Course Outline
Good governance promotion has become one of the key objectives of international aid agencies and foreign policy of certain countries. Despite significant external development interventions in poor countries towards building “good governance”, there has been little success. Why might this be? The aim of this course is to examine the politics of good governance promotion. The first part of the course focuses on the general theoretical and practical aspects of good governance agenda and looks at the main economic and political actors involved in the good government promotion. Also, attention is paid to the existing indicators and quantitative measurements of good governance. The second part of the course is empirical. It considers the nature of regimes in developing countries, the legacy of colonialism and the modern political trends. Among the regions covered are Latin America, Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa. Understanding the complexity of politics in developing countries can throw light on why good governance and democracy promotion often fail.

The innovative aspect of this course lies in the fact that it introduces students to the state-of-art quantitative measures in good governance research. Students will explore the amenability of broad principles of good governance to direct observation and quantification, and will learn how to understand statistical information. Among the questions addressed are: are objective indicators objective? What are the major purposes and problems with quantification of good governance? Can good governance be studied using statistical methods? How can we do that?

Course Materials
➢ Electronic copies of all course materials are provided by the teacher.

Requirements
1. Students are required to read and synthesize all materials before coming to class. You are also encouraged to search and read relevant articles in Russian.
2. Students are required to lead-off discussion on a rotating basis. These presentations entail a 15-20 minute presentation of the week’s readings. Rather than simply summarizing the reading under question (presumably all will have read it), the discussion leader should critically engage with the material and tease out special questions or problems that appear worthy of attention. Students are to show the relevance of the reading to broader issues under consideration. In preparation for the seminar, the discussion leader is required to prepare a one page discussion guideline that can be shared via e-mail with other seminar participants.
3. Students must pass a final paper exam based on theoretical and empirical questions designed by the teacher. Students will receive the questions at least one week prior to the end of the course and will be allowed to choose two questions they are interested in (one theoretical and one empirical) and provide written answers. Each answer should be no less than 1000 words.

Absentee policy
Attendance is critical. Students are allowed one absence during the course of the module. For each additional absence students must write 1000 words summary of the readings for the missed class. In this paper, due at the beginning of the next class, you must discuss the main themes and debates raised by the authors. If you do not submit this summary paper at the beginning of the next class or it is of poor quality, you will lose a half grade on your final grade.
Grading
Grades will be assigned on the following basis:
• Attendance and active participation: 25%
• Discussion leaders presentation: 25% each
• Final paper exam (50%)

PART I: Concepts, measurements and politics of good governance

1. Overview & introductory lecture (Jan. 14)
The first class is an introductory lecture on the conceptual and practical issues surrounding the good governance agenda: i) the definition of governance, how governance differs from government, and why this distinction is important; ii) the main conceptual and practical difficulties associated with the good governance agenda; iii) “political conditionality,” “selectivity” and “good governance.”

After-class Readings:
◗ Merilee S. Grindle (2004), “Good Enough Governance: Poverty Reduction and Reform in Developing Countries.”

2. The “Politics” of good governance (Jan. 22)
Is good governance promotion intrinsically political? Is it more about “management” or “politics”? What is the role of the World Bank, IMF, UN and other international organizations in formulating good governance criteria? Are their resource allocation policies under the good governance agenda unbiased or rather serving interests of some countries while harming the others’?

Readings:
◗ Adrian Leftwich (1994), “Governance, the State and the Politics of Development.”
◗ Oded Löwenheim (2008), “Examining the State: a Foucauldian perspective on international ‘governance indicators’.”

3. Technical aspects of good governance indicators (Jan. 29)
Technical aspects of “good governance” and state-of-art measures in good governance research: are broad principles of good governance amenable to direct observation and measurement? Are objective indicators objective? What are the major purposes and problems with quantifying governance indicators?

Readings:
◗ Daniel Kaufmann & Aart Kraay (2008), “Governance Indicators: Where are We, Where Should We Be Going?”
◗ Melissa A. Thomas (2009), “What Do the Worldwide Governance Indicators Measure?”
PART II: Empirical Case Studies

4. Good governance issues in China (Feb. 5)
   ✷ Sebastian Heilmann, “Policy Experimentation in China’s Economic Rise”
   ✷ Zhu Yuchao, “‘Performance Legitimacy’ and China’s Political Adaptation Strategy.”

5. Good governance in Latin America (Feb. 12)
   ✷ Alex E. Fernández Jilberto, “The political economy of neoliberal governance in Latin America: The case of Chile”
   ✷ Norma Giarraca & Miguel Teubal, “‘Que se vayan todos’: Neoliberal collapse and social protest in Argentinian.”
   ✷ Barbara Hogenboom, “Governing Mexico’s market democracy.”
   ✷ Chris Van Der Borgh, “Triple transition and governance in El Salvador.”

6. Russia and Eastern Europe (Feb. 19)
   ✷ Ander Mommen, “Playing Russian roulette: Putin in search of good governance.”
   ✷ Andrey S. Mararychev, “Between globalization and sub-national politics: Russian think tanks and liberalism.”
   ✷ David Chandler, “‘Good governance’ can make bad governance: A study of international anti-corruption initiatives in Bosnia-Herzegovina.”
   ✷ Hans Van Zon, “Clanism and predatory capitalism: The rise of a neoliberal nomenclature in Ukraine.”

7. African region (Mar. 18)
   ✷ Bräutigam, Deborah A., and Stephen Knack, “Foreign Aid, Institutions, and Governance in Sub-Saharan Africa.”
   ✷ Piet Konings, “Good governance, privatization and ethno-regional conflict in Cameroon”
   ✷ Michael Lewin, “Botswana’s Success: Good Governance, Good Policies, and Good Luck.”

8. Other Cases: Indonesia and Taiwan (Mar. 19)
   ✷ Tak-Wing Ngo, “Gad governance” under democratic rule in Taiwan.”
   ✷ J. Thomas Lindblad, “The political economy of recovery in Indonesia”
   ✷ Judith Large & Nick Mawdsley, “From new order to new world order: Good governance and violence in Indonesia.”