

History 4028, U S Capitalism to 1877, Spring 2010, Allan Kulikoff, Instructor  
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Home Phone: 546-1737 Office Phone: 542-2517 Office Hours: T-Th, 8:15-9:00 or by appointment

From Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations* to Thomas Friedman's *The World is Flat* social commentators have argued that capitalism leads inexorably to prosperity, innovation, and wealth creation. But what is capitalism and when did it begin in America? How did it change people's lives? This course will examine the economic and ideological origins of capitalism in early America. We will discuss merchant capital, non-capitalist societies, the emergence of capitalism, anti-capitalism, the ideals of the "Self-Made man" and the "American Dream." The majority of readings will be biographical, autobiographical, and fictional portrayals of economic conditions.

This will be a lecture course, but there will be intense discussions as well, particularly of the autobiographies and fiction (on those days, I will not lecture). There will be one midterm and two short papers, but students have option of short term paper, to replace the two short papers. Each essay, the midterm, and the final will count equally. ***Class attendance is mandatory. Any absence, for any reason (except hospitalization) beyond three will be penalized.***

The following books are available in the bookstores:

Robert J. Allison, ed., *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano Written by Himself with Related Documents*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed, Bedford Books, 0-312-44203-3 (*Equiano*) ***Please buy this edition.***

Susan E. Klepp and Billy G. Smith, eds., *The Infortunate: The Voyage and Adventures of William Moraley, an Indentured Servant (Infortunate)*. Buy the second edition, 2005.

Louis P. Masur, ed., *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin with Related Documents*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed, 0-312-40415-8 (*Autobiography Franklin*)

*Life of P. T. Barnum Written by Himself*, Terrance Whalen, intro. University of Illinois Press.

Frank Norris, *The Octopus*, Penguin Books edition, 9780140187700. ***Please buy this edition.***

All other readings are excerpts and will be emailed, except JSTOR articles and those noted by urls.

### *Feudalism to Capitalism*

- Jan. 7 Lecture: What is capitalism?  
Jan 12 Lecture: From Feudalism to Capitalism. Reading: Thomas More, *Utopia*.  
Jan 14 Lecture: Why did the English Colonize America? Reading: *Nova Britannia*; Richard Hakluyt, *A Discourse Concerning Western Planting*, <http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/amerbegin/exploration/text5/hakluyt.pdf>; Winthrop, "Reasons to be considered for Justiflinge . . . the intended plantacon in New England." *MA Hist Soc, Proceedings* 8 (1864-65): 420-27.  
Jan 19 Lecture: The Slave Ship. Reading: "Atlantic Slave Trade & Slave Life in the Americas," <http://hitchcock.etc.virginia.edu/Slavery/index.php>; *Equiano*, 7-33, 42-74, 98-114, 226-31.

### *Was early America Capitalist?*

- Jan 21 New England: Anon-capitalist society? Reading: "New England's Annoyances;" Edward Johnson, *Johnson's Wonder-Working Providence* (1650-51), J. Franklin Jameson, ed.  
Jan 26 Early South. Reading: Richard Frethorne to his parents (1623); Ebenezer Cooke, "The Sotweed Factor"; Bacon's Declaration in the Name of the People, (1676); "An act concerning Servants and Slaves," 1705 in William Waller Hening, *Statutes at Large: Collection of all the Laws of Virginia*, 3: 447-62; Johann Bolzuius, comments on slavery in Carolina.  
Jan 28 Lecture: The Best Poor Man's Country? Reading: *Infortunate*, introduction, 109-22; *Autobiography Franklin*, 1-20, 169-71.  
Feb 2 Reading and Discussion: *Infortunate*, 1-107.  
Feb 4 Reading and Discussion; *Autobiography Franklin*, 21-104, 174-182. ***First essay due.***  
Feb 9 Lecture: Rural anti-capitalism in Revolutionary America. Reading: Irving Mark & Oscar Handlin "Land Cases in Colonial NY " *NYU Law Quarterly Review*, 19 (1942): 165-94;

- Herman Husband, *An Impartial Relation . . .* (1770), 64–68; NC Regulators Petition, 1769.
- Feb 11 Lecture: Constitution & American capitalism. Reading: *Proposals to Amend . . . Policy of the Government* (1782); Madison, Notes for Speech Opposing Paper Money, 1786, “Vices of the Political System & *Federalist* #44;” U.S. Constitution, Art. 1: sec. 8, 10; articles and petitions on money; debates in VA and SC ratifying conventions.
- Feb 16 Lecture: Hamiltonian System. Readings: Hamilton, *Report on Manufacturers; First Report on Public Credit* and responses; Hamilton to Washington, 27 March 1791; Jefferson & Madison on manufactures; Ruth Bogin, ed., “‘Measures So Glareingly unjust’: Response to Hamilton’s Funding Plan by William Manning” *William & Mary Quarterly*, 46 (1989), 315-31, JSTOR.
- Feb 18 **Midterm**

### *The Transition to Capitalism*

- Feb 23 Lecture: The Transition to Capitalism in Rural America. *No reading.*
- Feb 25 Lecture: Free land and Rural Capitalism. Readings: Debates over preemption, *Congressional Globe*, 1837; Horace Greeley, *Hints Toward Reform*; Homestead Act, 1862.
- March 2 Lecture: Metropolitan Industrialization. Reading: Ten-hour Circular, *The Man*, May 13, 1835; “Working Man’s Recollections of America,” *Knights Penny Magazine* 1 (1846); N. O. Picoyune, “Labor in New York,” *Harbinger*, Jan 10, 1846; 2, 5; “Female Industry Association,” *Working Man’s Advocate*, March 8, 1845.
- March 4 Lecture: Factory Industrialization. Reading: Charles Dickens, *American Notes* (1842), chap. 4; H. D. Thoreau, *Journal: Volume 3*; Jan. 2, 1851, 170-173; N. B. Gordon, Diary, in *New England Mill Village, 1790–1860*, 284–94; Daniel W. Snell., *Manager’s Assistant*.
- March 16 Lecture: Mill Workers: An American Proletariat? Reading: *The life and religious experience of Hiram Munger* (1861), 10–15; Harriet Robinson, *Loom and Spindle* (1898), 83-86; selections from *Voice of Industry*, *Lowell Offering*, *The Man* & other labor journals.
- March 18 Lecture: Capitalists and Con men. Reading: *Memoirs of the Notorious Stephen Burroughs* newspaper accounts of Burroughs, his account; police gazette excerpts; *Life of Barnum*, 394-99 (Rules for Success).
- March 23 Discussion: *Life of Barnum*, editor’s introduction, Barnum’s preface through chap. 2, chap. 6, 8-10. **Second essay due.**
- March 25 Lecture: Law and Capitalist Development. Reading: Proprietors of Charles River Bridge v. Proprietors of Warren Bridge, 36 U.S. 420.
- March 30 Lecture: The Anti-Capitalist Mormon Crusade. Reading: “Doctrine & Covenants of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints,” Sect 42, 78; *Journal of Discourse* 2: 303-8.
- April 1 Lecture: Slavery and the Internal Slave Trade. Reading: Charles Ball, *Slavery in the United States: Life & Adventures of Charles Ball* (1837), through chap. 8.
- April 6 Lecture: Slavery as a system of labor. Reading: Ball, *Slavery*, chap. 9-.
- April 8 Lecture: Free Labor, Slave Labor. Reading: William Lloyd Garrison, selections from the *Liberator*; Abraham Lincoln, “Address before the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society,” 1859; George Fitzhugh, *Cannibals All* (1856).

### *Coming of Monopoly Capital*

- April 13 Lecture: The Civil War: Incubator for Capitalism? Reading: Horatio Alger Jr., *Ragged Dick or Street Life in New York* (1868).
- April 15 Lecture: The Gilded Age. Reading: Andrew Carnegie, “Wealth,” *North American Review* June, 1889, 653-64; Ida Tarbell, “John D. Rockefeller: A Character Study,” *McClure’s Magazine* (July 1905): 226-49.
- April 20 Lecture: Strikers & Capitalists. Reading: Richard Ely, “Pullman: A Social Study,” *Harper’s* 70: Feb. 1885, 452-66; Pullman Era, <http://www.chicagohs.org/history/pullman.html>; Burns, Debs, & Altgeld. *Pullman Boycott* (1894); Pullman Company statements; strike picture gallery.
- April 22 Lecture: Capitalist agriculture in California. Frank Norris, *The Octopus*.
- April 27 Reading and Discussion: Norris, *Octopus*. **Take-home final due.**