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PSC 521.01: Capitalism and Democracy in the Americas

Paul Haber

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

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Capitalism and Democracy in the Americas

Instructor: Professor Paul Haber 243-4862
Political Science Department, course #521
Spring 2005

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 world, with special reference to the Americas.

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 8th. 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 email it to me. 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 is a copy of Robinson and an older edition of Polanyi on reserve at the Mansfield Library.

Karl Polanyi. *The Great Transformation*. [1944]. Beacon Press; 2nd edition, 2001.

Robin Broad. *Global Backlash*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2002.

Jay Mandle *Globalization and the Poor*. Cambridge University Press, 2002.

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

Niall Ferguson. *Colossus: The Price of America's Empire*. Penguin, 2004.

Tyler Cowen. *Creative Destruction: How Globalization is Changing the World's Cultures*. Princeton, 2004

Michael Hirsh. *At War With Ourselves: Why America is Squandering Its Chance to Build a Better World*. Oxford University Press, 2004.

Paul Farmer. *Pathologies of Power*. University of California Press, 2004.

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 25 Introduction and Overview

Feb 1 First half of Polanyi

Feb 8 Second half of Polanyi

February 15 First half of Broad

February 22 Second half of Broad

March 1 All of Mandle

March 8 First half of Robinson

March 15 Second half of Robinson

March 29 First half of Ferguson

April 5 Second half of Ferguson

April 12 All of Cowen

April 19 All of Hirsh

April 26 First half of Farmer

May 3 Second half of Farmer

Notice: Please read this entire letter to help you begin your online course. Login accounts are available the first day of the semester, and within 24 hours after a student registers in CyberBear.

Thank you for enrolling in UMOonline, The University of Montana's Internet learning environment. We are excited about UMOonline courses and hope that you will enjoy your educational experience. The following is important information for participating in your online course.

Accessing Your Online Course or Course Supplement:

On the beginning date of your course, you may login to the UMOonline Blackboard Web site to access your supplement.

1. To find your official university username for Blackboard, login to Cyberbear and select Personal Information. Select View Email Addresses. Your username address is listed under the header Official University Student E-mail Account and is in the form fl123456@cue1.umt.edu. The first part of the account, before the @ symbol, is your username. Write this down as you will need it later.
2. Log out of Cyberbear.
3. Browse to <http://umonline.umt.edu>. Click on the Login button near the top lefthand corner of the page.
4. Enter your assigned username. Your password is your date of birth in six-digit format (for example, 062581 for June 25, 1981).

Accessing Your Official University Email Address:

Your UMOonline instructor will use your official university email address, assigned by The University of Montana, to communicate with you.

To access your official university email address, browse to <http://cue1.umt.edu>. Your username is the same as your Blackboard username (see #1 above - Accessing Your Online Supplement). Your password is your Cyberbear PIN (Personal Identification Number). (Note: When you were admitted to UM, initially your PIN was your date of birth; you may have changed your PIN since then. Use your current PIN number to access your official university email address.)

Online courses and course supplements offer students convenience, flexibility and new approaches to learning. We hope that you have a successful learning experience.

Need help?

Technical assistance and email accounts:

CIS Help Desk: 406.243.4357, helpdesk@umontana.edu

UMOnline login accounts:

Marvin Paulson: 406.243.6394, marvin.paulson@umontana.edu

General registration information:

Clare Kelly: 406.243.4626, clare.kelly@umontana.edu