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### PSC 521.01: Capitalism and Democracy in the Americas

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## Capitalism and Democracy in the Americas

Instructor: Professor Paul Haber 243-4862  
Political Science Department, course #521  
Autumn 2003

Paul.Haber@umontana.edu

Meets Tuesday 9:40 – 12:00 in LA 344

Office Hours: Tuesday 1:00 – 2:00 and Thursday 3:40-5:00 in LA 355

**Overview:** This graduate seminar critically examines the politics of capitalism and democracy in the United States and Latin America from a variety of perspectives.

**Course Expectations and Assignments:** The success of this seminar depends on members' careful attention to the readings and active participation in weekly discussions. The format of the class discussion will vary and is amenable to changes and experimentation over the course of the semester. We will hold a preliminary discussion of format and expectations on the first day of class. All students will be required to hand in written work although the specific requirements will vary from student to student depending on individual student needs. For example, a student at work on a thesis project might want to propose the writing of a chapter. Students who are required to write a series of substantive papers as part of the requirements for graduation might want to submit such a paper. Other students might prefer to write a series of five page long critical essays on the readings. All students will submit to me a typed proposal for writing requirements ***no later than February 10<sup>th</sup>***. Each student is also responsible for discussing the proposal with me (at the same time you bring it to my office is fine). Your grade will be based on class participation (60 percent) and written assignments (40 percent).

There are two primary goals of this class. First, to introduce students to one of the most important political questions of today: the relationship between capitalism and democracy. We ground our conceptual deliberations of this relational concept in the history and current affairs of the United States and Latin America. The second goal of the class is for each student to make substantial progress in their ability to think critically about complex political questions, in both written and oral forms.

Since class participation is so important in this class, and because the class meets only once a week, students should make every effort to attend class and to arrive on time. If you miss a class, please write me a note telling me why you missed, and hand it in the day of your return. ***Do not tell me about it: write to me about it on email.*** If you are late, make sure that you let me know at the end of class so that I will not mark you absent.

**The following books are or will be soon available at the bookstore.** There are two copies of Agger on library reserve. The Robinson book is out of stock and we are hoping for the best.

Ben Agger. *Critical Social Theories: An Introduction*. Westview Press, 1998.

Daniel Yergin and Joseph Stanislaw. *Commanding Heights*. The Free Press. Revised Edition, 2002.

Joseph Stiglitz. *Globalization and Its Discontents*. W.W. Norton, 2002.

Johan Norberg. *In Defense of Globalization*. Cato Institute. 2003.

John Dryzek. *Democracy in Capitalist Times*. Oxford University Press, 1996.

William Robinson, *Transnational Conflicts: Central America, Social Change, and Globalization*. New York and London: Verso Press, 2003.

**Schedule of Class Meetings and Reading Assignments:** Please remember that the reading assignments listed here are subject to change and new items may be added as our discussions evolve over the course of the semester. Thus, it is imperative that you check with a class participant if you miss class to be sure you will be on target for the next class.

Jan 27: Introduction and Overview

Feb 3: Economic History. Discuss Commanding Heights, Chapters 1-7

Feb 10: Economic History. Discuss Commanding Heights, Chapters 8-13

February 17: Moderate critique of Globalization Discuss Stiglitz book

February 24: Defense of Globalization Discuss Norberg book

March 2: Globalization debate. Students undertake individual research, write a 5-page paper, and submit the paper to Blackboard no later than 8am March 1. Everybody reads everybody's paper. Class proceeds from there. Here are a few web sites that might be useful:

<http://www.cato.org/special/symposium/>

<http://globalization.about.com/>

<http://globalization.about.com/gi/dynamic/offsite.htm?site=http://inthe fray.com/html/article.php%3Fsid=129>

<http://www.newamericancentury.org/lettersstatements.htm>

March 9: Conflicting visions: Oxfam Trade Initiative, the Millennium Project, the Gore speeches on the one hand VS the New American Century and the Bush Administration on the other. Students review the material (there are excellent web sites), and come to class ready to debate. We will together plan the format of our debate.

March 16: Critical Theory I: Discuss chaps 1-4 of Agger. Half of the class picks a theory/question/author and writes 5-page paper due to Blackboard no later than 8am March 15. Class proceeds from there.

March 23: Critical Theory II: Discuss chaps 5-8 of Agger. Half of the class picks a theory/question/author and writes 5-page paper due to Blackboard no later than 8am March 22. Class proceeds from there.

March 30: spring break

April 6: Discuss Dryzek

April 13: Central America I: Discuss chaps 1-3 of Robinson

April 20: Central America II: Discuss chaps 4-5 of Robinson

April 27: U.S.-Latin American Relations. Readings will be announced.

May 4: Analysis of Bush Administration in light of this course's concerns. Readings will be announced. Please pass suggestions on to me.

You have enrolled in a Spring Semester 2004 on-campus course which is supplemented with an Internet component. Online supplements offer students added convenience, flexibility and new approaches to learning - in addition to the classroom experience. We hope you will enjoy your educational experience using UMOonline and Blackboard, The University of Montana's Internet learning environment. The following steps are important for participating in your course supplement.

**1) Verify your New Official University Email Address**

The University of Montana assigns an Official University Email Address to you, and your UMOonline instructor will communicate with you using it.

- a. To find out what your new email address is, login to Cyberbear and select Personal Information. By default, email addresses are usually in the form firstname.lastname@umontana.edu.
- b. While in Cyberbear, just below your umontana.edu email, you will notice a second "cue1" email address. Your username for your email login is the first part of the cue1 address printed before the "@" symbol.
- c. Your initial password for your new e-mail account is the Cyberbear PIN number on the day that you registered.
- d. You may access your new email via a web-based interface at <http://cue1.umt.edu>

**2) Beginning January 26, 2004, you may login to UMOonline Blackboard and access your course. For late registrations, login accounts are available within 24 hours after a student registers for this course in CyberBear.**

Login to <http://umonline.umt.edu>, enter your username (last name + last 4 digits of your **student ID**) and password (6-digit birthday, i.e. 060181). You may change your email address on UMOonline to one you prefer, but initially your default email will be your Official University Email.

**General Computer & Email Help:**

For help with general computer issues & email, contact the CIS Help Desk: 406.243.4357, [helpdesk@selway.umt.edu](mailto:helpdesk@selway.umt.edu)

**UMOnline Account Help:**

For help with your UMOonline login, contact Marvin Paulson, 406.243.6394, [marvin.paulson@umontana.edu](mailto:marvin.paulson@umontana.edu)

Melissa Holmes is providing several student orientation sessions for students on-campus taking a Blackboard course supplement or online course. Here is a link for those times you can share with your students. We will also post it to the UMOonline Web site.

[http://www.umt.edu/facultysupport/calendar/stud\\_orient.htm](http://www.umt.edu/facultysupport/calendar/stud_orient.htm)