

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR:	
HSS 2212 The Future of Capitalism (Honors Seminar) Spring 2013	
US CREDITS: 3/0/3	
PREREQUISITES:	WP 1010 Introduction to Academic Writing WP 1111 Integrated Academic Writing and Ethics
CATALOG DESCRIPTION:	An inter-disciplinary approach to the historic origins of the free-market system, aka capitalism, with emphasis on the history of capitalism, past and current critiques and pressures for change, as well as cultural/ideological manifestations of the capitalist mindset. <i>This course fulfils the General Education Social Science requirement.</i>
RATIONALE:	The purpose of the course is to expose students to questions regarding the viability and future course of the free-market economic system, aka capitalism, as well as help them investigate forms of social and cultural consciousness shaped by capitalism. To this end, it will combine economic, historical, sociological, political, and cultural analysis in appraising the system's contributions to the human project, its strengths and weaknesses, the threats and opportunities it presents, as well as its prospects for survival. It will look into (a) the economics of capitalism, as regards both competitive & non-competitive capitalism; (b) the political & social dimension, as typified in the Left – Right dichotomy, (c) the lessons of history, and the relation of capitalism to democracy as well as the middle class; (d) the ways in which capitalism informs a range of social and cultural activity; (e) the ethics, from Weber's 'protestant ethic' thesis to Nozick's entitlement theory and the corporate social responsibility approach.
LEARNING OUTCOMES:	As a result of taking this course, the student should be able to: 1. Explain the factors that led to the rise of capitalism, and broadly define the associated time-line. 2. Understand the theoretical strengths and weaknesses of capitalism, and compare those to historic and current experience, especially in counter-distinction to 'socialism'. 3. Explain the role of market competition in maximising the ostensible benefits of capitalism; instances of market failure; possible responses to them; the consequences of deviations from competition, but also instances of such deviations being beneficial as well as inevitable. 4. Provide an overall assessment of the contribution of capitalism to human prosperity & misery; to democracy & autarchy; of the role of Left & Right politics in shaping the long-term outcomes of the system; and of the fundamental role of the 'middle-class' in securing support for both capitalism & democracy. 5. Identify and analyse the forms of social and cultural consciousness that emanate from capitalist economy. 6. Evaluate the ethical dimensions of capitalism's approach to social justice and the welfare state.
METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:	In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools may be used: - Lectures and discussion of various sources, reports and opinions. - Use of instructor's office hours for discussing the course material. - Use of Blackboard for uploading/downloading relevant material.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use of library facilities, including Internet,, e.g., searching for relevant material. - Panel discussions or debates, possibly extending to a wider audience than the College community. - Emphasis on developing a style of discourse (in written as well as oral language) that focuses on awareness of counter-arguments or alternative possibilities. 								
ASSESSMENT:	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">Portfolio of Responses</td> <td style="text-align: right;">30%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Project</td> <td style="text-align: right;">30%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oral Presentation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Participation</td> <td style="text-align: right;">20%</td> </tr> </table>	Portfolio of Responses	30%	Project	30%	Oral Presentation	20%	Participation	20%
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READING LIST:	<p>(a) Ingham, G. (2008): <i>Capitalism</i>, Polity Press.</p> <p>(b) Cryan, D., Shatil, S., Piero (illustrator) (2009): <i>Capitalism: A graphic guide</i>, Icon Books Ltd.</p> <p>Class notes; papers & articles as instructed.</p>								
RECOMMENDED MATERIAL:	<p>(a) Corbridge, S. (1986): <i>Capitalist World Development</i>, Macmillan.</p> <p>(b) Hayek, F. A. (2001): <i>The Road to Serfdom</i>, Routledge, 2nd ed.</p> <p>(c) Schumpeter, J. A. (2009): <i>Can capitalism survive?</i>, HarperPerennial.</p> <p>(d) Wortham, A. (1988): 'Schumpeter and his critics on the future of capitalism', WP in Economics E-88-27, The Hoover Institution, Stanford Uni.</p> <p>(e) Singh, A. & Zammit, A. (2010): 'The global economic and financial crisis: A review and commentary', WP 415, Centre for Business Research, Uni. of Cambridge,</p> <p>(f) Pomfret, R. (2009): 'Financial sector and the future of capitalism', RP 2009-05, School of Economics, Uni. of Adelaide.</p> <p>(g) Toffler, A. (1981): <i>The Third Wave</i>, Pan Books.</p> <p>(h) Marx, K. & Friedrich, E., Hobsbawm, E. (2012): <i>The Communist Manifesto: A Modern Edition</i>, Penguin Classics.</p> <p>(i) Posner, R. A. (2011): <i>A failure of capitalism</i>, Harvard University Press.</p> <p>(j) <i>Financial Times</i> (2011): 'Capitalism in crisis', http://www.ft.com/intl/indepth/capitalism-in-crisis.</p> <p>(k) <i>The Economist</i> (2011): 'Lessons of the 1930s: There could be trouble ahead', 10 Dec.</p> <p>(l) Bayly, C. A. (2004): <i>The Birth of the Modern World, 1780-1914: Global Connections and Comparisons</i>, Blackwell Publishing.</p>								
COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:	Written reports in Word, using proper English. Knowledge of Excel and PowerPoint an advantage, as they may be required in either the report-writing or oral presentation phase. Oral presentation using proper English.								
SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:	Word; Excel & PowerPoint recommended.								
WWW RESOURCES:	http://www.economist.com/ http://www.ft.com/home/uk http://www.bbc.co.uk/ http://www.guardian.co.uk/ http://www.independent.co.uk/ http://www.imf.org/external/country/grc/index.htm http://www.ecb.europa.eu/home/html/search.en.html								

INDICATIVE CONTENT:

1. Historic origins of capitalism.
2. Defining capitalism.
3. Strengths & weaknesses of capitalism.
4. The Ideology of Capitalism
5. The role of 'middle-class' and democracy in the evolution of capitalism.
6. The socialist & ecological critique.
9. The ethics of capitalism.
10. Pressures, threats & opportunities capitalism faces.
11. Cultural manifestations of capitalist ideology.
12. The future of capitalism