

Sociology 290/GWS 210: Masculinity and Capitalism

402 Social Sciences Building (SSB)
M 12-2pm

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Office hours by appointment, Wednesdays 2:30-4:30, or email for alternatives.

Sign up for appts at: <https://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/xsvbo>

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Capitalism is often understood as a system that overrides all in its path, and gender as a system that fundamentally problematizes the experiences of “women.” Sometimes masculinity emerges from its unmarked status in the investigation of specific versions of “men’s” identities. However in this class we will bring questions about masculinity and political economy into conversation, asking how capitalism has historically emerged in and through masculinity as a (hetero)normative structure, and how diverse masculinities are produced and enacted in different capitalist moments, with varying consequences for the subjects so addressed. We will explore these questions through theory, history and ethnography, leveraging the wide empirical variety of forms of masculine subjectification to think about what masculinity is and how it relates to capitalist functioning. Throughout the term, we will ask what we learn by noting the structure’s emergence in relation to race, nationality and other discursive structures of power and subjectification and in a diversity of historical and geographical contexts, and we will explore what these variations illuminate about the operations of capitalism as a system over time and space.

Course requirements:

1. Close reading of all materials and active, open and collegial participation in class discussion.
2. **Brief weekly postings** (no more than 500 words) discussing how the readings relate masculinity and capitalism. These should work with the course themes and week’s readings in a way that you find productive and interesting and would like to share with your classmates. In the same post, please pose a question for general discussion. Postings should be uploaded no later than 8 pm Saturday, as we would like everyone to read the postings before we meet. We will try to integrate questions into class discussion. You should plan to post comments for at least **eight** of the twelve weeks of reading.
3. A final paper (try to keep under 20 pages) using the material discussed during the semester to analyze an issue of importance to you. Papers are due **May 8th**. Please be sure to discuss paper topics with at least one of us before Spring Break.

4. We will hold a final class during RRR week to discuss your papers-in-process. Exact time, place, format to be decided collectively.

Mechanics:

Seminar participants come from a wide array of formations, with differing areas of knowledge and experience. This kind of interdisciplinary conversation is very rich, but it requires the capacity to value and appreciate differences across focus, priority, epistemology, knowledge and skills. Please come to class open to and curious about the questions brought to the table in this context. To facilitate this, class discussion will focus on the work we have read together, without reference to outside texts, as we work from the ground up to create a common conversation. During class, try to pay attention to how much you're talking. If you tend to hang back, think about preparing interventions you might want to make. And if you talk a lot, try making space for others.

Weekly writing should be posted on the bCourses website in the "discussion" section for the appropriate week. If you are so inclined, you may also respond to your classmates' postings on the site. Please read everyone's postings for the week before we meet.

Readings are posted in the folder for the week in which they are discussed on the class bCourses website. Books that are not noted as available on bCourses need to be bought or downloaded independently.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Jan 23 Introduction/s

Jan 30: Capitalism and Free labor

- Karl Marx, "Wage Labour and Capital." *The Marx-Engels Reader* (W. W. Norton and Company, 1978 [1891]).
- Karl Marx, Chapter 6: "The Sale and Purchase of Labour Power" in *Capital Volume I* (Vintage 1977 [1867]).
- Evelyn Nakano Glenn, "Labor, Freedom and Coercion" in *Unequal Freedom: How Race and Gender Shaped American Citizenship and Labor* (Harvard University Press, 2004).

Feb 06 Masculinity/Masculinities

- Raewyn Connell, "The Social Organization of Masculinity" in *Masculinities* (University of California Press, 2005).
- James Messerschmidt, "The Salience of 'Hegemonic Masculinity,'" *Men and Masculinities*, 2019, Vol. 22(1), 85-91.
- Jordanna Matlon. "Racial Capitalism and the Crisis of Black Masculinity." *American Sociological Review* 81(5), 1014-1038.
- Yiuchen Yang, "What's Hegemonic about Hegemonic Masculinity: Legitimation and Beyond" *Sociological Theory* 28(4) 2020.

Feb 13 Stabilizing Masculinities in the Transitions to/within Capitalism

- Leonore Davidoff and Catherine Hall “ ‘A Man must Act’: Men and the Enterprise” in *Family Fortunes: Men and Women of the English Middle Class 1780-1850* (Routledge, 2018). (note full book is in file folder but read only this section)
- Gail Bederman, “Remaking Manhood through Race and “Civilization” in *Manliness and Civilization* (University of Chicago Press, 1995). (note full book is in file folder, but only read this chapter)
- Pierre Bourdieu, “Bachelorhood and the Peasant Condition” in *The Bachelor’s Ball* (University of Chicago Press, 2007). (note full book is in file folder, but only read this section)

Feb 20 PRESIDENT’S DAY

Feb 27 Colonial Masculinity

- Gail Bederman, “Theodore Roosevelt: Manhood, Nation and “Civilization” in *Manliness and Civilization* (University of Chicago Press, 1995). (note full book is in File folder for February 13)
- Anne McClintock, “The Lay of the Land: Genealogies of Imperialism” in *Imperial Leather: Race, Gender and Sexuality in the Colonial Contest* (Routledge, 1995).
- Frederick Cooper, “Industrial Man goes to Africa” in *Men and Masculinities in Modern Africa* (Heinemann, 2003).
- Mrinalini Sinha, “Introduction” in *Colonial Masculinity: The ‘Manly Englishman’ and the ‘Effeminate Bengali in the Late Nineteenth Century* (Manchester University Press, 1995).

March 06 Locating Masculinity in Capitalist Social Reproduction

- Karl Marx, Chapter 23: “Simple Reproduction” in *Capital Volume I* (Vintage 1977 [1867]).
- Fraser, Nancy, and Linda Gordon. “A Genealogy of Dependency: Tracing a Keyword of the U.S. Welfare State.” *Signs* 19, no. 2 (1994): 309–36.
- New York Wages for Housework Committee, “Theses on Wages for Housework” (1974).
- Nancy Fraser, “Feminism, Capitalism, and the Cunning of History,” *New Left Review* 56 (March/April 2009).
- Melinda Cooper, “Between Neoliberalism and the New Social Conservatism” in *Family Values: Between Neoliberalism and the New Social Conservatism* (Princeton University Press, 2019).

March 13 Learning to Labor

- Paul Willis, *Learning to Labour* (Columbia University Press 2017[1977]).
- Teresa Gowan, “Excavating Globalization from Street Level,” in *Global Ethnography* (University of California Press, 2000).
- Gretchen Purser. 2009. “The Dignity of Job-Seeking Men: Boundary Work among Immigrant Day Laborers.” *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 38(1):117–39.

March 20 Neoliberalism, Risk and Masculinity

- Marieke De Goede (2000) Mastering 'Lady Credit', *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, 2:1, 58.
- Marieke de Goede (2004) Repoliticizing financial risk, *Economy and Society*, 33:2, 197-217.
- Steve Garlick (2020) The nature of markets: on the affinity between masculinity and (neo)liberalism, *Journal of Cultural Economy*, 13:5, 548-560.
- Nikolas Rose, "Governing Enterprising Individuals" by Nikolas Rose in *Inventing Our Selves* (Cambridge University Press, 1996), 150-168.
- Dan Irving, "The Self-Made Trans Man as Risky Business: A Critical Examination of Gaining Recognition for Trans Rights through Economic Discourse," *Temple Political & Civil Rights Law Review* 18, no. 2 (Spring 2009): 375-396.

March 27 SPRING BREAK

April 03 Masculinity and Capitalism in Practice

- Emily K. Crandall, Rachel H. Brown, John McMahon, "Magicians of the Twenty-first Century: Enchantment, Domination, and the Politics of Work in Silicon Valley" *Theory & Event*, 24(3), 2021.
- Marianne Cooper, "Being the "Go-To Guy": Fatherhood, Masculinity, and the Organization of Work in Silicon Valley," *Qualitative Sociology* 23, 2000.
- Kimberly Hoang, "New Hierarchies of Global Men" in *Dealing in Desire: Asian Ascendancy, Western Decline, and the Hidden Currencies of Global Sex Work* (University of California Press, 2015).
- Leslie Salzinger, "Re-Marking Men: Masculinity as a Terrain of the Neoliberal Economy." *Critical Historical Studies* 3:1, 2016.

April 10 Failed Masculinities

- Lynne Haney, *Prisons of Debt: The Afterlives of Incarcerated Fathers* (University of California Press, 2022). *Not in bCourses*.
- Smitha Radhakrishnan and Cinzia Solari, "Empowered Women, Failed Patriarchs: Neoliberalism and Global Gender Anxieties" *Sociology Compass* 9:9, 2015.

April 17 The Politics of Failed Masculinities

- Minyoung An, Jennifer Carlson, "Politics at the Gun Counter: Examining Partisanship and Masculinity among Conservative Gun Sellers during the 2020 Gun Purchasing Surge" *Social Problems*, spac046, <https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spac046>, 2022.
- Banu Gökarişel, Christopher Neubert, & Sara Smith. Demographic Fever Dreams: Fragile Masculinity and Population Politics in the Rise of the Global Right. *SIGNS* 44(3), 561-587.
- Raka Ray, "Resentment and Revenge: Internal Colonialism, the Decline of Fordism and the Trump Vote" in Osagie Obasogie (ed), *Trumpism and its Discontents* (Berkeley Public Policy Press, 2020). (note full book is on file folder but read only this chapter)
- Jennifer Sherman, "Remaking Masculinity: Losing Male Breadwinners" in *Those Who Work, Those Who Don't* (University of Minnesota Press, 2009).

April 24 Futures (we are leaving the future open, but we will read some of these forward-looking essays, among possible others, in our last class)

- James Ferguson, "Give a Man a Fish: From Patriarchal Productionism to the Revalorization of Distribution" in *Give a Man a Fish: Reflections on the New Politics of Distribution* (Duke University Press, 2015).
- Asad Haider and Salar Mohandesi, "Making a Living," *Viewpoint Magazine* 5 (2015).
- Michael Denning, "Wageless Life" *New Left Review* 66 (2010)
- Michael Ralph, "Killing Time" *Social Text* 97, Vol 26(4), 2008.
- Kathi Weeks, "'Hours for What We Will': Work, Family, and the Movement for Shorter Hours," *Feminist Studies* 35:1 (2009).