Capitalism, Prosperity and Crisis
Satisfies the Soc, and W requirements

Office: Room 106 Silsby
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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.

Course Requirements:

1. Two take-home exams
2. Class attendance and participation (Missing more than three classes will impact the grade).

Reserved Readings:


**SCHEDULE:**

**WEEK 1**  
Mar. 30 – Ap. 3  
Introduction to Capitalism

Readings:  
Reich, Introduction  
Karl Marx and capitalist development, Lecture  
M. Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*
WEEK 2
Ap. 6-10
Capitalism and Prosperity
Readings:
Reich, Chapters 1-2
Bowles and Edwards, Chapter 1
Friedman, Free to Choose, Chapter 1

WEEKS 3-4
Ap. 13-24
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”

First Assignment

WEEK 5-6
Ap. 27 – May 8
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 11 – May 22
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 25 – 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