HIST 2670 A01
History of Capitalism

Fall 2017

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 – 11:15
Armes 111

Dr. Todd Scarth
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Office hours: Thursdays 11:30 - 12:30 pm or by appointment

Course Description

In recent years questions about the origins, evolution and nature of capitalism have attracted renewed attention from historians. A rapidly growing literature offers fascinating new answers -- and new insights into capitalism’s crises, culture, and resiliency. This course draws on this recent work, and other research, to explore the history of capitalism. Using both primary sources and secondary analyses, we will look at the history of capitalism from a global perspective. The class will primarily consist of lectures and structured discussions.

Participation

You are expected to attend class regularly, having done the readings, and be prepared to discuss them and participate in class activities. If you honestly feel too shy to put up your hand and ask questions…do your best. It will get easier. In any case, students whose best ideas come to them after class are always welcome to discuss the readings with me after class, during office hours, or by email.

Texts

Course pack (available at UM bookstore). Unless otherwise specified, all readings are included in the course pack.


Schedule

I have nominally divided the readings into “weeks,” and yes, we will spend approximately one week on each set of readings. But we may sometimes run over schedule, and holidays may intrude. So we’ll adjust as necessary.

Introduction: What does it mean to study the history of capitalism? How do we think about capitalism historically?


Week 1

“The Royal Charter of the Hudson’s Bay Company” (1670) http://www hbcheritage.ca/hbcheritage/collections/archival/charter/charter.asp


Week 2


Week 3

Smith, Adam. Wealth of Nations (1776), Book 1, chaps. 1-3, and 8. AVAILABLE WIDELY ONLINE, INCLUDING HERE:
http://www econlib org/library/Smith/smWN.html


Week 4


Week 5


Week 6

“The Great Mountain of Silver and the Mita System”

Week 7

Week 8


Week 9

Week 10

Week 11
Krippner, Gretta. Capitalizing on Crisis: The Political Origins of the Financial Crisis

Week 12

Grading and Assignments

In-class quizzes (5x2 =10%)
There will be five short unannounced in-class quizzes. These will be distributed toward the end of class, and will require you to answer straightforward questions about the lecture or materials for that class. You must be in class to take the quiz, and there are no opportunities to make up missed quizzes.

Personal History 15%
Read and spend some time thinking about the selections from Nickel and Dimed and Rivethead. Do you sympathize with the authors? Do you have personal experiences in the workplace that help you relate to the authors’ experiences?
Write a personal history based on your work experience (this may include yourself or your family) in the idiom of Ehrenreich or Hamper – i.e. critical, informal, subjective.  
Minimum 1,000 words  
Due Sept 28

We will revisit these essays in the final exam, when I will ask you to approach your experiences from a more analytical perspective, with the benefit of what we have learned over the term.

**Test 15%**  
Oct 10

**Essay in response to *Killing for Coal*** 15%  
Questions will be posted online  
Minimum 1,500 words  
Due Nov 2

**Essay in response to *Evicted*** 15%  
Questions will be posted online  
Minimum 1,500 words  
Due Nov 30

**Final exam  30%**  
Your writing assignments must be typed and proofread to ensure they are free of typos, egregious grammatical errors, missing words or references, and other signs you did not read your own work before handing it in. Please do not rely on your computer’s spell-check.

Evaluation of course work will be provided by the Voluntary Withdrawal date, Nov 17, 2018.

**Grading scale**

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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
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<td>A</td>
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**Late Assignments**  
If for some reason you must hand in an assignment late, please discuss with me in person before the due date. If you do not do this I will not consider accepting the assignment late.

**Plagiarism**
Below is the university’s policy on plagiarism. Please read it. I understand that scholarly conventions for citing others’ work may seem confusing if you are not used to them. Luckily, there is a solution: when in doubt, ask for help or clarification. And always err on the side of giving too much -- rather than too little -- credit to other scholars whose work you are using.

The common penalty in Arts for plagiarism on a written assignment is a grade of F on the paper and a final grade of F (DISC) (for Disciplinary Action) for the course. For the most serious acts of plagiarism, such as purchase of an essay and repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five (5) years from registration in courses taught in a particular department/program in Arts or from all courses taught in this Faculty.

The Faculty also reserves the right to submit student work that is suspected of being plagiarized to Internet sites designed to detect plagiarism or to other experts for authentication.

The common penalty in Arts for academic dishonesty on a test or examination is F for the paper, F (DISC) for the course, and a one-year suspension from courses acceptable for credit in the Faculty. For more serious acts of academic dishonesty on a test or examination, such as repeat violations, this penalty can also include suspension for a period of up to five years from registration in courses taught in a particular department or program in Arts or from all courses taught in or accepted for credit by this Faculty.

Grade Appeals
Students who wish to appeal a grade given for term work must do so within 10 working days after the grade for the term work has been made available to them.

Uncollected work
Uncollected term work will become the property of the Faculty of Arts and will be subject to confidential destruction.

Student resources
Student Academic Resources
You have access to several important resources to help you navigate your classes and university life more generally. There are writing tutors available to help you with your essays through the Academic Learning Centre (ALC): http://umanitoba.ca/student/academiclearning/. The History department will also make a writing tutor available exclusively to History students in the department on one day a week. More information about scheduling, etc., TBA.

The ALC page also has resources to help you with study skills, organization, as well as assistance for students using English as an Additional Language (EAL). Other issues, including accessibility services, workshops, and tips about
academic integrity are addressed at the Student Advocacy Services webpage (http://umanitoba.ca/student/resource/student_advocacy/).

All of the above services can also be accessed under the heading of Student Resources on the Student Affairs website: http://umanitoba.ca/student/studentlife/index.html.

History students can also take advantage of the huge range of academic materials (including primary and secondary sources, as well as pages to help with writing and referencing) made available by the History subject librarian, Kyle Feenstra, tailored just for you! They are available on the Libraries page at this link: http://libguides.lib.umanitoba.ca/history. Students who need research assistance can also schedule an appointment with a librarian through the website.

Student Counseling Centre
Contact SCC if you are concerned about any aspect of your mental health, including anxiety, stress, or depression, or for help with relationships or other life concerns. SCC offers crisis services as well as counseling. http://umanitoba.ca/student/counselling/index.html

Student Support Case Management
Contact the Student Support Case Management team if you are concerned about yourself or another student and don’t know where to turn. SSCM helps connect students with on and off campus resources, provides safety planning, and offers other supports, including consultation, educational workshops, and referral to the STATIS threat assessment team. http://umanitoba.ca/student/case-manager/index.html

University Health Service
Contact UHS for any medical concerns, including mental health problems. UHS offers a full range of medical services to students, including psychiatric consultation. http://umanitoba.ca/student/health/

Student Advocacy
Contact Student Advocacy if you want to know more about your rights and responsibilities as a student, have questions about policies and procedures, and/or want support in dealing with academic or discipline concerns. http://umanitoba.ca/student/advocacy

UM History Student Association (UMHiSA)
UMHiSA is a history undergraduate student run organization that seeks to establish a sense of community for students studying all facets of history, and provide support for them in their academic career. Students interested in fun
times, spirited debate, new opportunities, a community of like-minded students, or all of the above, check out UMHiSA on our facebook group https://www.facebook.com/groups/422932261087799/ or emailing umhisau@gmail.com.