Economics 3433 — International Conflict in the Nuclear Age

Instructor: Don Roper  Fall 1991
Office Hours: 11-12 and 5:15-5:45 MW  Room 14 Economics Building

This course focuses on several issues of international and intergenerational conflict — the role of international capital markets in the allocation of resources between current and future generations, the international debt crisis, sustainable development, the population question and other topics as indicated below. Some attention is also given to the potential of the (tele)communications revolution for helping address problems faced by the "global village."

Grades will be determined by exams (a mid-term and a final) plus a written contribution to an electronic computer discussion group. The two exams and written contribution will be weighted equally (i.e., one-third each). The first mid-term will be in mid-October and written contributions must be completed prior to Thanksgiving. Readings will come from Campus Copies, library reserve, and electronic dissemination.

interest rates, intergenerational efficiency, and debt
"Yields, Capitalization Theory, Present Values and All That"
"Interest Rates and Intergenerational Conflict"
"Causes and Consequences of the Debt Crisis"
Newspaper articles on the debt crisis

debt for nature swaps
Packet of newspaper articles on debt for nature swaps
Roque Sevilla "Banks Debt, and Development" Int'l Environ Affairs '90
Carlo Jaeger "Debt, Conservation, and Innovating Sustainable Development" IEA '90
Jose Castaneda "Debt for Nature Swaps ..." P Yrbk of Int'l Law '90
Richard Norgaard "Three Dilemmas of Environmental Accounting" Ecological Economics '89
Tim Hamlin "Debt-for-Nature Swaps: A New Strategy ..." Ecology Law Quarterly '89
"Conservation Groups ... Bail Out Big Banks" Bus & Soc Rev '88

sustainable development
Kenneth Piddington "Who Bears the Burden of Sustainability?" New Perspectives
Ghillean Prance "Fruits of the Rainforest" New Scientist 90
Thomas E. Lovejoy "Third World Development" JEH & EPAJ
Pat Aufderheide & Bruce Rich "Environmental Reform and Multilateral Banks" WPJ
the population question
Garrett Hardin “Tragedy of the Commons” ’68
_________ “Carrying Capacity as an Ethical Concept” ‘76
Herman Daly “Population” chapter(12) from For the Common Good
Robert Repetto – selections from various publications
Paul Ehrlich – selections from various publications

resource scarcity and economic growth
Emile Benoit Progress and Survival ‘80
Kenneth Boulding “Economics of the Coming Spaceship Earth” (speaker)
Herman Daly “…Issues Concerning a Stead-State Economy”
Donnella Meadows “…On Global Modeling” (MIT Alumni Rev)
Georgescu-Roegen “The Entropy Law and the Economic Problem”

the economic paradigm and methodology
“Economic Dialogue in the Communications Revolution”
“Implications of Optic Technology for Communications”
Thomas Kuhn The Structure of Scientific Revolutions (selections)
A.J. Ayers Language Truth and Logic (selections on positivism)
“The Methodology of Positive Economics” Milton Friedman
selections from The Common Good by Daly and Cobb
“Review of The Common Good”