

University of Montana

ScholarWorks at University of Montana

University of Montana Course Syllabi

Open Educational Resources (OER)

Spring 2-1-2002

PSC 521.01: Capitalism and Democracy in the Americas

Paul Haber

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

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi>

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

Recommended Citation

Haber, Paul, "PSC 521.01: Capitalism and Democracy in the Americas" (2002). *University of Montana Course Syllabi*. 7102.

<https://scholarworks.umt.edu/syllabi/7102>

This Syllabus is brought to you for free and open access by the Open Educational Resources (OER) at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Montana Course Syllabi by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact scholarworks@mso.umt.edu.

Capitalism and Democracy in the Americas

Instructor: Professor Paul Haber 243-4862

haber@selway.umt.edu

Political Science Department, course #521

Spring 2002

Meets Thursday 10:10 – 12:30

Office Hours in LA 355: Tuesday 12:30 – 2:00 and Thursday 9:00 – 10:00

Overview: This graduate seminar critically examines the politics of capitalism and democracy from a variety of perspectives. Readings will be both theoretical and historical.

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. For example, a student at work on a thesis project might choose 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 13th. Each student is also responsible for discussing the proposal with me and securing my approval (at the same time you bring it to my office is fine).

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 each and every 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 on the day of your return. 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 available at the bookstore. Some of the books are also in the Mansfield library.

Amartya Sen. *Development as Freedom*. Knopf Publishers, 2000.

C. Wright Mills, *The Sociological Imagination*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1959.

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

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

John Gray, *False Dawn: The Delusions of Global Capitalism*. The New Press, 1998.

Theda Skocpol and Morris Fiorina, eds. *Civic Engagement in American Democracy*. Brookings, 1999.

Robert Putnam. *Bowling Alone*. Simon and Schuster, 2000.

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 31: Introduction and Overview.

Feb 7: Setting the Theoretical Stage. Discuss Agger, Chapters 1-4.

Feb 14: Setting the Theoretical Stage. Discuss Agger, Chapters 5-8.

Feb 21: The Critical Social Scientist. Discuss Mills, Chapters 1-5.

Feb 28: More on the Social Sciences. Discuss second half of Mills.

March 7: Democracy in Capitalist Times. Discuss Dryzek, entire volume.

March 14: To Be Announced.

March 28: Global Capitalism. Discuss Gray, entire volume.

April 4: Development as Freedom. Discuss first half of Sen.

April 11: Development as Freedom. Discuss second half of Sen.

April 18: Social Capital in America. Discuss first half of Putnam.

April 25: Social Capital in America. Discuss second half of Putnam.

May 2: More on Social Capital and Democracy in America. Discuss first half of Skocpol and Fiorina.

May 9: More on Social Capital and Democracy in America. Discuss second half of Skocpol and Fiorina.