

## **Power, Identity, and Resistance**

Social Sciences 111, Fall 2006

M/W 1:30-2:50, SS106

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This seminar is the first of a three-quarter sequence in the Common Core in the Social Sciences. Throughout the year, you will examine social scientific approaches to power in relation to economy and markets, politics and states, and social movements. This quarter, we will focus upon the relationship between economy and governance, devoting most of our time to engaging the key theories of Adam Smith, Karl Marx, and Emile Durkheim (with some Marcel Mauss, too). We will closely examine the arguments and approaches of each thinker, but also will explore the overlaps and differences across their works. In the final sessions we will bring these concepts and tools to bear upon two current themes, work in the United States and globalization.

Key questions of the course include: What are economies and markets, and how can we examine them in relation to power? How can we understand the division of labor, both economically and socially, and what are its consequences? What is the relationship between economy and culture, between the ways that economies are organized and social organization and (in)equality?

While these topics will occupy our energies, the overall goals of the course are broader: to expose you to theories in the social sciences; to develop your skills in written and oral analysis; and to offer tools for critically engaging social, political, and economic problems that shape our world.

We will be reading from the following books, all of which are (or will be) available at the Seminary Co-Op Bookstore under SS111:

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations* (University of Chicago Press).

Adam Smith, *Theory of Moral Sentiments* (Liberty Press).

Robert W Tucker, *The Marx-Engels Reader* (Norton).

Emile Durkheim, *The Division of Labor in Society* (Free Press).

Marcel Mauss, *The Gift* (Norton).

Barbara Ehrenreich, *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America* (Metropolitan Books).

Joseph Stiglitz, *Globalization and its Discontents* (Norton).

There is a course Chalk site, where the syllabus and assignments will be posted.

**Course Requirements:**

*Participation.* This is a seminar, in which you will join in the collective enterprise of discussing ideas in relation to texts. Your attendance and participation are key, and your grade will suffer if you miss classes or fail to actively and respectfully join the discussions.

Participation will count as 20% of your grade.

*Response papers.* Six 1-page response papers will count for another 20% of your final grade; they will be graded on a scale of check, check plus, and check minus. We will divide the class in half, with Group 1 submitting response papers to both the instructor and the intern by email (jesscatt@uchicago.edu and kertcher@uchicago.edu) by 4pm on Sundays, and Group 2 submitting by 8pm on Tuesdays. You may select the weeks in which you do not submit a paper without advance notice. These papers should include 2 components. 1. Provide a brief exploration of the readings, for example a critique of a key argument, an analysis of a theme, or a discussion of connections to a previous author's work. You should NOT summarize the readings. 2. Pose 1-2 questions for class discussion. They should aim to explore or clarify some aspect of the text.

*Papers.* Three 5-page papers will each count for 20% of your final grade; due dates are indicated on the class schedule. Late papers will be penalized one full grade for each day past the deadline, with extensions given only in the case of emergencies. I will address the goals and format of your papers in class, and will hand out questions in advance.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated, and will severely lower your final grade; please see university policies on academic integrity or consult the instructor or intern for guidance.

## Schedule of Classes

### Week One

Mon. 9/25 Introduction

Wed. 9/27 *The Wealth of Nations*, Vol. 1, Book IV: p. 449; Vol. 1, Book I: pp. 1-29, 32-38, 53-61; Vol. 1, Book II: pp. 291-293, 351-371.

### Week Two

Group 1: Response paper due by 4pm Sunday

Mon. 10/2 *The Wealth of Nations*, Vol. 1, Book I: pp. 62-82, 88-93, 98, 111-132 (to bottom);

Group 2: Response paper due by 8pm Tuesday

*Note: Yom Kippur: a make-up class or appointments will be scheduled by request*

Wed. 10/4 *The Wealth of Nations*, Vol. 1, Book I: pp. 275-8, 136-40(top), 144-145, 150-152(top), 157-160; Vol. 1, Book IV: pp. 474-495; Vol. 2, Book IV: pp. 125, 159-61, 179-181, 207-9; Vol. 2, Book V, pp. 231-38, 243-246, 282-286.  
(First paper assignment handed out)

### Week Three

Group 1: Response paper due by 4pm Sunday

Mon. 10/9 *The Wealth of Nations*, Vol. 2, Book V, pp. 298-309, 314-315, 320-322;  
*The Theory of Moral Sentiments*, pp. 9-19, 109-117, 127-134 (read the footnote),  
135-139, 156-161, 212-218.  
(Discuss paper assignment)

Group 2: Response paper due by 8pm Tuesday

Wed. 10/11 *Theory of Moral Sentiments*, pp. 78-86, 50-66, 179-187, 152-156, 227-234, 161-170, 176.  
(Discuss citations and attribution in social scientific writing)

**1<sup>st</sup> paper due Friday Oct. 13 by 5pm in Haskell 119 (in designated box)**

### Week Four

Group 1: Response paper due by 4pm Sunday

Mon. 10/16 *The Marx-Engels Reader*, Preface to Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy, pp. 3-6; Theses on Feuerbach and The German Ideology, pp. 143-175.

Group 2: Response paper due by 8pm Tuesday

Wed. 10/18 *The Marx-Engels Reader*, Working-Class Manchester, pp. 579-585; Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844, pp. 66-81.

**Movie: John Sayles's *Matewan* screened 10/19, evening, details TBA**

### Week Five

Group 1: Response paper due by 4pm Sunday

Mon. 10/23 *The Marx-Engels Reader*, Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844, pp. 81-105.

Group 2: Response paper due by 8pm Tuesday

Wed. 10/25 *The Marx-Engels Reader*, Wage Labour and Capital, pp. 203-217.

### **Week Six**

- Group 1: Response paper due by 4pm Sunday  
Mon. 10/30 *The Marx-Engels Reader*, Capital Vol. I, pp. 302-312, 319-361.  
(Second paper assignment handed out)
- Group 2: Response paper due by 8pm Tuesday  
Wed. 11/1 *The Marx-Engels Reader*, Capital Vol. I: pp. 361-417.  
(Discuss paper assignment)

### **Week Seven**

- Group 1: Response paper due by 4pm Sunday  
Mon. 11/6 *The Marx-Engels Reader*, Manifesto of the Communist Party, pp. 469-500
- Group 2: Response paper due by 8pm Tuesday  
Wed. 11/8 *The Division of Labor in Society*, pp. xxx(final paragraph)-xxxv, 1-52, 60-64.  
**2<sup>nd</sup> paper due Friday Nov. 10 by 5pm in H119**

### **Week Eight**

- Group 1: Response paper due by 4pm Sunday  
Mon. 11/13 *The Division of Labor in Society*, pp.68-87, 101-141.
- Group 2: Response paper due by 8pm Tuesday  
Wed. 11/15 *The Division of Labor in Society*, pp. 200-217, 229-238, 291-308, 329-341.

**Movie: *The Corporation* screened 11/15 or 11/16, evening, details TBA**

### **Week Nine**

- Group 1: Response paper due by 4pm Sunday  
Mon. 11/20 *The Gift*, pp. 5-18, 33-48, 65-83
- Group 2: Response paper due by 8pm Tuesday  
Wed. 11/22 *Nickel and Dimed*, pp. 1-49 (and skim 121-191). Continue to discuss Mauss.  
(Third paper topic handed out)

### **Week Ten**

- Group 1: Response paper due by 4pm Sunday  
Mon. 11/27 *Globalization and its Discontents*, pp. 3-52  
(Discuss paper assignment)
- Group 2: Response paper due by 8pm Tuesday  
Wed. 11/29 *Globalization and its Discontents*, pp. 53-88 (read), 214-252 (skim)

**3<sup>rd</sup> paper due Monday Dec. 4 by 5pm, H119**