

POLSH 265: Politics, Markets and Theories of Capitalism

Spring 2009
TuTh 2:30 – 4:00pm, Hall 106

Professor: Craig Borowiak
Office: Hall 214
Office Hours: Weds 10:00am - 12:00 (or by appointment)
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In this course we will visit classic works in the history of political economic thought. We will be discussing how major political economists have understood capitalism and the relation between politics and markets. While the authors we read will generally not be contemporary. We will seek to identify what lessons from these authors can be drawn for today.

I have ordered the following books from the bookstore.

Adam Smith, *the Wealth of Nations* (in two volumes)
Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*
The Marx-Engels Reader
Frederich Hayek, *The Road to Serfdom*
J.K. Gibson-Graham, *A Post-Capitalist Politics*

Useful links

- <http://cepa.newschool.edu/het/index.htm>
The New School maintains a website with links to a wide range of resources related to history of economic thought.
- <http://socserv.mcmaster.ca/econ/ugcm/3113>
McMaster University maintains an archive of online versions of primary sources in the history of economic thought.
- <http://www.econlib.org/library/classics.html>
The Liberty Fund maintains an online library of books and essays in economics.
- <http://www.marxists.org/reference/>
The Marxist Internet Archive maintains an online reference library of political economists and their works.
- <http://www.wesleyan.edu/css/readings/Barber/toc.htm>
William J. Barber, an emeritus professor at Wesleyan, has placed his 1967 history of economic thought text online ()

Assignments

1. Discussion Questions and Leading Class Discussion

You will be asked to write **two** discussion questions for **every** class period. These need to be more than one sentence questions asking the obvious. Instead they should provide some context for the question and display some thought and sophistication regarding how you are processing the texts. I will not collect these for every class, but I will not hesitate to call upon students to present their questions during class. I will periodically collect them in class and evaluate them with a ✓, ✓-, or ✓+. These will factor in your participation grade.

You will also sign up to take responsibility for initiating/leading class discussion for one class period over the course the semester.

2. Short Essays

There will be three short essays (3-4 pages each) assigned during the course of the semester.

3. Final Paper

You will write one longer final paper (12-15 pages) on a topic of your own choosing (within the thematic parameters of the course)

4. Participation

Your participation in class discussions is as important as your written work. Attendance is required. You are expected to come to class well-prepared and ready to make quality, considered contributions. The quality of this course will depend on the effort **each** of us puts into it. If you tend to speak a lot, this may mean holding back. If you tend to remain quite, this may mean speaking up. We will be exploring some deeply theoretical and contentious issues. Questions, challenges, and disagreements are, of course, encouraged.

Evaluation (approximate)

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|----------------------------------|-----|
| Short Essays | 55% |
| Final Paper | 30% |
| Participation/Response Questions | 15% |

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change)

Tu, Jan 20 **Introduction**
Raymond Williams, *Keywords*, “Capitalism,” “Bourgeois,” “Class” (Blackboard)
Bennett, Grossberg, and Morris, *New Keywords*, “Capitalism” (Blackboard)
SECTION ONE: Pre-Classical Political Economy

Th, Jan 22 **Historical Context**
Eric Wolf, *Europe and the People Without History* (Blackboard)
 Iberians in America: 131-157
 The Slave Trade: 195-208, 229-33
 Trade and Conquest in the Orient: 239-261

Tu, Jan 27 **Mercantilism and Physiocracy**
Encyclopedia essays
 - 3 entries on “Mercantilism” (Blackboard)
 - 2 entries on “Physiocrat” (Blackboard)
Essays by Mun, Quesnay, and Turgot (Blackboard)
Thomas Mun, “Chapter Three” of [England's Treasure by Forraign Trade](#)
 (Blackboard)
John Locke, *Second Treatise of Government* (1690) (Chapter 5, “Of Property”,
 115-126) Available at:
 <http://socserv.socsci.mcmaster.ca/econ/ugcm/3ll3/locke/government.pdf>
Alexander Hamilton, “Report on Manufactures”
 <http://press-pubs.uchicago.edu/founders/documents/v1ch4s31.html>
Charles Wilson, “Treasure and Trade Balances: The Mercantilist Problem,”
 Economic History Review.2.2, 1949 (**Read only 152-157**) (Available at:
 www.jstor.org)

Recommended

Nicholas Barbon, “A Discourse on Trade” (1690)
 <http://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/economics/barbon/trade.htm>
Edward Misselden, *Free Trade or, The Meanes to Make Trade Florish* (1622)
 (Chapters 1-4) :
 <http://www.ecn.bris.ac.uk/het/misselden/freetrad.txt>
Friedrich List, “Political and Cosmopolitical Economy”
 http://oll.libertyfund.org/?option=com_staticxt&staticfile=show.php%3Ftitle=315&chapter=30264&layout=html&Itemid=27

SECTION TWO: Adam Smith and Classical Political Economy

- Th, Jan 29 **Adam Smith**
Adam Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments* (Selections)(Blackboard)
Adam Smith, *Wealth of Nations* (WoN), pgs 10-56; 65-81
(Note: page numbers are for Smith's text, not the editor's introduction)
- Recommended
Adam Smith, *Lectures on Jurisprudence*, pgs 562-586 (Blackboard)
Bernard Mandeville, "The Fable of the Bees"
http://oll.libertyfund.org/?option=com_staticxt&staticfile=show.php%3Ftitle=1863
- Tu, Feb 3 **Smith II**
Smith, *WoN*, pgs 82-104 (esp 96), 138, 264-267, 276-278, 330-349, 376-380
- Th, Feb 5 **Smith III**
Smith, *WoN*, pgs 428-472, 488-498, 538-540, 556-570 (esp 568), 586-7, 591-4,
610-6, 624-7
- Recommended
Adam Smith, *Lecture on Jurisprudence*, pgs. 331-352, 381-388, 486-541, 430-
435) (Blackboard)
- Tu, Feb 10 **Smith IV**
Smith, *WoN*, 264-267, 452-459, 463-479, 689-724 (esp 689, 707-8, 723),
730-733, 754-56, 781-799
David Ricardo, "On Foreign Trade" (Blackboard)

SECTION THREE: Marxist Political Economy

- Th, Feb 12 **Marx I**
Marx-Engels Reader (M-E Reader), "the Manifesto of the Communist Party"
(469-500)
- Recommended
Eric Wolf, "Industrial Revolution" (267-295) (Blackboard)
- Essay I due*

- Tu, Feb 17 **Marx II**
M-E Reader
 - Economic & Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844: “Estranged Labor” (70-81)
 - The German Ideology (176-186)
 - Wage, Labour and Capital (203-217)
 - *Capital* (294-308)
“Preface to the Critique of Political Economy” (Blackboard)
“Speech on Free Trade” (Blackboard)
- Th, Feb 19 **Marx III**
M-E Reader
 - *Capital* (294-343)
David Harvey, “The Difference a Generation Makes” (Blackboard)
Steven Marcus, “Marx’s masterpiece at 150” NY Times book review, Apr 26, 1998 (<http://www.nytimes.com/books/98/04/26/bookend/bookend.html>)
- Tu, Feb 24 **Marx IV**
M-E Reader
 - *Capital*, 344-65, 384-419, 431- 438
 - Essay on “The British Rule in India,” 653-664
(skim) Marx, *Capital* (Chapter 15, Section 8, 588-608) (Blackboard)(also available at <http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1867-c1/ch15.htm#S8>)
- Th, Feb 26 **Capitalism and Imperialism**
Marx, *Capital*, Volume III, Part 3, Chapter 14
www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1894-c3/ch14.htm
J.A. Hobson, *Imperialism* (1902), Ch. 6, “The Economic Taproot of Imperialism”
<http://www.marxists.org/archive/hobson/1902/imperialism/pt1ch6.htm>
Karl Kautsky, “Ultra-Imperialism” (1914)
www.marxists.org/archive/kautsky/1914/09/ultra-imp.htm
V.I. Lenin, “Imperialism: the Highest Stage of Capitalism” (1916), Chapters 4, 7 (skim 1, 5-6, 10)
www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1916/imp-hsc/index.htm
Schumpeter, “Imperialism and Capitalism” (Blackboard)
- Recommended**
David Landes, “Empire and After” in *The Wealth and Poverty of Nations* (Blackboard)

Tu, Mar 3 **Weber and the Protestant Ethic**
Max Weber, [*the Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*](#)
Ch 1: “Religious Affiliation and Social Stratification”
Ch 2: “The spirit of Capitalism”
Ch 5: “Asceticism and the Spirit of Capitalism”
(Available at: <http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/WEBER/toc.html>)

Th, Mar 5 **Pit**
Essay II due in class

Mar 6 - Mar 15 Spring Break

SECTION FOUR: 20th Century Debates

Tu, Mar 17 **Schumpeter and Creative Destruction**
Joseph Schumpeter, *Capitalism, Democracy, and Socialism*, pp 72-120
Thomas Friedman, *The Lexus and The Olive Tree* (Selection)(Blackboard)

Recommended
Muller, *The Mind and the Market*, chapter 11 (Blackboard)

Th, Mar 19 Video: “A job at Ford’s”
Readings TBA

Tu, Mar 24 **Hayek I**
Hayek, *The Road to Serfdom* (chs 1-4)
Hayek, “The Use of Knowledge in Society”
(available at: <http://www.econlib.org/library/Essays/hykKnw1.html>)

Recommended:
Editor’s Introduction to *The Road to Serfdom* (pp 1-33)

Th, Mar 26 **Hayek II**
Hayek, *the Road to Serfdom* (chs 5-10)

Tu, Mar 31 **Polanyi I**
Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*, pp. 3-5, 35--49, 59-89, 116-135

Recommended

Fred Block's Introduction to the Great Transformation

Santhi Hejeebu and Deirdre McCloskey, "The Reprising of Karl Polanyi"
Critical Review, Vol 13, no 3-4 (Summer Fall 1999): 285-314.

www.ciaonet.org/olj/cr/cr_99hes01.pdf

Th, Apr 2 **Polanyi II**
The Great Transformation, pp. 135-186, 187-192, 210-228, and Foreword

Recommended

Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*, 231-268

Tu, Apr 7 **Keynes**
Readings on Keynes (Blackboard)

Essay III due in class

Th, Apr 9 **Milton Friedman**
Milton Friedman, *Capitalism and Freedom* (Intro, chs 1-2, 7) (Blackboard)
David Harvey, *A Brief History of Neoliberalism* (pp 5-38) (Blackboard)

Recommended

Galbraith, "the Myth of Consumer Sovereignty" (Blackboard)

SECTION FIVE: Varieties of Capitalism, Globalization, Post-Capitalism

Tu, Apr 14 **World Systems Analysis and Dependency Theory**
Andre Gunder Frank, "the Development of Underdevelopment"
http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1132/is_n2_v41/ai_7659725
Immanuel Wallerstein, "The Rise and Future Demise of the World Capitalist System" (Blackboard)
Immanuel Wallerstein, "The Three Instances of Hegemony in the History of the Capitalist World-Economy" (Blackboard)
Christopher Chase-Dunn, "Interstate System and Capitalist World-Economy: one Logic or Two" (Blackboard)

Recommended

Christopher Chase-Dunn and Barry Gills, "Waves of Globalization and Resistance in the Capitalist World-System" (Blackboard)

Th, Apr 16 **New Institutionalism and Varieties of Capitalism**
Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye
- “Realism and Complex Interdependence” (Blackboard)
- “Interdependence in world politics” (Blackboard)
Ronald Rogowski, “Commerce and Coalitions: How Trade Affects Domestic
Political Alignments” (Blackboard)
Peter A. Hall and David Soskice, *Varieties of Capitalism*, “Introduction” (1-68)
(Blackboard)

Recommended

Douglas North, “Institutions,” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* Vol 5, no. 1
(1991): 97-112 (available on-line at JSTOR)

Tu, Apr 21 **Post-Fordism and Millennial Capitalism**
David Harvey, *The Conditions of Postmodernity* (Selections)(Blackboard)
Manuel Castells, “Information Technology and Global Capitalism” (Blackboard)
J. Comaroff and J. Comaroff, “Millennial Capitalism: First Thoughts on a Second
Coming”(Blackboard)

Recommended

Robert Cox, “Global Perestroika” (Blackboard)

Th, Apr 23 **Post-Capitalist Politics I**
J.K. Gibson-Graham, *A Post-Capitalist Politics* (Introduction, Ch. 1-3)

Tu, Apr 28 **Post-Capitalist Politics II**
Gibson-Graham, *A Post-Capitalist Politics* (Ch 4-7, esp 4 and 7)

Th, Apr 30 **Last Class. Catch-up / Wrap up**
Readings on financial crisis (Blackboard)

Paper copy of final paper due in my box on **Friday, May 15, noon.**
(Seniors: Paper due on Friday, May 9, 5:00 p.m.)