Capitalism in the last five centuries generated great wealth and prosperity in Western societies. In the last few decades, capitalism assumed a global character affecting social and economic life of the vast majority of the people in the world. Yet, capitalism has also been plagued by economic decline and failures, causing massive human suffering. This course will study the nature of capitalism, sources of prosperity and crisis, inequality in distribution of economic and political power, and globalization of capitalism. Finally, the course will examine the impact of these processes on social conflicts, social change, and likelihood of revolution.

Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak to me and give me a copy of your accommodations form by the end of the second week of the term. All discussions will remain confidential, although the Director of Student Disabilities may be consulted if questions arise.

This course enforces the Academic Honor Principle, described in the Dartmouth College Student Handbook.

If you have a religious observance that conflicts with your participation in the course, please meet with me before the end of the second week of the term to discuss appropriate accommodations.

**Course Requirements:**

1. Two take-home exams
2. Class attendance and participation is encouraged

**Reserved Readings:**


**SCHEDULE:**

**WEEK 1**
Mar. 29– Ap. 2

**Introduction to Capitalism**

Readings:
Reich, Introduction
Karl Marx and capitalist development, Lecture
M. Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*
Smith, in Research in Law and Sociology

**WEEK 2**
Ap. 5-9

**Capitalism and Prosperity**

Readings:
Reich, Chapters 1-2
Bowles and Edwards, Chapter 1
Friedman, Free to Choose, Chapter 1

Film: “Taken for a Ride”

**WEEKS 3-4**
Ap. 12-23

**Capitalism, Contradictions, Crisis**

Readings:
Thurow, Chapters 4 and 14
Hobsbawm in Edwards, Chapter 10.1
Krugman, Chapters 1 and 10
Phillips, Chapters 1 and 7

Film: “Inside Job” (12115)

First Assignment, date to be announced

**WEEK 5-6**
Ap. 26 – May 7

**Capitalism and Democracy**

Readings:
Friedman, Chapter 1
Williams, Chapter 1
Reich, Chapters 4-5
Dahl, “Why All…
APSA Task Force
Moore, Ch. 7-8
Rueschemeyer, Ch. 1-3

Film: “Campaign Finance”

**WEEKS 7-8**
May 10– May 21  Capitalism and Inequality

Readings:
Davis and Moore, in Bendix
Tumin, in Bendix
Stiglitz, Chapters 1-3
Film: “Who’s Getting Rich And Why Aren’t You?”

WEEKS 9-10
May 24 – Jun 2  Capitalism, Conflicts and Revolution

Readings:
Tilly, 2006, Chapter 7
Skocpol, Chapter 1
Foran, Chapter 1
Parsa, Chapters 1-3
Film: “Revolution”

Final Assignment