

# HIST 2670 A01 History of Capitalism

Fall 2019

M/W/F 11:30-12:20

Room: Isbister 235

## Instructor

George Buri

## Email

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## Office Location & Hours

University College 343, 2:30-4:00,  
Tuesday / Thursday or M/W 1:30-  
3:30

## General Information

### Description

This course traces the development and evolution of the capitalist system from the 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries. Specific questions to be addressed include: What is capitalism? When and why did Capitalism develop? How has capitalism evolved over the centuries? What has been the impact of capitalism on politics and society throughout history?

### Expectations and Goals

This course combines lectures and class discussion. Students are expected to attend lectures, take notes and ask questions. Students are also expected to be prepared to participate in class discussions when they are held and to keep up with assigned readings.

### Required Materials

The required readings for this class can be found through UMLearn. See the class schedule below for specific readings and dates.

## Assignments

Students must complete two short (6-8 page 1500-2000 word) essays. Detailed instructions for each of the essays can be found on a separate handout which is also posted on UM learn.

Since this is a course that meets the University Senate's W requirement, students must complete all essay assignments with a passing grade to pass the course.

The Seminar Questions Assignment requires students to read each article and provide one potential question that could be used as the basis of a seminar discussion. This question must be submitted using UM learn prior to the day of discussion. The articles themselves can be found on UM learn and the dates they will be discussed can be found in the class schedule

The final exam will consist of two essay questions. Potential topics for these questions will be distributed to students on the last day of class.

Essay 1	The Standard of Living Debate	30%	Due Oct 4
Essay 2	Long Term Global Impact of Capitalism	30%	Due Nov 29
Seminar Questions Assignment		10%	Throughout semester
Final Exam		30%	Date TBA

Late essays will receive a penalty of 5% per class up to a total of 50%. No late assignments will be accepted after the final class of the term. Extensions may be granted on compassionate grounds if requested ahead of the due date. Seminar Questions MUST be handed in prior to the class the article is discussed. For this assignment NO late submissions will be allowed.

All essay assignments for this course are to be submitted exclusively electronically through UM Learn (as a word document). The file name for the document should be as follows: SURNAME Given name Assign # HIST 2670

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

## Grading

Letter grades correspond to number grades as follows:

A+ = 90-100

A = 80-89

B+ = 75-79

B = 70-74

C+ = 65-69

C = 60-64

D = 50-59

F = below 50

Keep in mind that the goal of this course should be to improve your skills, NOT to achieve any specific grade. Thus, my comments on your assignments are far more important than the specific grade given. Please read comments carefully as I have put significant thought into them.

*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*

## Additional Information and Resources

### Plagiarism

The University's regulations re: plagiarism, cheating and impersonation may be found in the section on "Academic Integrity" of the General Academic Regulations in the online Academic Calendar, and Catalog and the Faculty of Arts regulation at: [http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student\\_resources/student\\_responsibilities\\_integrity.html](http://umanitoba.ca/faculties/arts/student_resources/student_responsibilities_integrity.html), which reads:

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.

## Voluntary Withdrawal

The voluntary withdrawal date for this course is Nov 18, 2019. Some evaluation of term work will be provided prior to this date.

## Student Resources

### 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/](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, 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 instagram account [www.instagram.com/umhisa\\_undergrad/](http://www.instagram.com/umhisa_undergrad/) or emailing [umhisau@gmail.com](mailto:umhisau@gmail.com).

## Class Schedule

*Seminar Dates and Readings in Italics*

***DUE DATES IN BOLD***

September 4: Introduction to Course

Sept 6: Origins of Capitalism: Pre-Capitalist modes of Production

*Sept 9: Seminar: What is Capitalism?*

*Reading: Karl Marx, "Wage Labour and Capital"*

Sept 11: Origins of Capitalism: Italian City States

*Sept 13: Seminar: The Origins of Capitalism Debate*

*Reading: Kristin Plys, "Eurocentrism and the Origin of Capitalism"*

Sept 16,18: Early Capitalism: Mercantilism, New World, and the Dutch

*Sept 20: Seminar: Slavery and Capitalism*

*Reading: Sven Beckert: Empire of Cotton: A Global History. (selection),*

Sept 23,25: The Industrial Revolution I: Origins and Explanations

*Sept 27: Seminar: The Industrial Revolution*

*Reading: Karl Polanyi, The Great Transformation (selection)*

Sept 30, Oct 2: The Industrial Revolution II: Spread and Impact

***Oct 4: Seminar: Standard of Living Debate (Essay Due Today)***

Oct 7,9,11: Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Capitalism and Colonialism

Oct 14 NO CLASS THANKSGIVING

*Oct 16: Seminar: WWI and Capitalism*

*Reading: V. I. Lenin: Imperialism: The highest stage of capitalism (selection)*

Oct 18: Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Capitalism

Oct 21,23: Capitalism in Crisis: The Great Depression

Oct 25: Seminar: Solutions to Economic Crisis

*Reading: Nicholas Wapshott, "Keynes Hayek: The Clash that Defined Modern Economics" (selection)*

Oct 28,30: The Welfare State and the "Golden Age"

*Nov 1: Seminar: Mass Consumerism in the West*

*Reading: Lizabeth Cohen, A Consumers Republic (selection)*

Nov 4,6: Capitalism and the 3<sup>rd</sup> World in the Cold War Era

*Nov 8: Seminar: Capitalism and Neocolonialism*

*Reading: Kwame Nkrumah, "Neocolonialism, the Last Stage of imperialism"*

Nov 11-15 NO CLASS BREAK WEEK

NOV 18 VW Deadline

Nov 18,20,22: Neoliberalism I: 1970s Crisis and The Chicago School

*Nov 22: Seminar: Neoliberalism and Geopolitics*

*Reading: David Harvey: "Accumulation by Dispossession"*

Nov 25,27,29: Neoliberalism II: "Globalization" and its impact

**Nov 29: Essay #2 Long Term Global Impact of Capitalism Due Today**

Dec 2,4: 2008 Financial Crisis and the End of Neoliberalism?

*Dec 6: Seminar: Disaster Capitalism*

*Reading: Naomi Klein, "The Shock Doctrine" (selection)*