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 structures of governance.

Assignments and Grading:

35%: participation (including online postings and in-class presentation)
15%: research proposal (3–5 pages and bibliography)
50%: final paper (20 pages)

Each week, students are expected to post a paragraph on the course discussion board responding to and/or raising questions about one or more of the week’s readings; these should be submitted no later than 8:00pm on the Monday night prior to the meeting. Each student will also begin our discussion of one figure on the syllabus with a 15-minute presentation that provides contextual background and identifies central themes. A sign-up wiki for presentation topics will be available in the “Presentations” section of the course website following the first meeting of the class.

The primary assignment is an original 20-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 March 10th, and the final paper is due on May 12th. The subject of a student’s in-class presentation should differ from the subject of their research paper.

The grades of late papers or proposals 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.).

In this course, you are expected to be honest and truthful. Ethical violations include 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 professor. You may consult the associate dean of student affairs and/or the chairman of the Ethics Board beforehand. See the guide on “Academic Ethics for Undergraduates” and the Ethics Board Web site (http://ethics.jhu.edu) for more information.

Any student with a disability who may need accommodations in this class must obtain an accommodation letter from Student Disability Services, 385 Garland, (410) 516-4720, studentdisabilityservices@jhu.edu.
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

Tuesday, February 1st
- Introduction.

Tuesday, February 8th

Tuesday, February 15th

Tuesday, February 22nd
Tuesday, March 1st


Tuesday, March 8th


* Thursday, March 10th: RESEARCH PROPOSALS DUE *

Tuesday, March 15th


Tuesday, March 29th


Tuesday, April 5th


Tuesday, April 12th

Tuesday, April 19th


Tuesday, April 26th


Tuesday, May 3rd

- Richard Sennett, The Culture of the New Capitalism (Yale, 2007).

* Thursday, May 12th: FINAL PAPERS DUE *