

PSCI 676-C

SEMINAR IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Fall Semester 2004
Office Hours:
1-2 MWF
Also by appointment

Dr. Michael Erisman
320 Holmstedt Hall
Office Tel: 2429
Home Tel: 299-4294

Internet Information:

My e-mail address is: psmeris@isugw.indstate.edu

The Internet HomePage for the ISU Political Science Department provides information about a wide variety of topics, including grad school/job opportunities and links to assist in doing research. Its address is: web.indstate.edu/polisci

EVOLVING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS: GLOBALISM AND OTHER PERSPECTIVES

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Joan E. Spero and Jeffrey Hart, **The Politics Of International Economic Relations** (Paperback, Sixth Edition)

Mark Rupert, **Ideologies Of Globalization: Contending Visions Of A New World Order** (Paperback)

Suggested Supplementary Reading (Not Required To Purchase)

Richard Barnet and Ronald Müller, **Global Reach: The Power Of**

The Multinational Corporations (Available in ISU, Rose Hulman, and St. Mary-of-the-Woods libraries; also Erisman has a copy)

Anthony Sampson, **The Money Lenders: The People And Politics Of The World Banking Crisis** (Available in Rose Hulman Library; also Erisman has a copy)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Since this is a graduate seminar, you will not have any exams along the lines of those which are common in undergraduate courses.

Instead, your overall grade for the course will be determined on the basis of your performance in the following areas (the percentages refer to the portion of the overall course grade involved in each particular activity):

1. Position Papers 35 Percent

You will be asked to write several position papers during the semester. The topics will be assigned by the instructor. These topics will deal with highly controversial aspects of the course material and you will be expected to take/defend a strong position. In other words, these position papers are designed to be exercises in ADVOCACY; the idea is to present the strongest possible defense of your position while simultaneously setting forth a devastating critique of opposing perspectives.

These position papers will serve as the basis for seminar discussion/debates. Copies of all position papers will be distributed to all members of the seminar. All members of the seminar will be expected to read the position papers and be prepared to critique them. You must, of course, be prepared to defend your position(s) against such critiques and to offer counterarguments. Your critiques/defense will be factor influencing your grade in each of these position paper exercises.

2. Class Presentations 15 Percent

You will be asked to make one or more presentations to the seminar. The topics will be assigned by the instructor. You will, in addition to the formal presentation, be

expected to allow adequate time for questions and discussion. You will probably do at least two presentations over the course of the semester.

3. Major Research Paper 40 Percent

As is normal in graduate research seminars, you will be asked to prepare and write a major research paper. The topic will be selected in consultation with the instructor.

Once the general topic has been selected, you will be asked to present a paper proposal to the instructor which will serve as the basis for further consultation/collaboration in preparing the finished product.

The proposal should include such elements as a summary of the major issues/hypotheses to be investigated, a survey of select literature relevant to the topic, and a tentative outline. Students should consult with the instructor in preparing this proposal, thereby establishing from the very beginning of the project a pattern of collaboration and consultation.

Since this is a graduate seminar with limited enrollment and a heavy emphasis on discussion/participation, it is **CRITICAL** that everyone attends the seminar regularly. As such, the seminar will operate on the basis of **MANDATORY ATTENDANCE**; if you have more than **THREE** unexcused absences during the semester, your overall course grade will be lowered one grade level for each of the class sessions for which you have "over-the-limit" unexcused absences. An unexcused absence is one where you have not arranged beforehand with the instructor to miss the class or where you do not provide documentation that your absence was unavoidable due to an emergency or other extenuating circumstances.

The grade scale to be used in the seminar is as follows:

A	=	90-100
B+	=	86-89
B	=	80-85
C+	=	76-79
C	=	70-75
D	=	60-69
F	=	less than 60

COURSE OUTLINE/READING ASSIGNMENTS

Book Key: MR = Rupert book
SH = Spero/Hart book

I. Course Introduction

A. Brief Survey of Main Topics/Issues To Be Covered

B. Some Basic Concepts Of International Economic Relations

Read: Handout, "The Economics of
International Political Economy"

C. The Interface Between Economics And Politics: The Evolving
NeoLiberal International Order And Its Critics

Read: SH, Chapter 1
MR, Chapter 1
Handout, Naim article on the
"Washington Consensus"

II. The Dominant Component Of NeoLiberal Globalism: The Western Industrialized Nations

A. The U.S. And Monetary Hegemony: The Rise And Fall Of The
Bretton Woods Arrangements

Read: SH, Chapter 2
MR, Chapter 2

B. Shifting Patterns Of Trade And The Emergence Of Economic
Mega-Centers

Read: SH, Chapter 3
MR, Chapters 3-4

C. East-West Economic Relations: The Collapse Of The Soviet
Socialist Bloc and the New Economic Order

Read: SH, Chapter 10

D. MNCs As Primary Agents Of Globalization

Read: SH, Chapter 4

This would be a good point at which to begin to read Barnett and Müller, **Global Reach: The Power Of The Multinational Corporations**

E. Populist Critiques Of NeoLiberal Globalism

Read: MR, Chapters 5-6

III. The Primary NeoLiberal Axis Of Tensions: North-South Economic Relations

A. Competing Perspectives: Optimists Versus Pessimists

Read: SH, Chapter 5

B. The South's Search For Developmental Capital

Read: SH, Chapters 6-7

This would be a good point at which to read Anthony Sampson, **The Money Lenders**

C. The Love-Hate Relationship With Multinational Corporations: Engines Of Development Or Engines Of Exploitation?

Read: SH, Chapter 8

This section will also draw heavily upon Barnett and Müller, **Global Reach** (especially chapters 1-2 and 6-8)

D. The LDCs Confront The Problem Of Asymmetrical Power: Cartels And North-South Relations

Read: S/H, Chapter 9

IV. Summary: Prospects For A NeoLiberal Global Order

Read: SH, Chapter 11
MR, Chapter 7