HOWARD UNIVERSITY
Department of Political Science

Political Science 211-208 **Mon: 3:10-5:00 p.m.**
Fall 2003 **Office: DGH # 139**
Mervat Hatem **Office Hours:**
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PROBLEMS OF WORLD ORGANIZATION

Description of the Course:

The United States' decision to invade Iraq despite UN and widespread international political protests provide the context for our study of the role of international organizations in an increasingly global world. The seminar will begin with the discussion of the view that this new global world has contributed to a new definition of "empire" that whose boundaries and forms are different from the old ones and its impact on the increasingly supranational agenda of the UN. Next, we will examine the Marxian concept of hegemony and its explanation of the dominant role of the US in the international system, the UN and the capitalist global economy. As part of this discussion, we will examine the roles of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank as the economic pillars of the United Nations System. The goal will be to understand how these institutions worked in the past and role that they are playing the new global world. Given the significant impact that their structural adjustment programs have had on the countries of thee South, we will devote time to their understanding and the discussion of their consequences. Finally, the last section of the course will be devoted to the examination of how the post cold war era has affected the operation of the U.N as a multilateral and/or an intergovernmental structure that is accommodating novel actors, like non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and policy agendas like gender and human rights.

ORGANIZATION:

The following books have been ordered through Howard University bookstore and will form the focus of our discussions and assessments:

- Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, Empire (Harvard University Press, 2000).

- Robert Cox with Timothy Sinclair, Approaches to World Order (Cambridge University Press, 1996).

- Frank Lechner and John Boli, eds. The Globalization Reader (Blackwell Publishers, 2001).

- Rita Mae Kelly, Jane H. Bayes, eds., Gender, Globalization and Democratization (Rowan and Littlefield Publishers, 2001).

- Karen Mingst and Margaret Karns, The United Nations in the Post-Cold War Era (Westview, 2000).

In addition to the above, I have placed some books, journal articles and chapters from other books as additional readings on 2-hour reserve at the undergraduate library. Students will be responsible for reading this material as part of class presentations and paper assignment.

GRADING:

Your grade will reflect your oral and written performance in the seminar. As part of the effort to stimulate discussion, you will be regularly asked to do oral presentations of the assigned readings. In addition, you will be required to write 3 critical research papers (15 pages each) on topics to be assigned.

The paper topics are designed to get you to think about the readings assigned for the class. The goal of each paper is to critically discuss and synthesize the readings and develop an independent opinion regarding the views they put forward. A list of questions that will guide the discussion and the date by which each assignment is due will be provided ahead of time. No late papers will be accepted.

Each one of the papers will count for 25% of your final grade. The remaining 25% will be based on the quality (preparation, organization and thoroughness) of your oral presentations and the seriousness with which you take this responsibility, which includes showing up on time for these assignments.

Good Luck and welcome to the course

COURSE OUTLINE

I. Introduction to the Course: (August 25)

II. Empire in a Global World (September 8)

Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, Empire, Part I: 3-66.

III. Hegemony (September 15)

Anne Showstack Sassoon, "Hegemony, War of Position and Political Intervention", in Approaches to Gramsci, ed. Anne Showstack Sassoon (1982), pp. 94-115.

Christine Buci Glucksmann, "Hegemony and Consent", Approaches to Gramsci, ed. Anne Showstack Sassoon (1982), pp. 116-126.

Robert W. Cox, "Gramsci, Hegemony and International Relations: an Essay on Method", in Approaches to World Order in Robert W. Cox with Timothy Sinclair (1996), pp. 124-143.

Robert Keohane, After Hegemony (1984), Chs. 1-3, pp. 5-48.

Paul Kennedy, "The U.S: the Problem of Number One in Relative Decline", The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers (1987), pp. 514-540.

IV. The Economic, Political and Cultural Dynamics of Globalization: (September 22, 29, October 6)

Frank Lechner and John Boli, The Globalization Reader, Parts: I, II, , IV, V, VI.

Robert Cox, "Production and Security", in Approaches to World Order, pp. 276-295.

Leo Panitch, "Rethinking the Role of the State", Globalization: Critical Reflections, James Mittleman, ed. , pp. 83-116.

Suzanne Bergeron, "Political Economy Discourses of Globalization and Feminist Politics", Signs (Summer 2001), pp. 983-1006.

Rita Mae Kelly, Jane Bayes, Mary E. Hawskworth and Brigitte Young, ed. Gender, Globalization Democratization: chapter 1 and selected case studies.

Samuel Huntington, "The Clash of Civilizations?", Foreign Affairs (Summer 1993), pp. 22-49.

See responses by Fouad Ajami, Robert Bartley, Liu Binyan, Jeanne Kirkpatrick and Kishore Mahbubani, in Foreign Affairs (Sept./Oct. 1993), pp. 2-26.

Also see articles by Leon Hadar, "What Green Peril?", and Judith Miller, "The Challenge of Radical Islam" Foreign Affairs (Spring 1993).

*** First paper assignment is due on Oct. 14.**
**** Late papers will not be accepted.**

V. The Bretton Woods Institutions (Oct. 20, 27, Nov. 3)

Joan Spero, The Politics of International Economic Relations (1990), ch. 2: 31-64; ch 10: 337-369.

Robert Cox, "The Global Economy and Social Choice" and "Production and Security" in Approaches to World Order, pp. 191-209, 276-295.

Mahbub ul Haq, Richard Jolly, Paul Streeten and Khadija ul Haq, The UN and the Bretton Woods Institutions (1995).

Chapters by Shakaw, Adedeji, Massad and Boltho (on reserve).

Pamela Sparr, ed. Mortgaging Women's Lives (1994), chs 1-2 and selected case studies.

*** Second Paper assignment is due on Nov. 10.**
**** Late Papers will not be accepted.**

VI. The United Nations in the Post-Cold War Era (Nov. 17, 24, Dec. 1)

Karen Mingst and Margaret Karns, The United Nation in the Post-Cold War Era.

Robert Cox, "Multilateralism and the World Order" and "Globalization, Multilateralism and Democracy" in Approaches to World Order, pp. 494-536.

Robert W. Cox with Timothy Sinclair, Approaches to World Order, part IV: 317-494.

Thomas Weiss and Leon Gordenker, eds. NGOs, the UN and Global Governance, part I.

*** Third paper assignment is due on December 8.**
**** Late papers will not be accepted.**