

ANTH 6317 — Political Economy
Spring 2016 Version 1.0 — subject to change
Tuesdays 2 - 4:50pm
Heroy Hall 436

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Office hours: Wednesdays 1-3pm or by appointment (subject to change)

Course Description

The study of the economy wavers between approaches that treat it as its own domain, with an internal set of rules and logic, and scholars who see the economy as an interlocking piece in a larger fabric of society, responding to questions of politics, kinship, ethnicity, colonial rule, the law and war. Anthropological approaches to political economy are usually situated towards the latter end of the spectrum, seeking to understand how economic phenomena are understood and embedded in society.

This course explores foundational concepts in political economy, covering themes such as value, exchange, labor and property. It draws from classical texts in social theory together with contemporary work from anthropology, sociology and history. We seek to track foundational concepts that have been modified and engaged by contemporary scholarship, and how scholars conceptualize what the economy is and how human actors animate it.

REQUIREMENTS

Two 10-15 page papers: 2x30%

Attendance and participation: 15%

Reading responses: 25%

The papers:

These are intended for you to critically examine course material either by putting readings across weeks in dialogue or by using them to explore your dissertation projects. The first paper is due on March 3 and the second on May 5.

Class participation includes:

(1) Regular attendance and contribution to discussion.

(2) Leading discussion: You will be expected to speak for no more than 15 minutes during which you should offer critical assessment of the week's readings that link them to previous discussions, address the discussion board postings of your classmates, and pose some questions to the class to start off discussion.

Reading responses:

Please post responses of no more than 2 paragraphs to an online discussion board by 9pm on Monday evenings before class.

Required Texts

- * Wood, Ellen M. 2002. *The Origin of Capitalism: A Longer View*. London: Verso Books
- * Willis, Paul E. 1977. *Learning to Labour: How Working Class Kids Get Working Class Jobs*. Saxon House
- * Sylvia Yanagisako, *Producing Culture and Capital: Family Firms in Italy*, Princeton University Press, 2002.
- * Mintz, Sydney. *Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History*. Penguin Books.
- * Harvey, David. 2007. *A brief history of neoliberalism*. Oxford UP
- * Sunder Rajan, Kaushik. 2006. *Biocapital: The constitution of postgenomic life*. Duke UP.
- * Taussig, Michael. 2010. *The Devil and Commodity Fetishism in South America*. University of North Carolina Press, 30th Anniversary edition.

The texts have been ordered through the SMU Bookstore. Additionally, they have been placed in the reserves of the Fondren Library.

Supplemental Reading:

Supplemental texts are for your reference. Article-length pieces can be found in the course website. Books are your responsibility.

Turning in assignments

Assignments must be submitted via Canvas. No submissions via email!

Please include your name and date. Extensions on deadlines are offered only in advance of the due date for extenuating circumstances. Assignments submitted late will be graded down by three percent for each day (24-hour period).

Missed Classes and Assignments

Absences are only excused for a debilitating illness or death in the family, religious holidays, and sanctioned university functions. Notify the professor *before* you are absent. Missed assignments receive a 0 (zero) and not an F or 50%.

Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct: Plagiarism, cheating, inappropriate consultation of peers or their work, any other form of academic misconduct, and failing to report evidence of others' misconduct are all Honor Code violations. Penalties are outlined in the Honor Code and may include anything from a zero for the assignment to dismissal from school. Students are expected to prepare work independently, cite any work (quotes or ideas) that is not their own, submit original work (i.e., not already submitted for any other class), and to neither give nor receive assistance in examinations. If you are uncertain about whether an activity or piece of work compromises your academic integrity, you should speak to the professor before turning it in.

Canvas

Course documents, announcements, and other materials will be posted on the Canvas page for this course. Please consult that page regularly and inform me of any problems you encounter.

Extra Credit: No extra credit is offered for this course.

Disability Accommodations: Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first register with Disability Accommodations & Success Strategies (DASS). Students can call 214-768-1470 or visit <http://www.smu.edu/Provost/ALEC/DASS> to begin the process. Once registered, students should then schedule an appointment with the professor as early in the semester as possible, present a DASS Accommodation Letter, and make appropriate arrangements. Please note that accommodations are not retroactive and require advance notice to implement.

Religious Observance: Religiously observant students wishing to be absent on holidays that require missing class should notify their professors in writing at the beginning of the semester, and should discuss with them, in advance, acceptable ways of making up any work missed because of the absence. (See University Policy No. 1.9.)

Course Schedule

January 19. Week 1 — Introduction

Suggested reading

Roseberry, William. 1988. Political Economy. *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 17: 161-85

Blim, Michael. 2000. Capitalisms in late modernity. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 29:25-38

LeClair Jr., Edward. Economic Theory and Economic Anthropology. In *Economic Anthropology*, ed. Edward LeClair Jr. and Harold Schneider.

January 26. Week 2 — Capitalism

Wood, Ellen M. 2002. *The Origin of Capitalism: A Longer View*. London: Verso Books

Wallerstein, Immanuel. 1991. Braudel on capitalism, or everything upside down. *The Journal of Modern History* 63 (2): 354

Suggested reading

Pomeranz, Kenneth. 2001. *The Great Divergence: China, Europe, and the Making of the Modern World Economy*. Princeton University Press.

February 2. Week 3 — Labor and Class

Smith, Adam. *The Wealth of Nations*, Book I: Chapter 1, 2, 7.

“On the Division of Labour,” “On the Principle which gives occasion to the Division of Labour,” “On the Natural and Market Price of Commodities.”

<https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/smith-adam/works/wealth-of-nations/index.htm>

Karl Marx, “Wage-Labor and Capital” <http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1847/wage-labour/index.htm>

Thompson, E.P. Moral Economy of the English Crowd in the Eighteenth Century. *Past and Present* 50, Feb. 1971, pp. 76-136.

Suggested reading

Karl Marx, "The Labor Process and the Valorization Process," in *Capital*, Vol. 1, Book 1, Ch. 7. <http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1867-c1/ch07.htm>

Karl Marx, *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844*, "Estranged Labor," <http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1844/manuscripts/labour.htm>

February 9. Week 4 — Labor and Class II

Willis, Paul E. 1977. *Learning to Labour: How Working Class Kids Get Working Class Jobs*. Saxon House

Thompson, E P. "Time, Work-discipline, and Industrial Capitalism." *Past & Present* 38, no. 1 (1967): 56

Suggested reading

Hardt, Michael and Antonio Negri. 2005. *Multitude: War and Democracy in the Age of Empire*.

Weston, Kath. 2009. *Traveling Light: on the road with America's poor*. Beacon Press.

Bourgois, P I. 1995. *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio*. Cambridge University Press

Smith, Raymond T. "Anthropology and the Concept of Social Class." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 13 (1984): 467-494

Marx and Engels. *Manifesto of the Communist Party*.

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/>

February 16. Week 5 — Markets and the economy

Polanyi, Karl. *The Great Transformation: The political and economic origins of our times*. Part II, pg 35-80. and the introduction by Fred Block.

Tsing, Anna. 2000. Inside the Economy of Appearances. *Public Culture*, Vol. 12, No. 1, pp. 115-144.

Mitchell, Timothy. 1998. Fixing the Economy. *Cultural Studies* 12, 82-101.

McCloskey, et al, ed. Introduction. *Do Economists Make Markets? On the Performativity of Economics*. Read pages 1-7.

Suggested reading

Karen Ho, *Liquidated: An Ethnography of Wall Street*, Duke University Press, 2009.

Vicki Birchfield, Contesting the hegemony of market ideology: Gramsci's 'good sense' and Polanyi's 'double movement,' *Review of International Political Economy* 6 (1): 27-54, 1999.

Bestor, Theodore. 2004. *Tsukiji: The fish market at the center of the world*. California UP.

Michael Burawoy, "For a Sociological Marxism: The complementary convergence of Antonio Gramsci and Karl Polanyi," *Politics & Society* 31 (2): 193-261, 2003.

Ellen Hertz, *The Trading Crowd: An Ethnography of the Shanghai Stock Market*, (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1998).

Chibnik, Michael. 2011. *Anthropology, Economics, and Choice*. Austin: University of Texas Press

Richard Wilk, *Economies and Cultures: Foundations of Economic Anthropology*, (Boulder, CO: Westview, 1996).

Besky, Sarah. 2015 (forthcoming). Agricultural justice, abnormal justice? An analysis of fair trade's plantation problem. *Antipode*

Bell, Duran. "Polanyi and the Definition of Capitalism." In *Theory in Economic Anthropology*. Edited by Jean Ensminger. Walnut Creek, CA: Altamira Press, 2002

February 23. Week 6 — Family and Gender

Yanagisako, Sylvia. 2002. *Producing Culture and Capital: Family Firms in Italy*. Princeton University Press.

Rubin, Gayle. "The Traffic in Women: Notes on the 'political economy' of sex."

Suggested reading

Friedrich Engels, *The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State*.

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1884/origin-family/index.htm>

Barbara Ehrenreich, "What is Socialist Feminism?"

<https://www.marxists.org/subject/women/authors/ehrenreich-barbara/socialist-feminism.htm>

Zillah Eisenstein, "Developing a Theory of Capitalist Patriarchy and Socialist Feminism." *The Insurgent Sociologist* 7.3 (1977).

March 1. Week 7 — Property & Accumulation

Patricia Seed, *American Pentimento: The Invention of Indians and the Pursuit of Riches*. Minneapolis: Univ. of Minnesota Press. Chs. 1, 2, 4.

David Harvey, "Accumulation by Dispossession," in *The New Imperialism*, Oxford University Press, 2003.

Karl Marx, "The Secret of Primitive Accumulation".
<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1867-c1/ch26.htm>

Hall, Derek. 2013. Primitive Accumulation, Accumulation by Dispossession and the Global Land Grab. *Third World Quarterly* 34(9):1582-1604

Suggested reading

Hardin, Garrett. 1968. The tragedy of the commons. *Science* 162 (3859): 1243-1248

Ostrom, Elinor. 1999. Revisiting the commons: Local Lessons, Global Challenges. *Science* 284 (5412): 278-282.

Hayden, Cori. 2010. The proper copy: the insides and outsides of domains made public. *The Journal of Cultural Economy* 3 (1): 85-102

Katherine Verdery, *The Vanishing Hectare: Property and Value in Postsocialist Transylvania*, (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2003).

Rosa Luxemburg, *The Accumulation of Capital*, chs. 26-29.
<http://www.marxists.org/archive/luxemburg/1913/accumulation-capital/index.htm>

James Ferguson, *The Anti-Politics Machine: 'Development,' Depoliticization, and Bureaucratic Power in Lesotho*, (Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 1994 [1990]).

March 8 — Spring Break.

March 15. Week 9 — Commodities

Appadurai, Arjun. 1988. Introduction. In *The Social Life of Things: Commodities in Cultural Perspective*.

Walter Johnson, *Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market*, Chs. 1, 4, 6.

Elizabeth Emma Ferry, "Inalienable Commodities: the Production and Circulation of Silver and Patrimony in a Mexican Mining Cooperative." *Cultural Anthropology* 17. 3 (2002): 331-358.

Roseberry, William. "The Rise of Yuppie Coffees and the Reimagination of Class in the United States." *American Anthropologist* 98, no. 4 (1996): 762-775

Suggested reading

Miller, D. 1995. Consumption and Commodities. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 24 (1): 141-161.

Agnar Helgason and Gisli Palsson, Contested commodities: The moral landscape of modernist regimes. *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 3 (3): 451-471.

Nevins, Joseph and Nancy Peluso (eds.). *Taking Southeast Asia to Market: Commodities, Nature, and People in the Neoliberal Age*.

Kopytoff, Igor. 1988. The Cultural biography of things: Commoditization as process. In *The Social Life of Things: Commodities in Cultural Perspective*.

March 22. Week 10 — Money and exchange

Douglas, Mary. 1970. "Primitive Rationing: a Study in Controlled Exchange." In *Themes in Economic Anthropology*, Raymond Firth ed.

Parry, Jonathan and Maurice Bloch. 1989. "Introduction". In *Money and the Morality of Exchange*.

Cronon, William. 1991. Pricing the Future: Grain. In *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West*.

Mauss, Marcel. The gift: The form and reason for exchange in archaic societies. Read Intro and Conclusion.

Graeber, David. 1996. Beads and money: Notes toward a theory of wealth and power. *American Ethnologist* 23 (1): 4-24.

Suggested reading

Janet Carsten, "Cooking money: gender and the symbolic transformation of the means of exchange in a Malay fishing community," in Jonathan Parry and Maurice Bloch, *Money and the Morality of Exchange*.

Maurer, Bill. 2005. *Mutual Life Ltd: Islamic Banking, alternative currencies, lateral reason*, Princeton U. Press.

Karl Marx, *Capital*, Volume 1, Ch. 3.

Marx, Karl. "The fetishism of commodities and the secret thereof (Section 4)"
<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1867-c1/ch01.htm#S4>
(Links to an external site.)

Stoller, P. 2002. *Money Has No Smell: The Africanization of New York City*. University of Chicago Press

Marilyn Strathern, *The Gender in the Gift: Problems with Women and Problems with Society in Melanesia*, (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1988).

Gregory, Chris A. "On Money Debt and Morality: Some Reflections on the Contribution of Economic Anthropology." *Social Anthropology* 20, no. 4 (2012): doi:10.1111/j.1469-8676.2012.00225.x.

March 29. Week 11 — No class, conference travel.

April 5. Week 12 — Commodities (continued)

Mintz, Sydney. *Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History*. Penguin Books. (Focus your reading on the introduction, Ch.1, 4 and 5).

Taussig, Michael. 2010. *The Devil and Commodity Fetishism in South America*. University of North Carolina Press, 30th Anniversary edition. (Read part one and choose one of the two ethnographic cases).

Suggested reading

Michael Taussig, "History as Commodity in some Recent American (Anthropological) Literature," *Critique of Anthropology* Vol. 9, No.1, 1989, pp. 7-23.

Eric Wolf and Sidney Mintz, "Reply to Michael Taussig," *Critique of Anthropology* Vol. 9, No.1, 1989, pp. 25-31.

Meneley, Anne. 2007. Like an extra virgin. *American Anthropologist* 109 (4): 678-687

Paxson, Heather. 2010. Locating value in artisan cheese: Reverse engineering terroir for new-world landscapes. *American Anthropologist* 112 (3): 444-457

April 12. Week 13 —Value

Class ends early, attend Sarah Besky's invited lecture.

Sunder Rajan, Kaushik. 2006. Biocapital: The constitution of postgenomic life. Duke UP.

Besky, Sarah. 2016. The Future Of Price: Communicative Infrastructures and the Financialization of Indian Tea. *Cultural Anthropology* 31(1): 4-29

Suggested reading

Graeber, David. 2001. Toward an anthropological theory of value: The false coin of our own dreams. Palgrave MacMillan.

Willis, Susan. 1991. "Unwrapping use value," In *A primer for daily life*. Routledge.

Wilk, Richard. "When Good Theories Go Bad: Theory in Economic Anthropology and Consumer Research." In *Theory in Economic Anthropology*. Edited by Jean Ensminger. Walnut Creek, CA: Altamira Press, 2002

Tsing, Anna. 2013. Sorting out commodities: How capitalist value is made through gifts. *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 3 (1): 21-43

April 19. Week 14 — Neoliberalism and the state

Harvey, David. 2007. *A brief history of neoliberalism*. Oxford UP. Introduction, Chapters 1 and 3. Skim Chapter 2.

Hayek, Friedrich A. 2007 (1944). *The road to Serfdom*. Chicago UP. Read chapter 3.

Gupta, A, and J Ferguson. "Spatializing States: Toward An Ethnography of Neoliberal Governmentality." *American Ethnologist* 29, no. 4 (2002): 981-1002

Ferguson, James. 2006. "De-moralizing Economies: African Socialism, Scientific Capitalism, and the Moral Politics of Structural Adjustment." In *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order*. Duke UP.

Ho, Karen. 2005. Situating global capitalisms: A view from wall street investment banks. *Cultural Anthropology* 20 (1): 68-96

Suggested Reading

Orta, Andrew. 2013. Managing the margins: MBA training, international business, and the value chain of culture. *American Ethnologist* 40 (4): 689-703

Ho, Karen. 2014. Commentary on andrew orta's "managing the margins": The anthropology of transnational capitalism, neoliberalism, and risk. *American Ethnologist* 41 (1): 31-37

Orta, Andrew. 2014. Commentary: Response to karen ho on cultures of capitalism, contexts of capitalism. *American Ethnologist* 41 (1): 38-39

Galenba, Rebecca B. 2012. "Corn is food, not contraband": The right to "free trade" at the Mexico-Guatemala border. *American Ethnologist* 39 (4): 716-734

Paul Stoller. 1996. Spaces, Places, and Fields: The Politics of West African Trading in New York City's Informal Economy. *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 98, No. 4, pp. 776-788.

Anna Tsing, *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection*, (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2005).

Foucault, Michel. *The birth of biopolitics*.

Agrawal, A. 2005. *Environmentality: Technologies of Government and the Making of Subjects*. Durham and London: Duke University Press

Han, Clara. 2012. *Life in Debt: Times of Care and Violence in Neoliberal Chile*. U of California Press.

Greenhouse, Carole (Ed.). 2009. *Ethnographies of Neoliberalism*. University of Pennsylvania Press.

Friedman, Milton. 1980. *Free to Choose: A personal statement*. HBJ.

April 26. Week 15 — neoliberalism, postmodernism, futures.

Harvey, David. 2007. *A brief history of neoliberalism*. Oxford UP. Ch. 4 - Ch. 7. Skim through these slowing down where your interests are stronger.

Comaroff, Jean and John Comaroff. First thoughts on a second coming. *In Millennial Capitalism and the Culture of Neoliberalism*. Duke UP.

Muehlebach, Andrea. 2011. On Affective Labor in Post-Fordist Italy. *Cultural Anthropology* 26 (1): 59-82

Nakassis, Constantine V. 2013. Brands and their surfeits. *Cultural Anthropology* 28 (1): 111-126

Deluze, Gilles. 1992. Postscript on the societies of control. *October* 59:3-7

Suggested reading

Occupy, Anthropology, and the 2011 Global Uprisings. 2012. Hot Spots Issue, Cultural Anthropology. Available at <http://www.culanth.org/fieldsights/63-occupy-anthropology-and-the-2011-global-uprisings#TOC>

(Links to an external site.)

Jameson, Frederic. 1984. Postmodernism, or the cultural logic of late capitalism. *New Left Review* 146:53-93

Comaroff, Jean and John L Comaroff. 1999. Occult economies and the violence of abstraction: Notes from the south african postcolony. *American Ethnologist* 26 (2): 279-303

Appel, Hannah. 2014. Occupy wall street and the economic imagination. *Cultural Anthropology* 29 (4): 602-625

Hardt, Michael and Antonio Negri. 2005. *Multitude: War and Democracy in the Age of Empire*.

Luvaas, Brent. 2013. Material Interventions: Indonesian DIY fashion and the regime of the global brand. *Cultural Anthropology* 28 (1): 127-143

Mazzarella, William. 2003. *Shoveling Smoke: Advertising and Globalization in Contemporary India*. Duke UP.