History of European Capitalism

During the past 250 years, the advent and spread of capitalism revolutionized Europe's economies. Exploring the origins and political, social as well as cultural consequences of this change, this course will deal with a wide range of issues, ranging from the transformation of the countryside in eighteenth-century England, to the emergence of heavy industry in the Ruhr Valley a hundred years later, to the history of European labor movements. We will pay special attention to the connections between Europe and the rest of the world and the varieties of capitalism as they came to characterize the European continent.

*Note:* This course will be taught in Freiburg, Germany, as part of the Harvard College Europe Program, and will include a number of excursions -- from the sites of the slave trade in Liverpool to the cotton mills of Lancashire, from the sites of early industrialization in Alsace to the steel works of the Ruhr. These excursions are free to enrolled Harvard University students and a required part of the course. Freiburg University students will need to pay for the excursions.

**Reading Assignments**

The following books should be purchased, all other readings are available on the course website and in the course reader.


**Course Requirements**

1. Attendance and participation in classroom discussions are required. You should be prepared to discuss the reading assignments. Participation will count for **35 percent** of your final grade.

2. An oral presentation of one week’s readings, no more than ten minutes long, that draws out the major arguments and a five page discussion paper on one of the week’s readings, due the day the readings are discussed in class. (**15 percent** of grade)

3. You have two choices for your seminar paper:
   a. Write a 20 pages research paper on some aspect of the history of European capitalism. The paper could explore the history of a particular town or industry, inquiry into the beliefs of a particular group of people, or examine the rise and fall of a social movement. The exact choice of the research topic is yours, but you need to discuss it with me no later than March 8. You must submit a short outline of the project by March 22, including a concise summary of your topic, a statement of the questions you wish to answer, and a preliminary list of the sources and secondary works you plan to use. The paper is due in my mailbox on May 2, 2012 at 5 PM. (**50 percent** of final grade.)

   b. Write a 20 page historiographical paper that discusses and critically evaluates the literature on one of the themes of the seminar. Your tasks will include researching a bibliography, choosing five books that have crucially shaped the debated on the topic under review and writing the paper. A draft of the bibliography and a list of the books you plan to review is due on March 22, the final paper is due in my mailbox on May 2, 2012 at 5 PM. (**50 percent** of final grade)
Schedule of Topics and Readings

**February 16**

**Origins of Capitalism in Europe**


**February 23**

**The British Industrial Revolution. Why then? Why there?**


**March 8**

**Revolutions after the Revolution**

March 9
The Social Effects of Industrialization: The Example of the English North
EXCURSION to Liverpool and Manchester, March 9 to March 11


*Itinerary Outline:*

**Friday**

*AM*
10:00 Departure Basel Airport
11:00 Arrival Manchester Airport

*PM*
12:30 Visit to Quarry Bank Mill
4:00 Walking Tour: 'Cottonopolis'

**Saturday**

*AM*
8:12 Departure Manchester Oxford Road National Rail to Liverpool Lime Street, 8:58
9:00 Walking Tour: Commerce in Liverpool
11:00 Visit to International Slavery Museum/Mersey Maritime Museum

*PM*
3:00 Walking Tour: Liverpool and Slavery
8:22 Departure Liverpool Lime Street National Rail to Manchester Oxford Road, 9:06

**Sunday**

*AM*
10:00 Visit to the Manchester Museum of Science and Industry
12:00 Visit to the People's History Museum of Manchester

*PM*
2:00 Walking Tour: 'Slums and Squalor: Victorian Manchester'
4:54 Depart Manchester Oxford Road for Manchester Airport, arrive 5:17
6:50 Depart Manchester Airport for Zurich, arrive 9:45
March 15

The Rise of the Bourgeoisie


March 22

The Second Industrial Revolution and the Rise of Corporate Capitalism [QUESTION]

Philip Manow, “Welfare State Building and Coordinated Capitalism in Japan and Germany” in The Origins of Nonliberal Capitalism: Germany and Japan in Comparison Wolfgang Streeck and Kozo Yamamura, eds. (Cornell, 2001) pp., 94-120. [26]
March 29

**Labor, Work, Labor Movements and the Rise of Socialism in Europe**


March 30-March 31

**Excursion: The Ruhr Valley and German Heavy Industry**


April 5

**Liberalism and Capitalism in Crisis: Inter-War Europe and Fascism**


**April 12**

**Varieties of Capitalism in Europe**


**April 19**

**The Future of Capitalism in Europe**


Youtube Video: RSAnimate of David Harvey’s Lecture, “The Crises of Capitalism”

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOP2V_np2c0&feature=relmfu](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOP2V_np2c0&feature=relmfu)