

**IBH 2BF3
THE HISTORY OF CAPITALISM
FALL 2020**

COURSE OBJECTIVE

This course has two general aims. The first and most direct ambition is to equip you, through lectures, courseware readings, several books, and tutorials, to recognize the principal roots of contemporary capitalism. In the first classes, I will introduce several contemporary debates and recent data relating to capitalism, global inequality and poverty, and social justice. Next, I will introduce my working definition of capitalism and describe capitalism’s essential ‘supporting pillars:’ private property rights, markets with responsive prices, contracts enforced by trusted third parties (courts and tribunals), and supportive governments. With these thoughts at hand, we can set out on the journey through history which begins in Italy in the 1200s, moves on to the Netherlands in the 1600 and 1700s, to England in the 1700 and 1800s, and concludes with the United States (Capitalism’s Promised Land) from the early 1800s to the present. Along the way, we will trace the emergence of economic thought about and criticisms of capitalism. As well, we will point out occasions when capitalism enabled paradigm changing innovations, and we will explain some financial crises and the common pattern that they reveal.

The second general aim is to help you with your individual writing skills. These foundation skills, essential for rewarding experiences at university and beyond, are stressed in course assignments. You will receive clear and constructive comments on your assignments. Guides to the evaluation of writing style and comprehension of assigned essay topics will be available on the Avenue to Learn page for this course.

INSTRUCTOR AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: John Weaver	E-Mail: capitalism@mcmaster.ca
Class Times: 9:30-10:20 Wednesdays and Fridays. For tutorial times consult your Registrar’s Office assigned time.	
Virtual Office Hours: Fridays at 1:30 to 3: 30. Please contact me on caphis@mcmaster.ca after the Friday class, and Webex invitations will be sent to schedule a subsequent meeting.	

COURSE DELIVERY

LEARNING ACTIVITIES	DELIVERY	DESCRIPTION	TOOL(S)
Virtual Classes Twice a Week. (Meaning Classes Scheduled by the Registrar’s Office and Containing Live-streamed Lectures) Virtual Tutorials in Some Weeks (Meaning	Lectures These classes begin as live-on line lecture sessions delivered through Echo360. This	Part 1: The Setup for Understanding: Part 2: Capitalism’s Roots and Ascent, 1200-1700	Echo 360 platform for live streaming and recording of lectures.

Times and Students Are Assigned by the Registrar's Office)

platform also records the lectures for future review. During most of the sessions there also will be video material. Information regarding Echo360 will be clearly explained in a detailed syllabus available on the Avenue to Learn web-page for this course. The Echo360 platform is easy to access.

Tutorials

Nine tutorials based mainly on courseware readings: short documents and several short book chapters.

Part 3: Capitalism's Patterns in Economic History, 1700-1850

Part 4: Up and Running, 1850-present

Part 5: Global Integration: Finance Capital, Resource Extraction, Branch Plants, and Labour.

A complete list of lectures is available on the Avenue to Learn page for this course along with assignments and due dates for assignments.

TAs will 'invite' students to their tutorial Registrar-assigned sessions by Webex; the process is simple and is described in the full-length syllabus available on the Avenue to Learn page for this course.

Webex allows TAs to observe attendance and participation. Student discussion that engages with the assigned readings will be noted and contribute significantly to the tutorial mark.

EVALUATIONS	WEIGHT	DESCRIPTION
<p>Three Book-based short essays</p> <p>See full-length syllabus in Avenue to Learn for details</p>	<p>25% (2000 to 2500 words), 25% (2000 to 2500 words), 10% (750 to 1000 words).</p>	<p>Questions are provided and must be answered using the books assigned. The questions are stated in the full-length syllabus available on the Avenue to Learn page for this course.</p> <p>You are responsible for securing access to the following required material. The University Store will have copies. Also, there are many on-line services for new and used books. RedShelf and AbeBooks are examples; allow time for delivery from on-line dealers.</p> <p>Robert C. Allen, <i>The British Industrial Revolution in Global Perspective</i> (2009).</p> <p>William Cronon, <i>Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West</i> (1992).</p> <p>James Fulcher, <i>Capitalism: A Very Short Introduction</i> (2015).</p> <p>Jurgen Kocka, <i>Capitalism: A Short History</i> (2016).</p>
<p>Tutorial Participation</p>	<p>15%</p>	<p>Courseware for 2KK3 available on demand order from the University Store. Delivery may take several days.</p>
<p>Final Exam</p>	<p>25%</p>	<p>A 2.5 Hour take-home, open book, essay exam that covers the course's core themes and information. There will be some choice available on the exam's essay or essays.</p>
		<p>The full-length syllabus will be available on the Avenue to Learn page as of 6 July.</p>

