

Good afternoon, I'm Rossella Caporaso and I'm currently a student of International Relations at the University of Milan. I was in group four with other four students. In the group we have discussed about the course and the many aspects touched by the many professors and experts who have held the lectures during these months.

The answers given to the first question, which asked us about our understanding of areas studies before and after the course, we have agreed that the course helped us to understand better areas studies. In fact, even though we come from different universities, we have a partial knowledge of those studies, but the course helped us to improve it and it has given us many other notions which would be certainly useful in our future. Personally, I believe that this course has played a key role in making me understand better how to explore an area or an argument using this kind of approach. In fact, we have underlined that the lessons about methodology were really interesting and the case studies have allowed us to practice what we have learned during the first lectures.

The second question has found different answers. In fact, there were many areas and topics which we have found interesting: some have found interesting the study regarding Africa and Central America. While one of us, who comes from the Middle-East, has underlined how the approach given to this area was really interesting for him because it was the only occasion in which he has heard about his own region in a global approach. For me, the lectures about the Asia-Pacific area were really interesting because during my studies I have never had the occasion to focus on this area, even though the importance it has acquired especially during the last decades. In addition, for all of us the lecture about Africa was interesting because, as it was underlined by the professor, from a Western point of view we mostly consider Africa as a unique continent without giving importance to every country with its own culture or political/social system.

Lastly, the third question has found different answers but we have tried to provide a summary answer. We believe that the basic idea to demonstrate that area studies are able to encompass different approaches was demonstrated. However, sometimes we have noticed that during the lecture it seems there was not unity between the different approaches. One guy has underlined how he had noticed this during the lecture on North America, which was interesting, but in his opinion there was not a real connection through the different parts. Despite this, we have found this kind of approach really interesting because we believe that everybody should use this type of approach in studying a phenomenon, especially when you want to study a country or an area with its own history and culture.

In conclusion, we believe that this course was very interesting and intellectually stimulating. There are many things we have liked about it and we have really enjoyed this experience. Of course it would have been better if we would have met, but it was interesting also in this way. We would like to thank you again for this experience and for the many interesting lectures.