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Spring 2006 TR 1.40
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Capstone Seminar :Thinking Globally Acting Locally (Pols 405.001 Spring 2006)

Course Description

This capstone is focused on exploring global/local linkages and connections which impact peoples lives on a daily basis. There are many political, economic and social issues affecting our local communities: spending cuts for social programs, proliferation of low wage job, hunger and economic struggles of poor and minority communities, lack of multicultural tolerance amid anti-immigration backlashes. Often these local outcomes affect and are affected by political and economic dynamics far from home. To begin to understand, address and act on these issues a global lens is needed. This seminar will concentrate on the global/local nexus of highlighting the interdependence between the global and the local. Furthermore, the seminar seeks to transcend the powerlessness often attached to the inevitability of neoliberal global restructuring, and instead attempts to engage students in creating various spaces of empowerment.

Course Objectives

The capstone seminar is intended to provide students with a culminating and integrative experience which builds upon and puts into practice the knowledge, skills, and values you have developed thus far as political science majors. As such this seminar creates opportunities for students to develop and enhance their critical analytical skills and conduct independent research. Moreover, the seminar seeks to sensitize students, through engagement in the local community, of the power of the individual and group to shape, influence, and make a difference in the world.

Required Text: Available at the College Bookstore

Sarah Anderson et al. 2005. *Field Guide to the Global Economy.* New York: New Press.

Mary Ann Tetreault and Ronnie D. Lipschutz. 2005. *Global Politics as if People Mattered.* Lanham, MD: Rowan & Littlefield Publishers.

Barbara Garson. 2002. *Money Makes the World go Around.* New York: Penguin Books

All other reading materials are available on ERes. Reading material on ERes will be designated by an *. The password for accessing this material is globallocal .

Course Requirements

I. Class Participation counts for 20% of your final grade.

The course will employ both lecture and discussion. However, for the most part it will be conducted like a seminar. **Each student is required to turn in two discussion questions, based on your readings, to me via email the day before class by 3.30 PM (that means every Monday and Wednesday afternoon) - *discussion questions will not be accepted anytime after 3.30 PM on those days.* Please also note that **failing to show up to class despite the fact that you have turned in questions to me via email will not count as having turned in discussion questions. Failure to turn in and show up to class will significantly lower your participation grade (which is 20% of your final grade).** Active student participation in class discussion is imperative. Students, therefore, are required to come to class having read the assigned readings critically. (Note that you cannot participate if you are not present!) The readings require careful attention as they raise many complex questions for us to consider. Much of the material is also difficult in another way, as it asks critical questions about things that we often take for granted, or see as given, in our society. Accordingly, there will often be contentious issues raised in the classroom. Mutual respect and open-ness are minimum guarantees for any discussion. **Please check Handout No.1 on ERes for the expectations of preparing and producing good discussion questions.****

II. Exams: Overall two individual test will count for 40% of your final grade.

The first test will take place in class on February 14th. It will consist of two essay questions (20%)

The second test will be a take home due on March 28th. (20%)

III. Each student will take part in a Service Group Project which accounts for 40 % of your final grade.

The main purpose of the service group project is to encourage students to develop strategies and take action on an issue related to globalization at the local level. Each group is responsible for the following format of the service group project - **a)generating a proposal** which is **due on February 9th** (5%); **b) producing and presenting a Project update report** before the class **on March 2nd** (5 %); **A written group report due no later than May 2nd by 3pm** (15 %, 5 % of which will be assigned by each group member); **An individual written report (5%) due no later than May 2nd by 3pm** ; A presentation of the service group project is scheduled for **April 4, 18 and 20th in class** (10 %). Further detailed information on what is expected at each step of this group project is available on ERes Handout 2.

**** Note: If you have a disability of any kind- learning, physical, psychological- which requires accommodation, please let me know early so that your learning needs can be appropriately met.**

****Note: Please ensure that all Cell phones are turned off before entering the class room. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in you being reported to the Honor's Board and the possibility of suspension from the College**

****Note: Failure to show up to class on the assigned day for your in class exam, without a valid excuse (which is entirely at the discretion of the instructor), will automatically result in an F. Also failure to notify the instructor within 24 hours of your absence from the exam will also result in an F.**

**** Note: You are expected to keep abreast of international events and issues by following the news (via national and international newspapers available on the web, and also by reading relevant internet sites)**

Grading Scale : A: 100-90 , B+: 89-85, B: 84- 80, C+: 79- 75, C: 74- 70, D: 69- 65, F: 64 + Below

Course Outline (I reserve the right to revise this outline when necessary)

January (Revised on Monday January 23rd)

Tues: 10 Introduction to the class, expectations, and housekeeping

Thurs: 12 Review of Syllabus (come prepared with questions, points of clarification, etc.)

**Tues: 19 What is “Service” in a global economy? The Money Connection Begins.
The creation and role of the social individual**

Reading

Assignment Due: *Field Guide*, Intro

Money, Prologue; It’s a Wonderful Life

*Parks and Daloz et al, Chapter 1 (ERes)

**Thurs:24 What is “Service” in a global economy cont/d
The creation and role of the social individual**

Reading

Assignment Due: *Global Politics*; Chapter 1 & 2

*John Cavanagh et al. The Commons (ERes)

Thurs: 26 Web Research: Global Service NGOs

Assignment: *Check ERes for Service Research Assignment
Come prepared to discuss service model findings

**Tues: 31 Historical Perspective; the rise of “hot money”
& Contending Economic perspectives**

Reading

Assignment Due: *Field Guide*; Section 1

Money, “The Sun Never Sets” & “Looking for Loans”

*Alan Greenspan; Globalization (ERes)

February

Thurs: 2 **Global Assembly Line; getting real**

Reading

Assignment Due: *Field Guide*; Section 2
Money; Striking Oil
Global Politics; Chapter 4

Tues: 7 **Global Capital: Trade, Speculation, and drive for profits**

Reading

Assignment Due: *Field Guide*; Section 4a (Private Actors)
Money; Gone Fishing
Global Politics; Chapter 9

Thurs: 9 **Global Boom: Taking Stock**

Reading

Assignment Due: *Field Guide*; Section 3
Money; Honesty is the best policy

Tues: 14 **Service Group Project proposal Due by 3.00 P.M**
In the political science department

Thurs 16 **First Exam in class**

Tues: 21 **Globalization Hits Home: Corporate Restructuring**

Reading

Assignment Due: *Field Guide*; Section 4b (public institutions)
Money; “Plunging...” & “Now There’s a bright idea.”

Thurs: 23 **Where does it all end? Policy Responses (1st take)**

Reading

Assignment Due: *Field Guide*; Section 5
Money; “Restructuring...” & “Outsourcing.”

Tues: 28 **Where does it all end? People adjust**

Reading

Assignment Due: *Money*, “6 months later” & “Fellow Shareholders”
Global Politics Chapter 10

March

Thurs: 2 **Project Update**
In class presentation

Tues & Thurs 6-----10 **Spring Break**

Tues: 14 **Where does it all end? Company bust.**

Reading

Assignment Due: *Money*; “Sunbeam Audit...” & “Restructuring hits home”

Thurs: 16 **Where does it all end? Asian crash**

Reading

Assignment Due: *Money*, “Apres Moi” & “Countries don’t go broke.”

Tues: 21 **Policy Responses (2nd take) Personal response: ethical action**

Reading

Assignment Due: *Money*; “Neither a borrower nor lender be” & “Loose Threads”
& Epilogue
* Parks Daloz et al (Epilogue) ERes

Thurs: 23 **Open Session (take home essay in progress)**

Tues: 28 **Take home essay due**

Thurs: 30 **Open Session (preparation for final presentation & and group service reports in progress)**

April

Tues: 4 **Presentation and discussion of service project begin (Groups 1 & 2)**

Thurs: 6 **Open Session (Prep for final presentation, group service reports, & tying up**

loose end on service project)

***Tues: 11* Open Session (Prep for final presentation, group service reports, & tying up
loose end on service project)**

***Thurs: 13* Open Session (Prep for final presentation, group service reports, & tying up
loose end on service project)**

***Tues: 18* Presentation and discussion of service project cont/d (Group 3 &4)**

***Thurs: 20* Presentation and discussion of service project cont/d (Group 5 & 6)
Last day of Class**