at producing a publication or paving the way for further collaboration.

The fund will continue to support Princeton faculty research in international studies by providing up to $15,000 per proposal to finance workshops, exploratory seminars, and conferences organized by faculty in the social sciences, humanities, engineering, or architecture.

Proposals for funding will be solicited twice a year—September 30, with an expected decision date of November 1, and January 15, with a decision date of February 15—and will be reviewed by the PIIRS executive committee.

According to PIIRS Acting Director Mark Beissinger, there is no restriction on proposal subject matter, as long as the project engages international studies (understood as the study of issues in global, comparative, or regional perspective).

“We especially encourage proposals that cut across disciplinary or regional boundaries that seek to produce a final publishable product,” he says. The fund is not intended to support meetings “simply because they involve participants from abroad,” though meetings may involve non-U.S. participants.

In brief, proposals should include a one-paragraph summary of the core idea; a description of the proposed gathering that explains its purpose and significance and that provides a rough agenda of the meeting; an annotated list of participants that includes a description of the expertise or perspective that each would bring to the meeting; and a preliminary budget.

Events financed through the PIIRS Conference Fund will take place under the supervision of PIIRS and with administrative support from PIIRS staff. Faculty interested in obtaining matching funds from PIIRS for conferences sponsored primarily by other organizations on campus should not apply to the PIIRS Conference Fund, but should consult with the PIIRS director.

Applications are available at www.princeton.edu/~piirs/projects/index.html.

Workshop on Arab Political Development Focuses on Obstacles and Opportunities

The Workshop on Arab Political Development (APD), an endeavor dedicated to inclusive analysis of the political obstacles and opportunities facing the contemporary Arab world, was launched this fall. Supported by PIIRS and directed by Amaney Jamal, an associate professor of politics, APD is committed to becoming a premier intellectual hub with an impact on scholarly debates, research, and policy.

According to Jamal, the workshop will bring together academics, policy experts, and students of Arab politics to critically and openly engage one another on a variety of topics. “While questions of democratization are of special salience,” she says, “the workshop will stage conversations on topics as diverse as voice and accountability, economic opportunities, representation, empowerment, gender equality, human rights, social progress, oil, and war.”

The workshop supports learning and constructive engagement through colloquia, a speaker series, conferences, and other events. Most events are open to faculty, students, and the general public. The graduate student colloquia are designed to allow for analytical conversations on the politics of the contemporary Arab world with a special focus on providing an interdisciplinary outlet to present research projects. Committed to capturing ongoing debates in the Arab region, the workshop also sponsors several talks with regional experts each semester. Working with the broader University community, the APD also sponsors and cosponsors events on campus linked to the politics of the contemporary Arab world.

For more information, including a schedule of events, visit APD at www.princeton.edu/~piirs/programs/APW/index.html.

Publications

Globalization, immigration, democracy and development in India, conservation in Africa, Dostoevsky, Freud’s Mexico, linguistics, translation, and utopia are among the subjects of recent publications by faculty associated with PIIRS. A partial list includes:


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CALENDAR  For a complete list of PIIRS events, go to www.princeton.edu/~piirs/calendars/index.html.

JANUARY 2011

Deadline: Henry Richardson Labouisse ’26 Prize. Applications from graduating seniors due January 3.

FEBRUARY 2011

Information Session: 2011 Global Seminars. Information session for prospective applicants. Seminar directors will give presentations and be on hand to answer questions about their courses. Pizza will be served. February 2, 5:30–7 p.m., Burr Hall, Room 219.