

## **SCENARIO WRITING AND PATH GAMING: INTA 4014/6014**

**Prof. Vince Pedicino**

### **DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES**

This class introduces students to the construction and presentation of formalized scenarios for international planning and the formulation, implementation, and assessment of path games. Path gaming and scenario writing are two contemporary tools widely utilized in business and government policy planning processes. This is a “how to” course to organize and prepare the student to conduct these games and develop scenarios professionally. Scenarios are narratives of alternative environments in which the consequences of alternate decisions and policy directions can be explored. They are neither predictions nor strategies; rather, they serve to build structured hypotheses of different futures specifically designed to highlight the risks and opportunities involved at various critical junctures given a spectrum of possible policy choices. In order to be effective, credible and engaging stories that are both technically accurate and policy-relevant are critical to success.

The first part of the semester will be research and writing in preparation for the simulations to occur in the second part of the semester.

Our class is scheduled to meet once a week for four hours (Days will vary based on field trips for other courses, etc.). During the Japan portion, the class will meet separately as groups with the simulation coach (Chris McDermott) for more hands-on preparation.

### **LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- *Problem Solving in International Affairs.* Students will be able to use their knowledge of international affairs in a practical problem-solving way to address issues of immediate international concern. This includes knowledge of key issues, familiarity with methods to assess solutions, data-gathering research skills through which to put different methods into place.
- *Scientific analysis of international politics.* Students will be proficient in basic analytical skills and be able to formulate problems in international affairs mathematically if appropriate. Use software, process and analyze information, quantitative and qualitative methods. Students will demonstrate the ability to construct formalized scenarios that can be used in international planning.

## **GRADING**

### *Background Preparation (50%):*

- A group presentation (~15-20 minutes) (20%)
- 20-page group paper on strategy and policy positions for chosen country (30%)

### *Simulations (50%):*

- 10-page report on your assigned country (30%)
- Final Presentation (~15-20 minutes) on Simulations (20%)

\*\*\*Please note that all papers should be double-spaced, 12 points, in Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins, with proper citations.

## **GRADING PROCEDURES**

A = 100-90; B = 89-80; C = 79-70; D = 69-60; F = 59 and below.

## **UNIVERSITY and COURSE POLICIES**

**Request for Modification** - If you are a learner who requires some adaptations for you to succeed in this course or are a student with disabilities who requires accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability at (404) 894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu> (Links to an external site.) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your needs and obtain the appropriate accommodations letter. Any student requiring instructional modifications due to a documented disability should make an appointment to meet with me as soon as possible so that the appropriate accommodations can be made. I am happy to do whatever I can to ensure that you succeed.

**Academic Integrity** - By attending Georgia Tech you have all committed to upholding the ideals of honor and integrity as well as refusing to betray this trust that has been bestowed upon you as a member of our academic community (<http://www.policylibrary.gatech.edu/student-affairs/academic-honor-code> (Links to an external site.) or <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/>). (Links to an external site.) Any student who is suspected of violations of this honor code, including but not limited to cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment, will be automatically reported to the Office of Student Integrity. This office will investigate the incident as well as recommend the penalties for the violations.

**Attendance Policy** - You are expected to attend and participate in every class. OIE Policy is more than one unexcused absence results in an F for the course.

**Classroom Policies** - Professional behavior will be always required of all students. The following behavior is not appropriate: foul language, bigoted language, and disrespect toward other students or professors. Students engaging in these behaviors will be reported to the appropriate personnel.

All policies are subject to review by the professor and are subject to change with written notice to the students ahead of time

**\*\*\*Note: Syllabus subject to change\*\*\***

## **Course Schedule**

### **Week One: Transition to Korea**

- Discuss overall goals for scenarios
- Break class up into five groups in conjunction with the Govt/Pol course

### **Week Two: Background Research**

- Work in groups doing research on policy positions surrounding economic/military/political security for country
- Meet with Vince in groups to discuss direction and brainstorm on resources

### **Week Three: Background Research/Writing**

- Work in groups doing research on policy positions surrounding economic/military/political security for chosen country
- Meet with Vince in groups to discuss direction and brainstorm on resources
- Meet with Vince to discuss position/policy paper progress

### **Week Four: PRESENTATIONS**

- Present to class information about country policies in assigned topic areas

### **Week Five: Japan (Week 1)**

- Lecture on the ferry (Busan-Osaka) from Chris McDermott on how to think and act strategically in terms of simulations and wargaming
- Meet as a group with Chris a minimum of one time to go over papers/planning

### **Week Six: Japan (Week 2)**

- Meet as a group with Chris a minimum of one time to go over papers/planning

### **Week Seven: Transition to Taiwan**

- Simulation 1 (Political)

### **Week Eight: Simulation 2 (Economic)**

### **Week Nine: Simulation 3 (Military)**

### **Week Ten: Wrap-up Presentations, Papers due**