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PSC 521.01: Globalization

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Globalization

Instructor: Professor Paul Haber 243-4862

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Political Science Department, course #521

Spring 2009. Class meets Tuesday 9:40 – 12:00 in LA 344

Office Hours in LA 355: Tuesday 12:00 – 1:00 and Thursday 3:40-5:00 and by appointment

Required texts available for purchase in UC Bookstore

Manfred B. Steger. 2009. *Globalisms: The Great Ideological Struggle of the Twenty-First Century*. Rowman and Littlefield. Third Edition.

Richard Peet. 2009. *Unholy Trinity: The IMF, World Bank and WTO*. Zed Books. Second Edition.

Andrew Gamble. 2009. *The Spectre of the Feast*. Palgrave.

Richard Sandbrook, Marc Edelman, Patrick Heller, and Judith Teichman. 2007. *Social Democracy in the Global Periphery: Origins, Challenges, Prospects*. Cambridge University Press.

Overview: This graduate seminar critically examines the politics, economics, and culture of globalization from a variety of perspectives. We begin with a set of readings designed to introduce students to some of the most important issues within this broad field of inquiry. As a class, we then collectively decide on a limited set of questions that will be pursued and reported on by research teams.

Course Expectations and Assignments: The success of this seminar depends on members' careful attention to the readings, active participation in weekly discussions, and commitment to research projects. 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 undertake a substantial research project. As a class, we will together decide upon a common set of questions that will then be explored by research teams with each team taking on a different region of the world. A group project statement that includes a thesis statement, methodology, and at least tentative bibliography is due no later than April 6. Your grade will be based on formal presentations (30 percent), day to day class participation (30 percent) and a research paper (40 percent).

There are two primary goals of this class. First, to deepen students' understanding of one of the most important framings for international relations today: globalization. The second goal of the class is for each student to make substantial progress in their ability to conduct research and think critically about complex political questions, in both written and oral forms. Thus, I take both content and process seriously and have high expectations of students to make substantial progress in both areas. I encourage you to be forthcoming with me regarding your views

concerning the class (including suggestions for changes I might make). I also encourage you to actively seek consultation with me regarding your own performance in the class.

Our first reading (Steger) is an introductory text that many reviewers have determined to be the best of the scholarly surveys on the theory and practice of globalization. My intention is that we use the book to bring everybody in the class up to speed on the topic. This will be an opportunity for students to ask basic questions about the topic.

Multilateral institutions play an important role in the practice of globalization. Our second reading (Peet) is a critical assessment of what many would define as the three most important: the IMF, the World Bank, and the WTO. My intention here is for us to deepen our understanding of both these institutions and how they are critiqued from the left. I will encourage students to argue with the book, whether or not you agree with it.

I have decided that thinking about globalization in the spring of 2010 should pay explicit attention to the current situation of if not capitalist crisis then at least global recession. Our third reading (Gamble) is written by the head of politics at Cambridge University. It is my intention that we will use this book as an aid in our collective efforts to deepen our understanding of what is happening today.

Many left leaning progressives today consider social democracy to be the goal. Europeans want to defend and promote what they have built. In the United States, progressives hope that perhaps the right leaning politics that has dominated Washington since Reagan might be overturned and replaced with movement in social democratic direction. In the global south, many progressives focus on the possibility of building social democracy and argue over whether or not those that currently define themselves and their projects as social democracy are the real thing (this is notably the case in Latin America). Our fourth book (Sandbrook et. al.) explores this issue with reference to cases from Asia, Africa, and Latin America. I assign this book because it is also a good example of a collaborative work that explores a common theme by a small group of scholars in different parts of the world – just like we are going to do in the research projects in this class.

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 email it to me. **Do not tell me about it: write to me about it on email.**

Schedule of Class Meetings, Student Assignments, 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 classmate if you miss class to be sure you will be on target for the next class.

Jan 26 Introduction to the course

Feb 2 Chapters 1-3 of Steger

Feb 9 Chapters 4-6 of Steger and a reading of your choice that relates to one or more of the topics discussed in the Steger book that you will come to class prepared to present to the class.

Feb 16 Chapters 1-3 of Peet

Feb 23 Chapters 4-6 of Peet and a reading of your choice that takes a different view on global governance. One place to look is the Center for Global Development. Lots available on this topic on their website.

Here is one possibility:

Policy brief by Kernal Davis available at <http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/2834>

Kernal Davis with Ceren Özer. 2005. *A Better Globalization: Legitimacy, Governance, and Reform*. Washington D.C.: Center for Global Development. Available to read or download free at <http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/2808>

March 2 Introduction and chapters 1-3 of Gamble

March 9 Chapters 4-6 of Gamble

March 16 Chapters 1-4 of Sandbrook et. al.

We will together discuss the first two chapters. We will then have presentations by Kerala and Costa Rica groups. We will use the last half hour of class to formulate research teams and preliminary discussions amongst group members.

March 23 Chapters 5-9 of Sandbrook et. al.

We will begin with group projects by Mauritius and Chile groups. We will then discuss chapters 7-9 together as a group. Finally, we will have group reporting: Research questions, methodology, and time-line reports.

March 30 Spring break, no class

April 6 Preliminary statements due and presented in class

April 13 Status reports from each group.

April 20 Group 1 presentation

April 27 Group 2 presentation

May 4 Group 3 presentation Formal Course evaluations

May 11 All papers are due on May 11, in hard copy, in my office or in my mailbox, by 3:00pm.