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PSC 130E.01: International Relations

Olatunde Ojo

The University Of Montana

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**The University of Montana
Political Science Department**

Fall 1998

PSC 130 - INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Class meets: LA 337 MWF 1:10-2:00 pm

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This course is an overview of world politics in the era of globalization. It introduces the student to the three main theoretical approaches and a variety of concepts to study and explain international relations. These are applied to current international issues, providing materials necessary to answer the question whether globalization marks a fundamental transformation in world politics.

Students are required to read all assigned readings **carefully and before the class period for which they are assigned**. In addition, students are **urged** to keep up with major international events by reading newspapers such as the *New York Times* or *The Christian Science Monitor*, watching news programs on TV (C-Span, public television, weekend talk shows), and/or listening to public radio such as the BBC World Service News at noon on KUFM. Current events will be discussed often in class, and students who do not make an effort to keep up outside of class will be at a serious disadvantage.

Your grade will be based on two exams (combined for 2/5 of total grade), debate statements (1/5), class attendance and in-class assignments (1/5), and a debate (1/5) or, in lieu, a short term paper. Details on the term paper and debate format and requirements will be discussed in class.

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 other students for any announcements that may have been made regarding scheduling or assignments.

Texts: *Global Issues 98/99*

John Rourke, ed., *Taking Sides: Clashing Views on Controversial Issues* in
World Politics, 8th edition, 1998. Dushkin Publishing Group

Course Outline

- Aug. 31: Introduction: What is it we study?
- Sept. 2: Evolution of international society
- Sept. 4: Is there a new world order? Debate
- Sept. 7: Globalization: Meaning, scope, salience. GI #22 pp. 120-126
- Sept. 9: Globalization: Myth or reality. GI #24, 25 pp. 131-141
- Sept. 11: Group Tutorials
- Sept. 14: Debate: Desirability of global economic integration. Rourke #8; GI pp. 160-1, 166-69
- Sept. 16: Debate: Is the world more dangerous today? Rourke #1
- Sept. 18: Nationalism and International Relations
- Sept. 21: Debate: Is nationalism destructive? Rourke # 16
- Sept. 23: Debate: The threat of Islam and fundamentalism. Rourke #4; GI pp. 27-31, 186-190
- Sept. 25: Realism. Timothy Dunne (R)
- Sept. 28: Liberal thought and international relations. Timothy Dunne "Liberalism" (R)
- Sept. 30: Collective security
- Oct. 2: Group Tutorials
- Oct. 5: World system theory. Hobden & Jones (R)
- Oct. 7: The UN: objectives and operations
- Oct. 9: Current events discussion and exam workshop
- Oct. 12: EXAM I
- Oct. 14: Debate: Permanent UN military force? Rourke #11
- Oct. 16: Debate: Should foreign policy makers minimize human rights? Rourke #12
- Oct. 19: Debate: China should be condemned as a human rights violator. Rourke #14
- Oct. 21: Debate: Does the spread of democracy promote peace? Rourke #13
- Oct. 23: Group tutorials
- Oct. 26: Debate: Russia should be admitted into NATO. Rourke #2; GI pp. 197-201
- Oct. 28: The changing notions of security. GI: pp. 32-37
- Oct. 30: Arms race in light weapons: Who benefits? GI pp. 176-181
- Nov. 2: Debate: Relevance of geopolitics in cyberspace era. Rourke #5; GI pp. 182-185
- Nov. 4: Debate: Does the world need to have nuclear weapons at all? Rourke #10; GI pp. 202-205
- Nov. 6: Group tutorials
- Nov. 9: Debate: US should abandon superpower role. Rourke #3; GI pp. 191-195
- Nov. 11: Debate on lifting the sanctions against Cuba. Rourke #7
- Nov. 13: The Sanctions Madness
- Nov. 16: Third World Debt Crisis
- Nov. 18: Debate on increasing aid to developing countries. Rourke #9
- Nov. 20: Foreign Aid: The theory and the reality
- Nov. 23: Group tutorials
- Nov. 30: Debate: Is there a global population crisis? Rourke #18; GI 40-52
- Dec. 2: Debate: Should immigration be restricted? Rourke #17; GI PP. 53-57
- Dec. 4: The environmental crisis. GI pp. 76-80; 90-94; 105-109
- Dec. 7: Deforestation: Brazil's experience
- Dec. 9: Debate on the benefits of UN's world conferences. Rourke #15
- Dec. 11: Exam workshop and course evaluation