

**George Mason University  
School of Public Policy**

**Summer 2008  
ITRN701-B03: Country Risk Analysis**

*DRAFT SYLLABUS*

**INSTRUCTOR:** Adjunct Professor D. Gianturco

This course presents a wide variety of country risk analysis methods used by corporations, financial institutions, governments, international organizations, specialized consulting groups and publications. The results of such analyses are used as a basis for designing policies, programs and projects in the international arena. The course explores natural, commercial, economic, political and financial risks. It provides a conceptual foundation for understanding the sources of risk, their impact on public and private sector activities, and ways in which they can be successfully mitigated or managed.

**Class Dates:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30 - 7:00 pm.

**Room Number:** Arlington Original Building #253

**Course Objectives:** To familiarize students with the basic techniques of country risk analysis and help them to interpret studies of country risk based upon different methodologies. Also, to instruct participants in policy responses to country risks, thus preventing or minimizing the unfavorable impacts of the occurrence of adverse risk scenarios.

**Instructor's Contact Information:** Telephone 703-993-3180, Fax 703-993-8215, E-mail [dgiantur@gmu.edu](mailto:dgiantur@gmu.edu)

**Office Hours:** Mondays through Fridays, 8:45 - 11:45 am, and by appointment, Arlington Original Building Room 204

**Method of Instruction:** This is a survey course and topics will be covered by the instructor through lectures accompanied by visual material. Case studies will be a regular feature of classroom instruction.

**Class Preparation Requirements:** Students are required to complete all assigned readings before each class. They should also keep abreast of current issues relating to country risk by daily reading of at least one newspaper with international coverage (Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, New York Times, Financial Times). Class participation is important and

students are encouraged to ask questions and participate fully in class discussions.

**Textbook:** The Handbook of Country and Political Risk Analysis (Latest Edition), edited by Llewellyn D. Howell. The PRS Group.

**Grading:** Weights for the course grade will be as follows: class participation 33%, mid-term exam 33%, final examination 33%.

**Statement on Special Needs:** If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please tell me and also contact the Disability Resource Center at 703-993-2474 to arrange appropriate assistance for special needs.

### **SPP Policy on Plagiarism:**

The profession of scholarship and the intellectual life of a university as well as the field of public policy inquiry depend fundamentally on a foundation of trust. Thus any act of plagiarism strikes at the heart of the meaning of the university and the purpose of the School of Public Policy. It constitutes a serious breach of professional ethics and it is unacceptable.

Plagiarism is the use of another's words or ideas presented as one's own. It includes, among other things, the use of specific words, ideas, or frameworks that are the product of another's work. Honesty and thoroughness in citing sources is essential to professional accountability and personal responsibility. Appropriate citation is necessary so that arguments, evidence, and claims can be critically examined.

Plagiarism is wrong because of the injustice it does to the person whose ideas are stolen. But it is also wrong because it constitutes lying to one's professional colleagues. From a prudential perspective, it is shortsighted and self-defeating, and it can ruin a professional career.

The faculty of the School of Public Policy takes plagiarism seriously and has adopted a zero tolerance policy. Any plagiarized assignment will receive an automatic grade of "F." This may lead to failure for the course, resulting in dismissal from the University. This dismissal will be noted on the student's transcript. For foreign students who are on a university-sponsored visa (eg. F-1, J-1 or J-2), dismissal also results in the revocation of their visa.

To help enforce the SPP policy on plagiarism, all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit student's work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic as well as printed form. The SPP policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace it or substitute for it. (<http://www.gmu.edu/facstaff/handbook/aD.html>)

### **SCHEDULE OF CLASS TOPICS**

- Session 1      Fundamentals of country risk (Chapter 1)
  
- Session 2      Information resources (Appendix A)
  
- Session 3      Subjective analysis by experts (IFS example)
  
- Session 4      Early ordinal models (Eximbank example)

- Session 5 Early cardinal models (USGOV interagency example)
- Session 6 Political risk approaches (Chapter 11)
- Session 7 Credit rating agency methods (Chapters 6 and 8)
- Mid-term exam
- Session 8 Economist and Euromoney methods (Chapters 4 and 5)
- Session 9 International Country Risk Guide method (Chapter 2)
- Session 10 Business Environment Risk Intelligence (Chapter 3)
- Session 11 Personal security analysis (Chapter 13)
- Session 12 Combined country risk presentations (IBRD example)
- Session 13 Risk segmentation approach (OND example)
- Session 14 Major country risks on the current global scene
- Final exam