

ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

FALL 2019

TuTh 12:30-13:59

Instructor: Joseph W.H. Lough

CNN: 23751

Units/Credits: 4

Course Location: 120 Latimer

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Course Description

Although it might be thought that economy and society are coincidental, they are not. While many social forms — kinship, religion, politics, language — mediate social relations throughout time, economics (literally, the private household economy, οἰκονομία) has always played a minor role. The incidental coordination of economy and society has been dated to 1324, in Ghent, in the parish of St John, where the abbot of St Pierre famously instructed the fullers to install bells in the workhouse they had recently constructed; for the first time anywhere, productive human action was tied to equal units of abstract time. In this course, students are invited to critically reflect on how, since 1324, economy and society have come to shape one another. They are also invited to critically reflect on how the social and economic practices unique to capitalism may give rise to “determinate negation.” Does the capitalist social form compose, as M Weber surmised, an “iron cage” from which there is no exit; or might it not instead form only one element in a Deleuzean or Lacanean field, where chance eddies, rifts, and ruptures invite “interventions” into a deceptively smooth and uniform imaginary? Students should anticipate leaving the course in December with a keen grasp of how economy and society are related, but also how they might not be.

This Syllabus

While students may rely upon this syllabus for all readings and assignments, they should also be aware that unforeseen contingencies may require that we alter the syllabus from time to time. Students are therefore encouraged to log onto and consult the syllabus on bCourses at regular intervals (at least three times weekly).

Course Materials

The following books are available for purchase at the usual outlets. Outside of these required texts, this is a paperless course.

Required Texts

ALL READINGS ON BCOURSES

Course Requirements

Under the conviction that scholarship is a collective venture (even when we think we are conducting it alone), students will be expected to actively participate in discussions and presentations (whether or not they are the presenters). For our purposes, emailing, on-line chatting, and texting do not constitute active participation. More than two unexcused absences may invite being dropped from the course.

Attendance is not optional. Since there are 30 lectures, each lecture counts for .2(3.33), i.e., .666 of the

final grade; assuming otherwise perfect performance, missing 15 lectures puts you out of contention for an “A”; assuming borderline (.89) performance in every other category, attending every lecture could deliver you an “A.”

Reading: Students are expected to have read the **assigned readings** and to be ready to share questions, interpretations, challenges, alternatives, etc. to the positions presented by the authors.

Electronic Media: Unless a student submits a written, signed and dated permission slip from a medical or learning specialist, **students may not take notes on computing devices during lecture**. Students who receive permission to use a computing device must turn off the device’s WiFi and Bluetooth technology.

Written assignments (i.e., **mid-term, presentation summary, final paper**) must be type-written, appropriately formatted, with the course name, student name, date, and assignment clearly visible **in the file name** (e.g.: FinalJosephLough.pdf). Students are encouraged to work with and consult one another. Students are forbidden to plagiarize. All assignments will be submitted on bCourses.

Presentation: Before September 5, students will select their presentations on bCourses. Students who do not select a presentation by September 3 will be assigned to a presentation group. Presentation teams must meet with me during my office hours prior to their presentations. **If your presentation is on Monday or Tuesday, you must all meet with me the prior Wednesday. All members must be present.** They will be responsible for collaborating together on a presentation, not to exceed fifteen minutes, during which they will (1) identify the problem the author(s) are addressing; (2) the position against which the author(s) is/are arguing; (3) the author(s) solution to the problem. **PRESENTERS MUST NOT SUMMARIZE THE AUTHOR(S) POSITION. PRESENTERS MUST PRESENT THEIR AUTHOR(S) “SOCRATICALLY,” I.E., BY IDENTIFYING THE QUESTION THE AUTHOR(S) ARE RAISING AND ENGAGING THEIR CLASSMATES OVER THIS PROBLEM.** Each student must then submit his/her own 3-5 page double-spaced paper no more than seven days following his/her presentation: (1) identify the problem the author(s) are addressing; (2) the position against which the author(s) is/are arguing; (3) the author(s) solution to the problem. The paper must not summarize.

Midterm: The professor will post five questions on line by midnight, October 11. Students will choose to respond to two of these questions. Each response will consist of 3-5 page, double-spaced, responses and will be submitted online on bCourses no later than midnight, October 20. Students are encouraged to work with one another and draw upon one another strengths and insights answering the questions. Students are free to visit me during office hours to talk about the questions.

Final: Students must visit me during office hours **before Thanksgiving** (before November 28) to discuss the problem they intend to focus on in their final paper. Students will post to bCourses a **Bibliography** of works they intend to use writing their final paper **no later than Monday, December 2**. In their final paper: (1) students will identify a socially and historically specific social problem within the capitalist social formation; (2) identify and discuss how scholars have explained this social problem; (3) critically reflect on how well (or poorly) these scholars have grasped and responded to this problem within their own setting; (4) identify how well (or poorly) these scholars have grasped the constraints imposed by their social, geographical, and historical settings; and (5) state how they might revise or supplement the explanations these scholars offer to make these explanations more adequate both to their own times and to ours.

Plagiarism

The University of California, Berkeley, its faculty and its students pride themselves on the standards of excellence we have set for ourselves and attempt daily to match up to. Among these standards of excellence are originality of scholarship and **academic integrity**. To help maintain these standards the students, administration, and faculty have established and continue to enforce severe penalties for students and faculty who represent someone else’s statements, research, or ideas as their own. If you are discovered to have **plagiarized**, you will receive a summary “F” for the assignment and will be referred for further investigation to Student Judicial Affairs. If you are unsure what constitutes plagiarism, please consult document “Tips for Avoiding Plagiarism” posted on the following address: http://students.berkeley.edu/files/osl/Student_Judicial_Affairs/TipsForAvoidingPlagiarism.pdf. The University of California, Berkeley, students, faculty, and administration also prohibit cheating, conveying false information, fabricating or altering information, alteration of University documents, and rude conduct toward other students, faculty, or administrators.

Evaluation Criteria

Attendance	20%
Participation	10%
Presentation	10%
Presentation Paper	10%
Bibliography	10%
Take-Home Midterm	20%
Final Paper	20%

Course Calendar

I. INTRODUCTION

WEEK ONE: THE BIRTH OF AN ANOMALY		
Date	Title	Assignment (completed by date)
August 29	The Problem	Required Reading: M Sahlins, “The Original Affluent Society” (bCourses); N Bird-David, “The Original Affluent Society” (bCourses); J Le Goff, “Labor Time in the “Crisis” of the Fourteenth Century: From Medieval to Modern Time” (bCourses); EP Thompson, “Time, Work-Discipline and Industrial Capitalism” (bCourses)

WEEK TWO: ROCKY, COLD, ISOLATED, AND BARREN		
Date	Title	Assignment (completed by date)
September 3	Gymnasium in a Box	Required Reading: Aristotle, Politics (bCourses); Plato, Gorgias (bCourses); Plato, Republic (bCourses); Thucydides, Peloponessian War (bCourses); I Kant, Prolegomena (bCourses)
September 4		TIME TO CHOOSE YOUR PRESENTATION

September 5	The Revolution	Required Reading: T Hobbes, Leviathan (excerpt) (bCourses); F Bacon, De Augmentis (excerpt) (bCourses); J Locke, "Of Property" (bCourses); B Mandeville, "The Fable of the Bees"; A Smith, Wealth of Nations, Book 1, Chapters 1-8 (bCourses)
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II. KARL MARX

WEEK THREE: THE SELF-MOVING SUBSTANCE THAT IS SUBJECT		
Date	Title	Assignment (completed by date)
September 10	GWF Hegel and the birth of the Social	Required Reading: GWF Hegel, "Civil Society," (bCourses) PRESENTATION 1;
September 12	The Young Marx	Required Reading: K Marx, "1844 Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts" (excerpt) (bCourses); K Marx Communist Manifesto (through page 496) (bCourses) PRESENTATION 2 (BOTH READINGS)

WEEK FOUR: THE SUBLIME VALUE FORM OF THE COMMODITY		
Date	Title	Assignment (completed by date)
September 17	The Sublime	Required Reading: J Lough, "Disembodiment and the sublime: the birth of modern religion" (bCourses) PRESENTATION 3
September 19	The Commodity	Required Reading: K Marx, Capital, vol. 1, chaps. 1 and 3 PRESENTATION 4

WEEK FIVE: IMMANENT AND TRANSCENDENTAL SOCIAL CRITIQUE		
Date	Title	Assignment (completed by date)
September 24	The Value Form	Required Reading: K Marx, Capital, vol. 1, chaps 4-5; and Capital, vol. 3, chap. 48 "The Trinity Formula" ; GWF Hegel "Preface" to Phenomenology of Spirit §§18-19 (bCourses) PRESENTATION 5 (ALL THREE READINGS)
September 26	The 'Spirit' of Capitalism	Required Reading: J Lough, "The 'spirit' of capitalism" (bCourses) PRESENTATION 6

III. M WEBER AND CRITICAL SOCIAL THEORY

WEEK SIX: THE DISCIPLINE THAT KANT BUILT		
Date	Title	Assignment (completed by date)
October 1	The Protestant Ethic	Required Reading: M Weber, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism (excerpt) (bCourses) PRESENTATION 7
October 3	Objectivity and the Social Sciences	Required Reading: M Weber, "'Objectivity' in the Social Sciences" (excerpt) PRESENTATION 8

WEEK SEVEN: LOVE, VIOLENCE & THE BOURGEOIS INTERIOR		
Date	Title	Assignment (completed by date)
October 8	The sublime bourgeois interior	Required Reading: M Weber “Science as a Vocation” (bCourses); PRESENTATION 9
October 10	The Political	Required Reading: C Schmitt, The Political (excerpt) (bCourses) PRESENTATION 11
		MIDTERM EXAMINATION: The midterm examination questions will be posted by midnight, October 11; students will have until midnight, October 20, to submit their responses to the prompts under the “Assignments” tab on bCourses.

WEEK EIGHT: ANTINOMIES OF BOURGEOIS REASON		
Date	Title	Assignment (completed by date)
October 15	Antinomies of bourgeois thought	Required Reading: G v Lukács, “Reification and the Consciousness of the Proletariat” (Part III pp. 149-222) (bCourses) PRESENTATION 12
October 17	The dialectic of enlightenment	Required Reading: T Adorno & M Horkheimer “The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception” (excerpt); W Benjamin “Theses on the Philosophy of History” (excerpt) (bCourses); T Adorno, “Finale” (bCourses); PRESENTATION 13 (ALL THREE)
		MIDTERM EXAMINATION responses must be submitted by midnight, October 20, under the “Assignments” tab on bCourses.

WEEK NINE: THE NEGATIVE DIALECTIC		
Date	Title	Assignment (completed by date)
October 22	Antisemitism	Required Reading: M Postone “Antisemitism and National Socialism” (bCourses) PRESENTATION 14
October 24	Language and Society	Required Reading: J Habermas, “From Lukacs to Adorno” (excerpt) (bCourses) PRESENTATION 15

IV. ECONOMY & SOCIETY

WEEK TEN: (POST)COLONIAL ANTHROPOLOGY		
Date	Title	Assignment (completed by date)
October 29	Symbolic capital	Required Reading: P Bourdieu, “The Objective Limits of Objectivism” and “Structures and Habitus” (excerpt) (bCourses) PRESENTATION 16 ; P Bourdieu, “Structures, Habitus, Power” (excerpt) (bCourses) PRESENTATION 17
October 31	World Systems	Required Reading: G Arrighi, “The Three Hegemonies of Historical Capitalism” (excerpt) (bCourses); PRESENTATION 19

WEEK ELEVEN: THE WORLD SYSTEM		
Date	Title	Assignment (completed by date)
November 5	What’s next?	Required Reading: G Arrighi, “The Long Twentieth Century” (excerpt) (bCourses) PRESENTATION 20
November 7	Authoritarian Post-Fordism	Required Reading: G Steinmetz, “The State of Emergency and the Revival of American Imperialism: Toward an Authoritarian Post-Fordism” (bCourses) PRESENTATION 21
		FINAL PAPER: students must visit me during my office hours <u>before Thanksgiving</u> (before November 28) to talk to me about their proposed final paper.

WEEK TWELVE: THE WORLD SYSTEM		
Date	Title	Assignment (completed by date)
November 12	Late Capitalism	Required Reading: D Harvey, The Condition of Postmodernity (excerpt) (bCourses) PRESENTATION 22
November 14	Explaining the 1970s	Required Reading: R Brenner, Economics of Global Turbulence (excerpt) (bCourses) PRESENTATION 23

WEEK THIRTEEN: THE CULTURE OF CAPITALISM		
Date	Title	Assignment (completed by date)
November 19	$MPL = \Delta Q / \Delta L$	Required Reading: B Jessop, “Towards Schumpeterian Workfare Postnational Regimes” (bCourses) PRESENTATION 24
November 21	Sustainable Economics	N Ghosh, P Mukhopadhyay, A Shah and M Panda, “Ecological Economics” (bCourses) PRESENTATION 25
		FINAL PAPER: students must visit me during my office hours <u>before Thanksgiving</u> (before November 28) to talk to me about their proposed final paper.

WEEK FOURTEEN: POST-DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY		
Date	Title	Assignment (completed by date)
November 26	Climate change mitigation and wealth disparity	Required Reading: K Chopra “Nature, Economy, and Society” (bCourses) PRESENTATION 26
		HAPPY THANKSGIVING
		BIBLIOGRAPHY: students will post their provisional bibliographies under the “Assignments” tab on bCourses no later than Monday, December 2.

V. ALTERNATIVES

WEEK FIFTEEN: VALUING LIFE		
Date	Title	Assignment (completed by date)
December 2		BIBLIOGRAPHY: students will post their provisional bibliographies under the “Assignments” tab on bCourses no later than Monday, December 2.
December 3	Beyond Poststructuralism	Required Reading: M Postone, “Rethinking Marx’s critique of capitalism” (bCourses) PRESENTATION 27
December 5	Immanent social critique of capital;	Required Reading: M Postone, “Habermas’s critique of Marx” (bCourses) PRESENTATION 28

WEEK SIXTEEN: THEORIZING A NON-CAPITALIST FUTURE		
Date	Title	Assignment (completed by date)
December 10		
December 12		

WEEK SEVENTEEN: EXAMINATION WEEK		
Date	Title	Assignment (completed by date)
December 20	Examination	Students must submit their final papers no later that 11:00 on bCourses on December 20;