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PSC 130E.01: International Relations

Paul Haber

University of Montana - Missoula, paul.haber@umontana.edu

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Professor Paul Haber
Political Science Department, course #130e
Fall 2001

243-4862
haber@selway.umd.edu

Meets: Tuesday and Thursday 2:10 - 3:30
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 12:30 - 2:00

Required texts available for purchase in UC Bookstore:

Patrick O'Meara, Howard Mehlinger, and Matthew Krain, eds. *Globalization and the Challenges of a New Century: A Reader*. Indiana University Press, 2000.

Mark Amstutz. *International Ethics: Concepts, Theories, and Cases in Global Politics*. Rowman & Littlefield, 1999.

This is an introductory course. The goal of the class is to introduce students to a number of pressing global issues and to encourage critical thinking about them. International relations challenges political actors and students alike to think critically about the complex relationship between power and ethics. We ponder this challenge with reference to the complex themes of globalization raised in the O'Meara text and direct engagement with the ethical challenges presented in the Amstutz text.

Course objectives: Upon successful completion of this course, the student should be able to demonstrate familiarity with major themes of globalization and international ethics, including engagement with a set of questions that currently engage political actors and scholars alike.

Questions posed directly by the O'Meara text include the following:

--What are the primary sources of conflict in the post-cold war as contrasted to the Cold War period? Is the world a safer or more dangerous place in the post-cold war as contrasted to previous historical periods?

--What is the current and future role of the nation state? Should changes in the nation state in a changing international context be seen as a wholesale departure from the Westphalian system or a reform of it?

--What is the current status and future prospectus of democracy in the context of internationalized capitalism today?

--Who wins and who loses in the new global economy? What are the environmental implications? How is culture affected?

Questions posed directly by the Amstutz text include the following:

--National sovereignty, the Westphalian system and individual rights.

--The nature and bases of international political morality (realists, idealists, communitarians, cosmopolitans).

--The sources of political morality: foundationalism (Aquinas, Locke, Kant), constructivism (Rawls) and consensualism (international law and ius cogens).

--The challenges of cultural pluralism and the question of a shared, universal morality.

--Strategies of ethical decision-making: ends-based action (consequentialism or teleological ethics—Bentham), rules-based action (deontological thinking—Kant) and tri-dimensional ethics (Stanley Hoffman).

--Statesmanship and moral choice.

A guiding principle of this course will be that there are no simple, correct answers to such questions. But, rather, there are substantial conversations and debates. Even the facts are often in dispute, as well as the ethical and theoretical orientations of actors and scholars. Our role will be to understand what is being said and to inquire as to the reasons for disagreement. We will also venture into debating which ideas we find to be more or less persuasive and why.

Students are strongly encouraged to read all assigned readings carefully and before the class period for which they are assigned. We will discuss and debate issues raised by the readings in class. It will be near to impossible to follow – let alone participate – in these discussions if you have not already read the material. The Teaching Assistant, Kathy Weber, will be regularly available to discuss the reading and lectures with individuals or small groups. Students are strongly encouraged to make use of this opportunity, especially if you are having difficulty understanding the material. Start early and go often. Do not wait until you are in a crisis situation because it is often too late at that point to improve as much as would have been possible if you had addressed your confusions earlier.

Your grade will be based on four in-class exams. Each exam will count for $\frac{1}{4}$ of the grade. Exams will be based on assigned readings, class discussions, and any films we watch or guest speakers. If you miss a film showing, you are responsible for locating a copy of the film and watching it on your own. If you miss a guest speaker, you are responsible for finding out what was discussed.

It may become necessary, over the course of the class, to rearrange assignments or alter the schedule. Any changes in scheduling will be announced in class. If you miss class, you are responsible for checking with another student or the TA for lecture notes and any announcements that may have been made regarding scheduling or assignments.

READING ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAM SCHEDULE

Author names refer to articles in the O'Meara text. Chapter numbers refer to the Amstutz text.

September 4	Chapter 1
September 6	Chapter 2
September 11	Chapter 3
September 13	Chapter 4
September 18	Chapter 5
September 20	Exam Workshop
September 25	Exam #1
September 27	Chapter 6
October 2	Chapter 7
October 4	Chapter 8 and 9
October 9	Huntington, Barber, and Kaplan
October 11	Exam Workshop
October 16	Exam #2
October 18	Ajami, Sakakibara, and Bowen
October 23	Ohmae, Ceglowski, and Slaughter
October 25	Annan, Kare, Keen, and Laqueur
October 30	Fukuyama, Zakaria, and Kaplan
November 1	Sachs, Rodrik, and Altman
November 6	Thurrow, Ong, and The Tuapc Aaru Revolutionary Movement
November 8	Exam Workshop
November 13	Exam #3
November 15	Malone/Laubacher, Kobrin, and Das
November 20	Kennedy
November 27	Halal et al and Coates et al
November 29	Thomas/Belt, Mckibben and Linden
December 4	Berger, Drohan/Freeman, and Fishman
December 6	Rothkopf and The Economist
December 11	Exam Workshop
December 13	Exam #4