INTERDISCIPLINARY MINOR in the HISTORY OF CAPITALISM

Capitalism has delivered unrivaled prosperity, but with many social costs. Understanding capitalism’s past is essential to understanding our world today—as well as tomorrow. How has it been defined? How has it developed at different times and in different parts of the world? Students undertaking the minor will be exposed to many different perspectives on capitalism, enabling them to critically reflect on economic institutions and ideas, as well as understand how our global economy has come to be.

The minor is designed to provide students with the basic vocabulary of economics and business, but to deepen it with a longer, critical perspective on the development of capitalism. “Capitalism” has had many different meanings over time and students in the minor will also learn how its meanings have changed across time and how they continue to differ across place.

This minor is offered collaboratively with courses from across the university, but is coordinated by the Department of History staff, and Edward Baptist (A&S), George Boyer (ILR), Lawrence Glickman (A&S), Sandra Greene (A&S), Victor Seow (A&S) and Louis Hyman (ILR). For more information on the minor and a list of currently approved courses, please see the department website at: history.arts.cornell.edu.

History of Capitalism Approved Courses

This list will change over time as new courses are added. Students may petition to have a course not listed approved. And the core faculty welcome suggestions by faculty for relevant courses not yet listed.

I. Regional/National/Global Survey of Capitalism
   HIST 1540/AMST 1540/ILRLR 1845 American Capitalism

II. Economics and Business
   ECON 1110 Introductory Microeconomics
   ECON 1120 Introductory Macroeconomics
   ECON 3010 Accelerated Microeconomics
   ECON 3030 Intermediate Microeconomic Theory
   ECON 3300 Development of Economic Thought and Institutions
   ECON 3310 American Economics History I
   ECON 3320 American Economic History II
   GOVT 3547 American Primacy Challenged: International Political Economy
   GOVT 3557 American Exceptionalism Questioned: Comparative Political Economy
   PAM 2000 Intermediate Microeconomics
   AEM 2241 Finance (formerly AEM 2240)
   HADM 2250 Finance

III. Historical Areas
   Students will need to take at least three courses from the following list (which will be updated regularly).
   GERST 4431 Melancholy Left: Marx to Benjamin (HIST 4234)
   GERST 1170 Marx, Nietzsche, Freud
   GERST 3610 Homo Oeconomicus
   HIST 1690 Latin America and the World
   HIST 1950 The Invention of Latin America
   HIST 1955 No gods, No masters: Histories of Anarchism
   HIST 2062 Migrant Workers in the Americas
   HIST 2210 Popular Culture in China
   HIST 2452 Dress Cloth and Identity
   HIST 2432 Dazed and Confused: The Politics of Drug and Alcohol in US History
   HIST 2430 The History of Things
   HIST 2430 Anarchism: History, Theory, Practice
   HIST 2210 Popular Culture in China
   HIST 2430 The History of Things
   HIST 2430 Energy in History
   HIST 2500 Technology in Society
   HIST 2581 Environmental History
   HIST 3022 Capitalism and American Democracy
   HIST 3050 Eighteenth-Century Britain
   HIST 3181 Living in an Uncertain World: Science, Technology, and Risk (BSOC 3181, STS 3181)
HIST 3411  Engineering in History
HIST 3652  African Economic Development Histories
HIST 3740  America Becomes Modern: The Gilded Age and Progressive Era
HIST 4041  Atlantic Commodities
HIST 4261  Commodification and Consumerism in Historical Perspective
HIST 4490  Peddlers, Pirates and Prostitutes: Subaltern Histories of Southeast Asia, 1800-1900
HIST 4820  History of Slavery
ILRLR 1100  Introduction to U.S. Labor History
ILRLR 3040  Special Topics in Labor History
ILRLR 3060  Recent History of American Workers
ILRLR 3065  Immigrant America: Race and Citizenship in Modern Working Class History
ILRLR 3880  Unfree Labor: Servants, Slaves, and Wives
ILRLR 3870  The History of Consumption: From Wedgwood to WalMart