

Required Texts

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations* (Modern Library)
G.W.F. Hegel, *Elements of the Philosophy of Right*, trans. H.B. Nisbet (Cambridge)
[or: *Philosophy of Right*, trans. T.M. Knox (Oxford)]
Ludwig Feuerbach, *The Essence of Christianity*
Karl Marx, *The Marx-Engels Reader*, ed. Robert C. Tucker, 2nd ed. (Norton)
Friedrich Engels, "The Principles of Communism"
Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (Dover)

Recommended Texts

Frederick Neuhouser, *Actualizing Freedom: Foundations of Hegel's Social Theory* (Harvard)
Allen Wood, *Karl Marx* (Routledge)

Schedule:

Introductory session: What is capitalism?

Smith: National wealth and the nature of "commercial society"

[Required background reading: Editor's Introduction, WN, xv-xx]
Division of labor, Money, Price: WN, Bk. I, Chs. 1-4, 5 (33-43) [Also: "Introduction and Plan of Work" (xxiii-xxvi)]
Price (cont'd), Wages, Rate of profit: WN, Bk. I, Chs. 6-7, 8 (73-84, 89-99), 9
Classes and their interests: WN, Bk. I, Ch. 11 (284-8)
[Also: In defense of "free labor": WN, Bk. I, Ch. 10 (114-15, 136-43)
Historical origins of capitalism: WN, Bk. III, Chs. 1, 2 (413-21), 3, 4 (439-48)]

Hegel: "Civil society" and the state

Ethical Life: Intro. to Hegel's Social Theory: PhR, §§142-57
[Also: Neuhouser, Chs. 1, 3, 4, 5]
Needs, labor, and classes ("estates"): PhR, §§182-210
Problems of civil society; the state: PhR, §§230-56, 260-1, 264, 298-315

Marx (I): Human rights, freedom, political ideology (critique of Hegel)

"On the Jewish Question": MER, 26-46
[Also: MER, 439-41 (later comments on freedom from *Capital*, vol. 3)
Excerpt from "The German Ideology;" MER, 197-200
Feuerbach, excerpts from *The Essence of Christianity*]
[Optional: "Contrib. to the Critique of Hegel's *Phil. of Right*: Intro.;" MER, 53-65
Excerpt from "The King of Prussia & Social Reform;" MER, 130-32]

Marx (II): Alienation

1844 Manuscripts: "Alienated Labor": MER, 70-81, 133-5
[Also: Excerpt from "The German Ideology": MER, 155-66, 190-3, 197-200]
Later excerpts on alienation: MER, 292-3, 388-404, 407-11, 439-41

Marx (III): Historical materialism

Preface to *A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy*: MER, 3-6 [Also: Excerpt from “The German Ideology”: MER, 193-97]

[Optional: Excerpts from “The German Ideology”: MER, 148-75]

Marx (IV): Laws of capitalist production (*Capital*)

Marx's idea of economic science; commodities and exchange: MER, 294-8, 302-12 & *Capital*, vol. 1, Ch. 2

Circulation of commodities; definition of 'capital': MER, 329-36

[MER, 319-29 covers commodity fetishism, an interesting topic we won't have time to discuss.]

Sale of labor-power; surplus value and exploitation: MER, 336-361 [Also: The historical origins of capitalism: MER, 431-6]

Work and the working day in capitalism; machinery & modern industry: MER, 344-84, 404-7, 417-19

The general law and historical tendency of capitalist accumulation: MER, 419-31, 436-8

[Also: Excerpt from *Grundrisse*; MER, 291-2]

Marx (V): Proletarian revolution and transition to communism

“The Communist Manifesto” MER, 469-500 [Also: Engels, “The Principles of Communism”;

Excerpt from “The German Ideology”: MER, 192-97 (re-read); Excerpt from the *Grundrisse*: MER, 291-2

Excerpt from *Capital*, vol. 3: MER, 439-41 (re-read)]

Weber: Protestantism and the origins of modern capitalism

Modern capitalism: its “spirit” and the problem of its origin: PESC, Introduction, Chs. I-II

Protestant asceticism and the rise of modern capitalism: PESC, Chs. III(79-81,89-92); IV(98-120, 153-4); V (166-83)