History 247 – History of American Capitalism – Spring 2013

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Essentials

Prof. Dunlavy

Lectures: 1651 Mosse Humanities Bldg., Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:00-5:15 p.m.
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Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
Email: cdunlavy@wisc.edu

Teaching Assistant – Kate Wersan

Sections: W 9:55 (2625 Hum.), W 11:00 (4041 Vilas), Th 1:20 (2221 Hum.), Th 2:25 (2631 Hum.)
Office: 4272 Humanities, (608) 263-1939, mailbox #xxxx
Office hours: Tuesdays, 2:45-3:45 p.m., and Wednesdays, 8:45-9:45 a.m.
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The full syllabus resides on the web at http://history.wisc.edu/dunlavy/247 and includes details re. grading and expectations as well as tips for doing well in this course. It is your responsibility to read it in full! Course materials will be available on our Learn@UW website (http://learnuw.wisc.edu).

In brief: How did American capitalism reach its current state? This is one of today’s most pressing questions, and it’s arguably the most exciting time in a century to grapple with it. This course offers useful ways of thinking about (i.e., analyzing, understanding) American capitalism through a survey of its historical development since the mid-eighteenth century. Themes: changes in the nature of American capitalism; the ever-changing, though always essential, role of government; and changes in American capitalism as a social world, defined by social rules (laws and norms) and social relations.

Lecture topics and, within reason, assigned readings (a mixture of primary and secondary sources) are subject to change. The readings, which will provide the locus of discussion in sections, are best read in the order that they appear on the schedule below. Participation in discussion sections is mandatory. The due dates of the three writing assignments are indicated on the schedule below. The final exam will be a closed-book, no-notes, “blue book” with essay question(s) handed out in advance.

With the exception of Rampolla’s Pocket Guide, the readings are available on Learn@UW (https://learnuw.wisc.edu, log in with your UW NetID). If there is sufficient demand, a course pack will be available for purchase at the Humanities Copy Center (across from our lecture hall).

The detailed schedule of lectures, readings, and assignments this semester appears on the following pages.

End-of-semester events

Review: Tuesday, May 14, 4:00-5:00 p.m., location TBA
Final exam: Friday, May 17, 12:25-2:25 p.m., location TBA
Schedule of lectures, sections, and readings

Week 1: January 22 – 24

**Jan. 22 (T) Lecture – Introductions**

Introductory reading

- Mary Lynn Rampolla, *A Pocket Guide to Writing in History*, 6th ed. (Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2010), chs. 1-4. This will help to orient those of you who have not taken a college-level history course and will serve as a refresher for those who have.
- “Themes and Concepts” – handed out in lecture; also on Learn@UW.

**Jan. 23-24 (W-Th) Discussion sections**

Will meet this week; no assigned reading (but note, below, the reading to be discussed in Thursday’s lecture).

**Jan. 24 (Th) Lecture – Thinking about capitalism; “Doing business in the colonies”**

**KEYWORD:** bill of exchange

For discussion in lecture today (handed out in lecture on Tues., Jan. 22; also available on Learn@UW at [http://learnuw.wisc.edu](http://learnuw.wisc.edu) – login with your NetID)


Week 2: January 29 – January 31

**Jan. 29 (T) Lecture – “The imperial political economy”**

**KEYWORD:** colony

Reading for discussion in lecture today (handed out in Jan. 24 lec.; also available on Learn@UW):

- Excerpt from *The Present State of the British Court . . .* (1720) on the Commissioners of Trade and Plantations (141-142). *Can you discern a description of the colonial “political structure” in this source?*

**Jan. 30-31 (W-Th) Discussion sections**

Assigned readings


**Jan. 31 (Th) Lecture – “Revolutionary and post-colonial tumult”**
Week 3: February 5 – 7

**Feb. 5 (T) Lecture** – “Breaking with the colonial past: the War of 1812”

**Keyword:** War of 1812

1st paper assignment – handed out in lecture

**Feb. 6-7 (W-Th) Discussion sections**

Assigned readings


**Feb. 7 (Th) Lecture** - Workshop in lecture on the writing assignment

Week 4: February 12 – 14

**Feb. 12 (T) Lecture** – “A new institutional power: the corporation”

**Keyword:** general incorporation

1st paper assignment – due in lecture today

**Feb. 13-14 (W-Th) Discussion Sections**

Assigned readings


**Feb. 14 (Th) – “Capital and credit in antebellum capitalism”**
Week 5: February 19 – 21

**Feb. 19 (T) – “Race and gender in antebellum capitalism”**

**Feb. 20 – 21 (W-Th) Discussion Sections**

Assigned readings


**Feb. 21 (Th) Lecture – “What was so revolutionary about ‘industry’?”**

**KEYWORD:** “American System” (of manufacturing)

Week 6: February 26 – 28

**Feb. 26 (T) Lecture – “Civil War: Refiguring state and economy”**

**KEYWORD:** “American System” (the policy package)

**Feb. 27 – 28 (W-Th) Discussion sections**

Assigned readings

- Excerpts from the annual reports to the shareholders of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, 1827, 1837, 1847, 1857.
- “King Bread vs. King Cotton,” *Chicago Tribune*, September 28, 1861, p. 0_2, in ProQuest Historical Newspapers Chicago Tribune (1849-1986).

**Feb. 28 (Th) Lecture – “New strategies of growth – integrating enterprises”**

**KEYWORDS:** horizontal integration, vertical integration

Week 7: March 5 – 7

**March 5 (T) Lecture – “Social relations of capitalism transformed, part 1: labor”**

**KEYWORD:** Homestead

**March 6 – 7 (W-Th) Discussion sections**

Assigned readings

*Be sure to check the next page for continuation.*
  I. A Congressional View (Hon. William C. Oates, Chairman of the Congressional Investigating Committee)
  II. A Constitutional View (George Ticknor Curtis)
  III. A Knight of Labor’s View (T. V. Powderly, General Master Workman of the Knights of Labor)

March 7 (Th) Lecture – “Social relations of capitalism transformed, part 2: capital”

**KEYWORD:** plutocracy

2nd paper assignment – handed out in lecture today  NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE!

Week 8: March 12 – 14

March 12 (T) Lecture – “Social barriers to entry: race and gender ca. 1900”

**KEYWORD:** The “Black Edison”

March 13 – 14 (W-Th) – Discussion Sections

Assigned readings


**KEYWORD:** “race to the bottom”

Week 9: March 19 – 21

March 19 (T) Lecture – “Consolidating the mass production economy in the Great War”

**KEYWORDS:** dollar-a-year men, Simplified Practice

2nd paper assignment – due in lecture today  NOTE THE CHANGE OF DUE DATE!

March 20 – 21 (W-Th) Discussion sections

Assigned readings
• “The Story of the New Campaign,” *The Chameleon* [publication of the Sherwin-Williams Co.], September 1918, 6-7, 11.

**March 21 (Th) Lecture – “The new interdependence: ‘Systems’”**

**Keyword:** diversification

**March 26 – 28**  SPRING BREAK

No lectures or section

**Week 10: April 2 – 4**

**April 2 (T) Lecture – “The Great Depression: Crisis of Capitalism?”**

**Keyword:** technological unemployment

**April 3 – 4 (W-Th) Discussion sections**

Assigned readings

**April 4 (Th) Lecture – “World war again - forging modern American capitalism”**

**Keyword:** military-industrial complex

**Week 11: April 9 – 11**

**April 9 (T) Lecture – “The surprise of post-WWII prosperity”**

**Keywords:** National Defense Highways Act, automation

3rd paper assignment – handed out in lecture today

**April 10 – 11 (W-Th) Discussion sections**

Assigned readings

Be sure to check the next page for continuation.
April 11 (Th) Lecture – “New Strategies – Conglomeration and Franchising”

Week 12: April 16 – 18

April 16 (T) lecture – “American business pushes abroad”

Keywords: multinationals

April 17 – 18 (W-Th) Discussion sections -- NOTE THE CHANGE!

Assigned readings – None this week; sections will focus on the paper assignment

April 18 (Th) Lecture – “The problem of the corporation”

Week 13: April 23 – 25

April 23 (T) Lecture – “Why the ‘new (social) regulation’?”

3rd paper assignment – due in lecture today NOTE THE CHANGE OF DUE DATE!

Keywords: OSHA

April 24 – 25 (W-Th) Discussion sections

Assigned readings


April 25 (Th) Lecture – “Crisis again? The 1970s”

Keywords: stagflation

Week 14: April 30 – May2

April 30 (T) Lecture – “A new era of capitalism? I. Reversing course”

Keywords: core business, deregulation

May 1 – 2 (W-Th) Discussion Sections

Assigned readings

Keywords: pseudo-professionalism

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**May 2 (Th) Lecture – “A new era of capitalism? II. A new market revolution”**

**KEYWORDS:** “forced capitalists”

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**Week 15: May 7 – 9**

**May 7 (T) Lecture – “A new era of capitalism? III. Technological revolutions”**

**KEYWORDS:** nanotechnology

**May 8 – 9 (W-Th) Discussion sections**

Assigned readings – Competing visions of a new era of capitalism


**May 9 (Th) Lecture – “A new era of capitalism? IV. Globalization”**

Be sure to check the next page for continuation.