

**Reading *Capital* vol. 1 (CMLIT 503/597b)
M 2:30-5:30 (430 Burrowes), Feb 13 – Mar 26**

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Office hours: By appointment; I'm on campus daily.
<http://www.personal.psu.edu/euh2/>

Books

Marx, *Capital Volume 1* (Penguin 978-0-14-044568-8)
Harvey, *A Companion to Marx's Capital*
Jameson, *Representing Capital: A Reading of Volume 1*

I thought originally we might do some reading from Althusser, but it seemed like too much. I recommend the book, but you don't have to buy it.

Course information:

We're reading the first volume of Marx's *Capital*, which is, according to the back cover, "one of the most notorious works of modern times." So you have that to look forward to.

Work and grading:

Please come to class every time with a considered, well-articulated response paper of between 500 and 700 words. Your grade for this portion of the course will be determined by your grades on those essays, with some credit given for improvement over time. I'll discuss this more in class.

As for grades, I take an A- to be acceptable, normal work done by a graduate student at your stage (this standard is different, therefore, for first- and second-year students). As are given for superior work, B+s for work that is not up to that standard. Bs or lower indicate serious problems.

Graduate Audit policy:

It is an undemanding and meager hope of mine that auditors will do the reading and show up to class. Beyond that, no expectations. Auditors who wish to do the written work should speak to me about it.

Lateness and absences:

There are no excused absences unless you need to represent the university in some official way (as an athlete, for instance) or it is a religious holiday for you. Don't be late to class.

I don't accept late work unless you talk about it with me in advance. Unexcused late work will receive a grade of 0. If you are not in class when something is due (or when we take an exam), you will receive a grade of 0, unless you have an excused absence.

Plagiarism and academic honesty:

If you use someone else's ideas, whether through direct quotation or paraphrase, you need to say so. Use parenthetical references and a works cited list (as explained in the *MLA Style Guide*, available in the library or at the bookstore) to show your reader where your ideas are coming from.

Dishonesty of any other kind will not be tolerated. Dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating, fabricating information or citations, facilitating acts of academic dishonesty by others, having unauthorized possession of examinations, submitting work of another person or work previously used without informing the instructor, or tampering with the academic work of other students. Acts of dishonesty will result in academic sanctions and will be reported to the University's Judicial Affairs office for possible further disciplinary sanction.

Equal access:

Penn State encourages qualified people with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities and is committed to the policy that all people shall have equal access to programs, facilities, and admissions without regard to personal characteristics not related to ability, performance, or qualifications as determined by University policy or by state or federal authorities. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation in this course or have questions about physical access, please tell me as soon as possible.

Daily syllabus. Have everything read before class.

Week 1 (February 13): The Commodity

Capital, 11-124 (prefatory material, including introduction and the various prefaces)

Capital, 125-187

Harvey, 1-54

Week 2: (February 20): Money, the General Formula, Labor Power, Surplus Value

Capital, 188-339

Harvey, 55-134

Week 3: (February 27): The Working Day, Relative Surplus-Value, Technology, Machinery

Capital, 340-491; skim 492-642

Harvey, 135-212; skim 213-236

****SPRING BREAK****

Week 4: (March 12): Surplus Value, Wages, Accumulation

Capital, 643-940

Harvey, 237-314

****ONE-WEEK BREAK (503C BEGINS)****

Week 5: (March 26)

Capital, 125-177 (reread)

Jameson, *Representing Capital*, 1-152

Harvey, 315-344