

Spring 2009 Topics Descriptions Government Department

GO 351A Xenophon's *Anabasis*

Professor Tim Burns

TU/TH 3:40 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

A close reading of the *Anabasis*, the classic account of political leadership written by Socrates' student, Xenophon, which recounts the retreat of the army of 10,000 Greeks. Cyrus the Younger has enlisted the Greeks in an attempt to wrest the Persian empire from his brother Xerxes. Cyrus dies in the initial battle at Cunaxa, however, and the Greek generals are betrayed and murdered. Xenophon himself is then chosen to lead the 10,000 out of Babylon. They march through the hostile territories of Assyria and Armenia, to the Black Sea and thence to Thrace and Greece (i.e., from contemporary Baghdad through Kurdish northern Iraq and Turkey, to the Black Sea and thence to Bulgaria and Greece). The *Anabasis* has been read and admired by statesmen, military leaders, and thinkers from Alexander the Great and Cicero to Machiavelli, Montaigne, Rousseau, Shaftesbury, Benjamin Franklin, and George Patton. It is also the basis of numerous films and novels—three of them published in 2008 alone. We will be using the new literal edition of the *Anabasis* translated by Wayne Ambler (Ithaca: Cornell U. Press, 2008).

GO 367 Immigration Politics and Policy

Professor Bob Turner

TU/TH 9:40 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

America is in the midst of an immigration boom that rivals that of the early 1900s. The 35 million immigrants currently living in America is more than twice the levels of the peak of the last great immigration wave in 1910. Immigration is one of the most important forces in American society today—re-shaping cities, suburbs, and rural areas, altering racial dynamics, influencing families, education, culture, labor markets, and politics. This class will examine these issues from an interdisciplinary perspective incorporating readings from economics, sociology, demography, and political science as well as the depiction of immigration in popular culture. Some of the topics we will address are: push and pull theories of immigration, demographic trends, the historical evolution of American immigration policy, the economic costs and benefits of immigration, the assimilation of recent immigration, state responses to immigration, and the role of economic and family criteria in US immigration policy.

GO 366 Understanding Globalization

Professor Aldo Vacc

W/F 12:20 p.m. – 1:40 p.m.

A critical examination of globalization as a political, economic, technological, social, and cultural phenomenon, which has wrought fundamental changes to our lives by making the world smaller and more interdependent. The course will explore the meaning, features and impact of globalization on the role of states, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and transnational corporations; the transformation of national sovereignty; the expansion of liberal democracy; the changes in international economic relations (trade, finance, investment) and institutions (GATT/WTO, IMF, World Bank); the promotion of social progress and backwardness; the rise and decline of nationalistic, ethnic, and religious confrontations; and the development of cultural diversity and homogeneity. Special attention will be devoted to analyzing the ideologies, actors, and interests promoting and opposing globalization as well as the risks and opportunities associated with globalization from the perspective of different groups.