Economics 101 | Northwestern University | Prof. Chiaki Moriguchi
Freshman Seminar | Department of Economics | Fall 2003-2004

COMPARING CAPITALISM

Instructor: Prof. Chiaki Moriguchi
Email: chiaki@northwestern.edu, Office: 3222 Andersen Hall
Class time: Monday & Wednesday 2:00-3:20 PM
Class location: Main Library Seminar Room 4622
Office hours: Wednesday 4-6 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
Most developed countries in the world today adopt capitalism and market institutions. Some people claim that capitalism is a necessary condition for economic growth and prosperity. How does capitalism work? What are its defining features? Are market institutions the same across all nations? If not, how and why do they differ? In order to answer these questions, we will compare capitalism among four leading industrial countries and examine their historical origins. The course will employ two levels of analysis. In the macro analysis, we will study institutions such as government, labor markets, and financial institutions. In the micro analysis, we will study how individual firms and entrepreneurs strove to succeed under varying economic, social, and political environments.

TEACHING METHOD: Discussion.

EVALUATION:
Grades will be based on three writing assignments (30%), discussion participation (20%), and a term paper (50%).

READING:
Required Textbook: Thomas McCraw edit. *Creating Modern Capitalism* (Harvard University Press; 1997). Additional reading materials may be distributed in the class.

PREPARING FOR DISCUSSIONS:
In-class discussions are at the heart of this course, and for this format to work, all of us have to work hard. From *Creating Modern Capitalism*, we will cover four "country" chapters and four "company" chapters, and I will assign study questions for each class. Everybody must read an assigned chapter in advance, give thoughts to the study questions, and write them down. In each class, I will appoint two students as "discussion leaders" who will be responsible for making everyone participate in discussion.

WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:
You must choose *three* company chapters and write essays answering the study questions. You are not required to do research beyond reading a chapter (and thinking hard) in completing the writing assignments. Please submit one hardcopy of your paper at the beginning of the class in which the company you chose will be discussed. Each assignment must be 3-4 pages typed in 12-point fonts, and must be double-spaced (so that I can write comments). Your writing assignments will be evaluated based on three criteria: (a) writing quality, (b) analytical skills, and (c) originality.

TERM PAPER:
You will be asked to choose a topic related to "comparing capitalism" and write a term paper (10-12 pages) applying the concepts and methods employed in the course. You are encouraged to consult with me in selecting a topic. A one-page paper proposal is due by November 10 (Mon) at the latest. A draft of the paper is due on November 19 (Wed) and its final version is due on December 8 (Mon) at 5 PM. The guidelines for a term paper will be distributed later in the class.

CLASS SCHEDULE & READING ASSIGNMENTS

1. September 24 (Wed): Organization & Introduction (Creating Modern Capitalism, Chapter 1)

2. September 29 (Mon): British Capitalism I (Creating Modern Capitalism, Chapter 3, pp.49-67)
Discussion Leaders: TBA.

3. October 1 (Wed): British Capitalism II (Creating Modern Capitalism, Chapter 3, pp.67-93)
Discussion Leaders: TBA.

4. October 6 (Mon): Rolls-Royce (Creating Modern Capitalism, Chapter 4)

5. October 8 (Wed): German Capitalism I (Creating Modern Capitalism, Chapter 5, pp.133-154)
Discussion Leaders: TBA.

6. October 13 (Mon): German Capitalism II (Creating Modern Capitalism, Chapter 5, pp.154-182)
Discussion Leaders: TBA.

7. October 15 (Wed): Thyssen and German Steel (Creating Modern Capitalism, Chapter 6)

8. October 20 (Mon): American Capitalism I (Creating Modern Capitalism, Chapter 9, pp.301-324)
Discussion Leaders: TBA.

9. October 22 (Wed): American Capitalism II (Creating Modern Capitalism, Chapter 9, pp.324-348).
Discussion Leaders: TBA.

10. October 27 (Mon): Ford vs. GM (Creating Modern Capitalism, Chapter 8)

11. October 29 (Wed): Japanese Capitalism I (Creating Modern Capitalism, Chapter 12, pp.439-466) Discussion Leaders: TBA.

12. November 3 (Mon): Japanese Capitalism II (Creating Modern Capitalism, Chapter 12, pp.466-489) Discussion Leaders: TBA.

13. November 5 (Wed): Toyota (Creating Modern Capitalism, Chapter 11)

14. November 10 (Mon): Summary (Creating Modern Capitalism, Chapter 14)
Term Paper Proposal Due.

15. November 12 (Wed): Library Session
Discuss "Academic Integrity at Northwestern University," 2:00-2:30.
Library instruction session, 2:30-3:20, at the Reference Classroom 2 East.

16. November 17 (Mon): Independent Research

17. November 19 (Wed): Student Presentation I *Term Paper Draft Due.*

Class 18. November 24 (Mon): Student Presentation II

Class 19. November 26 (Wed): Independent Research
Thanksgiving holiday begins at 6 PM.

December 1-5: WCAS Reading Period – No Class

December 8 (Mon) 5 PM: *Final Term Paper Due (no final exam in this course).*