

POWER, IDENTITY, AND RESISTANCE I: SOCIAL SCIENCES 11100-01

Professor: Paul Staniland
Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30-11:50 am
Room: Cobb 115
Office Hours: Tuesday, 2:00-4:00 pm and by appt.

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Office Hours: Thursdays, Booth Winter Garden, 1-2:30 pm and by apt.

Course Description

This seminar is the first of a three-quarter sequence in the Social Sciences Common Core. As a whole, the sequence is designed to examine views and questions concerning the relationship of power to economics, politics, and culture in the modern and contemporary eras. This quarter considers an array of distinctive macro theoretical formulations of modern economic process—otherwise known as capitalism. It examines topics such as the organization of exchange, the logic of the division of labor, the prevalence and character of exploitation in economic relationships, and the scope for political intervention in the economy. Also considered are the roles of values and culture in economic process, as well as the historical and cultural variability of the boundaries between the economy, society, and politics. Readings include classic works in modern political economy and its critique by Adam Smith, Karl Marx, and Emile Durkheim. We will closely study each author's position, the logic of his discourse and the arguments put forward, and compare them with those found in other works. There may be some changes in the syllabus as the quarter goes along, and I will be sure to communicate them to you.

Course Requirements

Participation in class discussion is essential for a successful seminar. Students are expected to have carefully done all of the required reading and to be prepared to discuss it in detail. Attendance is mandatory. While participation and involvement are prerequisites for success in this course, civil dialogue is the best way to engage in debate and disagreement. Participation will account for 25% of your grade.

Three analytical papers will be assigned over the course of the quarter. Each paper should be 6-8 pages (doubled-spaced, 12-point font, paginated, 1-inch margins, Times New Roman). All quotations should be properly cited. The topic will be provided in class and your paper should be turned in (hard copy – not email) at the beginning of the class meeting one week later. The final paper for the course will be turned in at my office, as discussed below.

The papers will ask you to critically assess arguments and claims drawn from our reading. They are not opportunities for you to do a literature review or summary of readings, but instead to advance your own argument with clear writing and exposition.

Due dates are indicated on the class schedule. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the due dates for all assignments. Late papers will not be accepted unless a 24-hour extension is requested and granted, which will be possible but rare (and a maximum of one time per student). Each paper will count for 25% of your grade.

Electronic Etiquette

Students should not play with cell phones during class. This will allow more focused discussion and intellectual exchange. The use of laptops is acceptable, though very strongly discouraged, as long as the student is actively participating in class discussion.

We aim to be responsive to email from students. However, please do not expect an answer to your question any sooner than at least 48 hours after it is sent. Last-minute email questions and requests are bad for everyone involved. I also prefer that students use office hours rather than email for asking substantive questions.

Required Books (available from the Seminary Co-op):

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, ed. Edwin Cannan (University of Chicago Press).

Karl Marx, *Capital*, volume I (Penguin Classics).

Emile Durkheim, *The Division of Labor in Society* (Free Press). [**Note:** the version you need has an introduction by Steven Lukes and is copyrighted 2014; the older version used in past years has different page numbers and will not work].

Required readings that are not drawn from the books for purchase can be found through the online Chalk system (<http://chalk.uchicago.edu>).

Academic Integrity

This is the University of Chicago's Academic Integrity statement:

“It is contrary to justice, to academic integrity, and to the spirit of intellectual inquiry to submit the statements or ideas of work of others as one's own. To do so is plagiarism or cheating, offenses punishable under the University's disciplinary system. Because these offenses undercut the distinctive moral and intellectual character of the University, we take them very seriously. Proper acknowledgment of another's ideas, whether by direct quotation or paraphrase, is expected. In particular, if any written or electronic source is consulted and material is used from that source, directly or indirectly, the source should be identified by author, title, and page number, or by website and date accessed. Any doubts about what constitutes "use" should be addressed to the instructor.”

If you have questions, ask us and/or consult Charles Lipson's *Doing Honest Work in College* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008).

Week One

September 30: Introduction

October 2: Aristotle, *Politics*, Book 1: Parts I-III, VIII- XIII (available in “Course Documents” section of Chalk site)
 Rousseau, Excerpts from “A Discourse on Political Economy,” (article published in Diderot’s *Encyclopaedia* in 1755; available in “Course Documents” section of Chalk site)

Week Two

October 7: Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, vol. I, pp. 1-61

October 9: Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, vol. I, pp. 62-132; 275-8; 351-371

Week Three

October 14: Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, vol. I, pp. 132-160; 474-95; vol. II, pp. 159-161; 179-181; 231-8; 244-8; 301-9

October 16: Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, vol. II, pp. 75-8; 103-5; 122-40; 141-58
1st paper topic handed out on October 16

Week Four

October 21: Marx, *Capital*, chapter 1 pp. 125-177

October 23: Marx, *Capital*, chapters 4,6, 7 & 8, pages 247-257, 270-319
1st paper due on October 23 at the beginning of class in hard copy

Week Five

October 28: Marx, *Capital*, chapters 9.1, & 9.2, 12-14, pages 320-332; 429-491

October 30: Marx, *Capital*, chapter 15.1-15.5, pages 492-564

Week Six

November 4: Marx, *Capital*, chapter 15.8 a-e, pages 588-609; chapter 25.1-25.3, pages 762-793

November 6: Marx *Capital*, chapter 26-28; 32-33, pages 873-904; 927-940
2nd paper topic handed out on November 6

Week 7

November 11: Durkheim, *The Division of Labor in Society*, ‘Preface to the First Edition’: 3-7; 33-56

November 13: Durkheim, *The Division of Labor in Society*, pp. 57-104.
2nd paper due on November 13 at the beginning of class in hard copy

Week 8

November 18: NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING

November 20: NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING

Week 9

November 25: Durkheim, *The Division of Labor in Society*, pp. 116-180.

November 27: Durkheim, *The Division of Labor in Society*, pp. 183-238; 258-274.

Week 10:

December 2: Durkheim, *The Division of Labor in Society*, 277-319; 8-32 ('Preface to the Second Edition').

3rd paper topic handed out on December 2

3rd paper due in the box outside my office (hard copy) by 5 pm on Tuesday, December 9