THE INTELLECTUAL HISTORY OF CAPITALISM: 1900–PRESENT

Overview:
This course explores the intellectual history of capitalism since the end of the nineteenth century. Readings include texts written by historians, economists, sociologists, and social and political theorists, and central topics include the historicization of capitalism, the decline and revival of laissez-faire, the cultural implications of consumerism, the ethics of inequality, the problem of norms in the twentieth-century social sciences, and the relationship between the market economy and democratic governance.

Assignments and Grading:

10%: online postings
20%: first paper (5–7 pp.)
30%: participation
10%: second paper proposal (3–5 pp. plus bibliography)
30%: second paper (12–15 pp.)

Each week students will be asked to respond to several brief prompts via the course's social e-reading app, Perusall. The nature of these assignments will vary from week to week.

There are two major writing assignments in this course. The first is a 5–7 pp. paper on a topic based wholly on readings for the course. A partial draft of this paper is due for distribution to your classmates on Tuesday, October 6th, and a final draft is due on Tuesday, October 13th. (A list of questions will be distributed in class, or students can choose to pursue their own line of analysis in consultation with the professor.) The second is an original 12– to 15–page research paper on a topic related to the intellectual history of capitalism since the late nineteenth century. Students will develop their topics in consultation with the professor. A preliminary proposal and bibliography are due on Tuesday, November 3rd, a partial draft is due for distribution to your classmates on Tuesday, December 1st, and the final paper is due during the exam period.

All papers are due by 4:00 pm on the deadline date. After that time, the grades of late papers will be lowered one level for each day they are late (e.g., a grade of B becomes a B− if one day late, a C+ if two days late, etc.).

All students in the course are expected to visit both the TA’s and the professor’s office hours at least once prior to the first paper deadline.

The strength of the university depends on academic and personal integrity. In this course,
you must be honest and truthful. Ethical violations include cheating on exams, plagiarism, reuse of assignments, improper use of the Internet and electronic devices, unauthorized collaboration, alteration of graded assignments, forgery and falsification, lying, facilitating academic dishonesty, and unfair competition. Please report any violations you witness to the instructor. You may consult the associate dean of student conduct (or designee) by calling the Office of the Dean of Students at 410-516-8208 or via email at integrity@jhu.edu. For more information, see the Homewood Student Affairs site on academic ethics: (https://studentaffairs.jhu.edu/student-life/student-conduct/academic-ethics-undergraduates)

Texts:

A number of the readings from the course (denoted with an * in the syllabus) will be available online or on electronic reserve. The other readings, listed below, are available at the bookstore:


**MEETINGS**

**Friday, September 4th**

- Introduction.

**Friday, September 11th**


**Friday, September 18th**

Friday, September 25th


Friday, October 2nd

- *John Maynard Keynes, “The End of Laissez-Faire.”

* Tuesday, October 6th: PARTIAL DRAFTS OF FIRST PAPER DUE *

Friday, October 9th

- Peer workshop of partial first paper drafts.

* Tuesday, October 13th: FIRST PAPERS DUE *

Friday, October 16th

- *Eric Williams, Capitalism and Slavery (Capricorn, 1944), selections.

Friday, October 23rd


Friday, October 30th


* Tuesday, November 3rd: SECOND PAPER PROPOSALS DUE *

Friday, November 6th


• Milton Friedman, selections from *Capitalism and Freedom* (Chicago, 2002).

• *Workshop of second paper proposals.*

Friday, November 13th


• *Fredric Jameson, “The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism,” in *Postmodernism, or, the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism* (Duke, 1991), pp. 1–54.

Friday, November 20th


* Tuesday, December 1st: SECOND PAPER SELECTONS DUE *

Friday, December 4th


• Peer workshop of 5–10pp. selection from final paper.

* Exam Period: FINAL PAPERS DUE *