

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
The College

Social Sciences 12100 (26)

Self, Culture, and Society – 1
Perspectives on Modernity: The Social
Organization of Capitalist Production
Autumn Quarter 2013
Class Meetings: SS 105, MW 1:30-2:50
Intern: Eleanor Bush <ejbush@uchicago.edu>

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Reading List

Books (available at the Seminary Co-op Bookstore, 5751 South Woodlawn Avenue:

Adam Smith (2000 [1776]), *An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*. NY: Modern Library.

Karl Marx (1978 [1844-67]), *The Marx-Engels Reader* (R. Tucker, ed., 2nd Edition 1978). Norton.

Max Weber (2000 [1905]), *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (T. Parsons, Tr.). Routledge.

William Greider (1997). *One World, Ready or Not: The Manic Logic of Global Capitalism*. Touchstone.

Note: There are different editions of these works. Please obtain the ones listed here.

Course Requirements

Due dates are indicated in the attached Schedule of Readings and Assignments.

(1) Submission of three short papers. The first paper will be slightly shorter and represent 10% of the final grade. The second and third papers each represent one third (33%) of the final grade. If an extension is required, it must be requested before the due date. Late papers or those exceeding the word limits indicated will be marked down.

(2) Submission on Monday or Wednesday of each week of a *brief* (i.e., 200-word) critical commentary (or question) on the reading assignment for that day, due in class. We meet for ten weeks and your nine best commentaries will count toward your grade. Commentaries will be marked 0 to 3 depending on quality, with a 2 being the expected grade on each. These commentaries in conjunction with contribution to class discussion constitute the remaining quarter (23%) of the final grade.

(3) Participation in class discussion of the readings. Quality and appropriateness of comments will be valued over quantity.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Week 1 (25 pp)

09/30 Overview of the course

10/02 Smith Introduction (xxiii-xxvi), Book 1: Chapters 1-3 (3-23)

Week 2 (75 pp)

10/07 Smith Book 1: Chapters 4-6 (24-61)

10/09 Smith Book 1: Chapters 7-9 (62-99)
First Paper Assigned

Week 3 (42 pp)

10/14 Marx Capital, Part I (302-28)

10/16 Marx Capital, Part II (329-43)

10/18 **First Paper Due**

Week 4 (32 pp)

10/21 Marx Capital, Part III (344-76)

10/23 <No class – Instructor away>

Week 5 (61 pp)

10/28 Marx Capital, Part IV (377-416), Part V (417-19)

10/30 Marx Capital, Part VII (419-430), Part VIII (431-38)
Second Paper Assigned

Week 6 (72 pp)

11/04 Marx Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844 (70-101)

11/06 Thompson Time, Work-Discipline, and Industrial Capitalism (56-97)

11/08 **Second Paper Due**

Week 7 (61 pp)

11/11 Weber Author's Introduction (xxviii-xlii)

11/13 Weber Part I, Chs. 1-3 (3-50)

Week 8 (117 pp)

11/18 Weber Part II, Chs. 4-5 (53-125)

11/20 Greider Part I: Chs. 1-3 (11-56)
Third Paper Assigned

Week 9 (88)

11/25 Greider Part II: Chs. 4-7 (57-145)

11/27 <No class – Thanksgiving ... or, alternatively, 12/04>

Week 10 (111)

12/02 Greider Part IV: Chs. 15-17 (333-415)

12/04 Greider Part IV: Chs. 19 (444-473)

12/06 **Third Paper Due**