University of Southern California
Department of History
History 348: Dynamics of American Capitalism
Spring 2012
Monday, Wednesday 2:00-3:50 PM, VKC 209

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Office Hours: M 4-5, W 11-12
and by appointment

This course will explore changes and continuities in American capitalism from the Colonial era to the present. Students will look at the economy of the past through many lenses, including consumption and production, labor and management, market formation and globalization. The course will pay particular attention to the upheavals of industrialization, and will also investigate various American alternatives to capitalism including utopian movements.

Format: The class meets regularly on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 2:00 to 3:50. Attendance is mandatory, as is class participation.

Requirements and Evaluation: Final grades will be based on five position papers (5 x 5% = 25%), midterm assignment (25%), final assignment (35%), class participation including discussion (15%).

Reading: The following books are available for purchase at the USC Bookstore, as well as online booksellers. If you purchase online, take care that the edition you have purchased is correct! Please bring books to class for the relevant discussions. Additional readings will be made available electronically through Blackboard (marked BB) or through USC online databases. If you cannot access blackboard, or have any other trouble downloading the assignments, please contact the instructor.

- Bellamy, *Looking Backward*
  ISBN 0199552576
- Breen, *The Marketplace of Revolution*
  ISBN 019518131X
- Cohen, *A Consumers' Republic*
  ISBN 0375707379
- Kornblith, *The Industrial Revolution in America*
  ISBN 0669394726
- Licht, *Industrializing America*
  ISBN 0801850142
- Ross, *Workers on the Edge*
  ISBN 0972762531

Plagiarism: Plagiarism on any assignment will result in a failing grade on that assignment and possible disciplinary action.

Disability Policy: Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to the instructor as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

Schedule of Classes and Assignments:

Week One: American Capitalism as a Series of Revolutions
- 1.9.2012 first day, no readings
- 1.11.2012 Gras, "Capitalism: Concepts and History" (J-Stor)

Week Two: A Revolution in Indian Country
- 1.16.2012 NO CLASS Martin Luther King's Birthday
- 1.18.2012 Shannon, "Dressing for Success on the Mohawk Frontier" (J-Stor)

Week Three: An American Revolution
- 1.23.2012 Breen, pp 1-192
  Position Paper One due
- 1.25.2012 Kornblith, Section I

Week Four: A Material Revolution
- 1.30.2012 Breen, pp 195-331
- 2.1.2012 Kornblith, Section II

Week Five: A Market Revolution
- 2.6.2012 Licht, pp 1-101
  Position Paper Two due
- 2.8.2012 Hamilton, from "Report on Manufactures" (BB)

Week Six: An Industrial Revolution
- 2.13.2012 Licht, pp 102-196
- 2.15.2012 LIBRARY VISIT
  Genovese, from *The Political Economy of Slavery* (BB)
  Kornblith, Section III

Week Seven: An Urban Revolution
- 2.20.2012 NO CLASS Presidents' Day
- 2.22.2012 Kornblith, Section IV
  Position Paper Three due

Week Eight: A Productive Revolution
- 2.27.2012 Ross, pp 3-161
- 2.29.2012 Wilentz, from *Chants Democratic* (BB)

Week Nine: A Managerial Revolution

3.5.2012 Ross, pp 162-324
Kornblith, Section V

3.7.2012 Chandler, "Emergence of Managerial Capitalism" (J-Stor)

3.12.2012 NO CLASS Spring Recess

3.14.2012 NO CLASS Spring Recess

Week Ten: A Socialist Revolution?

3.19.2012 Adamic, from *Boom!* (BB)
Kornblith, Section VI

3.21.2012 Foner, "Why Is There No Socialism in the United States" (J-Stor)
Position Paper Four due

Week Eleven: A Nationalist Revolution?

3.26.2012 Bellamy

3.28.2012 LIBRARY VISIT TWO

Week Twelve: A Regulatory Revolution

4.2.2012 Cohen, pp 3-165

4.4.2012 Sinclair, from *The Jungle* (BB)
Position Paper Five due

Week Thirteen: A Consumers' Revolution

4.9.2012 Cohen, pp 166-289

4.11.2012 Kessler-Harris, "Just Price, the Free Market, and the Value of Women" (J-Stor)

Week Fourteen: A Military-Industrial Revolution

4.16.2012 Cohen, pp 292-410

4.18.2012 Didion, from *Where I Was From* (BB)

Week Fifteen

4.23.2012 FINAL PRESENTATIONS

4.25.2012 FINAL PRESENTATIONS

Scheduled Exam Period: May 7, 2-4 pm