

READING CAPITAL @ 150 (AS.230.644)

Course:	AS.230.644
Instructor:	Sahan S. Karatasli (skaratasli@jhu.edu)
Time/Place:	Th 10:00 am-12:00 pm (526 Mergenthaler)
Limit	15
Office Hours:	Sahan Savas Karatasli /TH 1:00-3:00 pm (258 Mergenthaler) https://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/fevem

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will consist of a close reading of Volume I of Karl Marx's *Capital*. Discussions and analyses will focus on the relevance and utility of the methods, concepts, theory and analysis of capitalism presented in the Volume I of *Capital*, 150 years after its original publication.

COURSE TEXTS

Required:

Marx, Karl. [1867] 1990. *Capital Volume I*. Penguin Classics.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to read the assigned chapters of Marx's *Capital Vol 1* and actively discuss them in class. Each student will write three reflection papers on the week's reading. Reflection papers will be a maximum one-page single-space long and they will include a brief synthesis of one or more central arguments of the week's reading as well as comments or questions for in-class discussion. Reflection papers should be uploaded on the blackboard site and sent to all participants of the course by midnight on Tuesday for that week.

Students will also bring to class at least two recent newspaper articles (any week that they choose) on any topic that they think sheds light on concepts and theories in *Capital* and/or that concepts and theories in *Capital* shed light on. These news articles can relevant to any of the chapters that have been discussed in the course to date; they don't need to relate to that week's reading.

Students will also write a final paper which critically addresses the relevance and utility of methods, concepts, theory or analysis used in Marx's *Capital* vol. 1.

GRADING

Class Participation: 20%

Three Reflection papers and Newspaper Articles: 30%

Final Paper: 50%

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1: Introduction
TH 2/2

Week 2:
TH 2/9

NO CLASS

Part I: Commodities and Money

Ch. 1: The Commodity
Ch. 2: The Process of Exchange

Week 3
TH 2/16

Reflection Papers:
CONRAD JACOB
SONAL SHARMA
HARRY ZHANG

pp.125-187 (63 pages)

Ch. 3: Money, or the Circulation of Commodities

Week 4:
TH 2/23

Reflection Papers:
RISHI AWATRMANI
SHIRLEY LUNG
COREY PAYNE

pp.188-244 (57 pages)

Part II: The Transformation of Money into Capital

Ch. 4: The General Formula for Capital
Ch. 5: Contradictions in the General Formula of Capital
Ch. 6: The Sale and Purchase of Labour-Power

Part III: The Production of Absolute Surplus-Value

Week 5:
TH 3/2

Ch. 7: The Labour-Process and the Valorization Process
Ch. 8: Constant Capital and Variable Capital
Ch. 9: The Rate of Surplus-Value

pp.247-339 (93 pages)

Reflection Papers:
SONAL SHARMA
NANXI ZENG
BORUI ZHANG

Ch. 10: The Working-Day
Ch. 11: The Rate of Surplus-Value

Week 6:
TH 3/9

Reflection Papers:
SAMANTHA AGARWAL
JOSEPH GIARDINI
CONRAD JACOB

pp.340-426 (87 pages)

Week 7: TH 3/16	<p>Part IV: Production of Relative Surplus Value Ch. 12: The Concept of Relative Surplus-Value Ch. 13: Co-operation Ch. 14: The Division of Labour and Manufacture</p> <p><u>Reflection Papers:</u> SHIRLEY LUNG COREY PAYNE NANXI ZENG</p>	pp.429-492 (63 pages)
Week 8: TH 3/23	<p>SPRING BREAK</p>	
Week 9: TH 3/30	<p>Ch. 15: Machinery and Large-Scale Industry</p> <p><u>Reflection Papers:</u> TIAN TIAN LIU COREY PAYNE NANXI ZENG</p>	pp.492-639 (148 pages)
Week 10: TH 4/6	<p>Part V: The Production of Absolute and of Relative Surplus-Value Ch. 16: Absolute and Relative Surplus-Value Ch. 17: Changes of Magnitude in the Price of Labour-Power and in Surplus-Value Ch. 18: Different Formulae for the Rate of Surplus-Value</p> <p>Part VI: Wages Ch. 19: The Transformation of the Value (and Respective Price) of Labour-Power into Wages Ch. 20: Time-Wages Ch. 21: Piece-Wages Ch. 22: National Differences of Wages</p> <p><u>Reflection Papers:</u> ZHICAO FANG JOSEPH GIARDINI JIWON LEE SHIRLEY LUNG</p>	pp.643-706 (64 pages)
Week 11: TH 4/13	<p>Part VII: The Process of Accumulation of Capital Ch. 23: Simple Reproduction Ch. 24: The Transformation of Surplus-Value into Capital</p> <p><u>Reflection Papers:</u> RISHI AWATRAMANI JIWON LEE SHIRLEY LUNG TIAN TIAN LIU</p>	pp.709-761 (55 pages)

Ch. 25: The General Law of Capitalist Accumulation

Week 12: Reflection Papers:
TH 4/20 SAMANTHA AGARWAL
ZHICAO FANG pp.762-870 (109 pages)
JOSEPH GIARDINI
CONRAD JACOBER

Part VIII: So-Called Primitive Accumulation

Ch. 26: The Secret of Primitive Accumulation
Ch. 27: The Expropriation of the Agricultural Population
from the Land
Ch. 28: Bloody Legislation against the Expropriated since the
End of the Fifteenth Century. Forcing down of Wages by
Acts of Parliament
Ch. 29: Genesis of the Capitalist Farmer
Week 13: Ch. 30: Impact of the Agricultural Revolution on Industry.
TH 4/27 The Creation of a Home-Market for Industrial Capital pp.873-940 (68 pages)
Ch. 31: The Genesis of the Industrial Capitalist
Ch. 32: The Historical Tendency of Capitalist Accumulation
Ch. 33: The Modern Theory of Colonization

Reflection Papers:
SONAL SHARMA
JIWON LEE
TIAN TIAN LIU

**Appendix: Results of the Immediate Process of
Accumulation (“Unpublished Chapter 6 of Capital”)**

Week 14: Reflection Papers:
TH 5/4 SAMANTHA AGARWAL
RISHI AWATRMANI pp.948-1048 (101 pages)
ZHICAO FANG

Final Discussion
