

	ECONOMICS FOR EMANCIPATION PAX 692 SPI 2023 Online May 31 – June 29, 2023 <i>Course meeting location and time TBD</i>
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INSTRUCTORS' INFORMATION:

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Osman Keshawarz is an Visiting Lecturer Economics at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. Jonathan Jenner is an Assistant Professor of Global Political Economy at the University of Manitoba a Research Fellow at the University of Johannesburg.

We will both hold office hours by appointment, throughout SPI. Please contact either of us by email and we will arrange to meet.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course seeks to demystify the economy and help students to critically assess how economies can either perpetuate injustice or serve justice. To that end, we will examine capitalism from the lens of political economy, analyzing how social power interacts with our economic lives. This course pulls from the heterodox tradition in economics and is structured as a series of workshops that explore Marxian political economy, economic history, and philosophy. We aim to develop analytical tools which serve the planet and people, with a perspective rooted in ecology and the struggles for liberation from patriarchy, imperialism, racism, and class domination.

This class is meant to have broad appeal to anyone who would like to sharpen their understanding of economics. As such, we do not assume any prior knowledge and will try to build up our analysis in class. We recognize, though, that some students may feel like we are moving too fast, while others will already be familiar with some of the topics we discuss. As such, we will make ourselves available in weekly office hours to go over some of the topics in class with students. Also, we will provide more in-depth readings on each topic, for students to pursue their interests further.

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this course, students should:

- Understand and describe the features of capitalism;
- Comprehend (and critically appraise) a range of economic policies and policy proposals from the perspective of political economy;
- Not be intimidated by the dense and often inaccessible language of economics;
- Establish a base of knowledge of concepts and resources by which to conduct further reading and research on topics which interest them;
- Present problems with current economic structures and appraise alternatives

REQUIRED TEXTS AND OTHER RESOURCES:

All readings will be made available for free via Perusall. The interface allows students to leave comments, questions, and ideas which can be seen by everyone else in the class. Each session (there are four sessions per day in class) will have one required readings, and things work best when students complete that reading before class.

In addition, each class will have further and optional readings, which will be made available. These further and optional readings form the basis of the classroom content that we will teach, and we provide them here for students to optionally explore, should any particular topic become of interest to students. Finally, the instructors will add video content on each topic, should students wish to engage in that capacity.

REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS:

All students will, including those taking the class for professional development, will:

- Complete, and comment on, the required readings. All readings will be posted on Perusall, where we can share and ask questions of each other.
- Participate in a small group discussion on the topics and readings, responding to prompts from instructors;
- Make a short (10 minute) presentation to the class on a particular economic dynamic, its effects on people and/or planet, and possible alternatives, due on **XXXXXXXXXX**.

Students taking the class for 2 credits, in addition to the above, will:

- Write a short paper, detailing how a piece of family history fits into a particular structure of economic history we have discussed, due on **XXXXXXXXXX**;

Students taking the class for 3 credits, in addition to all of the above, will:

- Write an in-depth research paper, expanding on the themes from their presentation, which will be due **XXXXXXXXXX**.

DAILY CLASS SCHEDULE:

We will meet from 8:30am to 5:00pm at EMU. Each day is divided into four sessions, with time for a lecture, discussion, and questions in each session. The themes and readings for each session are posted at the end of this syllabus, and subject to small changes before the beginning of the course.

SPI ATTENDANCE POLICY:

It is expected that individuals registering for an SPI course will participate in the entire course (barring unforeseen emergencies). Please contact SPI directly at spi@emu.edu before registering if you know you will have to miss any portions of a course. For-credit participants are expected to attend all synchronous class sessions unless they are given permission from the instructor to miss a session. SPI courses rely on active student participation in a learning community. If a participant misses class repeatedly and this disrupts the learning for others, they will be asked to leave the course and no money will be refunded for remaining course time.

GRADING CRITERIA AND OTHER POLICIES:

SPI provides all students taking the course for graduate credit some supplemental information that will serve as a resource after SPI when students are working on course assignments. This includes information on library resources, EMU's academic integrity policy, and guidelines for writing graduate papers, information regarding the grading scale and course deadlines, and then some suggestions we have for you in order to make your experience of taking SPI courses for graduate credit as successful as possible! These [documents](#) are all available online.

SCHEDULE OF SESSIONS & READINGS:

Subject to minor changes, here is the list of sessions, calendar, and required readings for the course:

SESSION	DAY	REQUIRED READING	PAGES
Introduction	30 May	Roy, Arundhati. Ch. 1 "Capitalism: A Ghost Story" in Capitalism: A Ghost Story	40
Types of Exchange & Power	30 May	Graeber, David. "On the Moral Grounds of Economic Relations: A Maussian Approach"	15
Schools of Economics	Asynchronous	Wolff and Resnick. Ch. 1 "Three Different Theories" of Contending Economic Theories: Neoclassical, Keynesian, and Marxian.	51
Surplus & Mode of Production	Asynchronous	Wolf, Eric. Ch. 3 "Modes of Production" of Europe and the People Without History.	28
Use & Exchange Value, Exploitation	1 June	Thier, Hadas. Ch. 4 "Where Do Profits Come From?" of A People's Guide to Capitalism	32
Circuits of Capital - Definition of Capitalism	1 June	Aoyama, Murphy, Hanson. Ch. 4.3 "Circuits of Capital" in Key Concepts in Economic Geography"	9
Capitalism's Longue Durée	Asynchronous	Pomeranz, Kenneth. Ch 5 "The Economics of Violence" in The World That Trade Created	41
Competition, Cooperation & Conflict in Capitalism	Asynchronous	Heim, Carol. "Capitalism"	20
Crises, Institutions, & SSA Theory	6 June	Lippit, Victor. Ch. 2 "Social Structure of Accumulation Theory" in Contemporary Capitalism & Its Crises	27
Regulated Capitalism across Globe	6 June	Patnaik & Patnaik. Part 4 "Postwar Dirigisme" in Capitalism & Imperialism	45
Neoliberalism in Global South	8 June	Klein, Naomi. Chapter 3 "States of Shock" in Shock Doctrine	23
Neoliberalism in Global North	8 June	Spence, Lester. Ch 1 of Knocking the Hustle: Against the Neoliberal Turn in Black Politics	26
Social Reproduction Theory & Gender	13 June	Bhattacharya, Tithi. Ch. 1 "Introduction: Mapping Social Reproduction Theory" in Social Reproduction Theory	20
Racial Capitalism & Imperial Tendencies	13 June	Virdee, Satnam. "Racialized capitalism: An account of its contested origins and consolidation"	25

Intersectionality, Reparations, & Representation	15 June	Arruzza, Bhattacharya, & Fraser. "Feminism for the 99%"	57
Flavors of Socialism Activity	15 June	Kawano & Maathei. "System Change: A Primer on the Solidarity Economy" in Non-Profit Quarterly	9
Price Controls	20 June	Yablon, Alex. "Price Controls were long dismissed..." in Business Insider	10
Climate Change	20 June	Klein, Naomi. Introduction "One Way or Another, Everything Changes," of This Changes Everything	31
Development Economics	22 June	Chang, Ha Joon, Chs 1 & 2 " Introduction: How did the Rich Countries Really Become Rich?" & "Policies for Economic Development: Industrial, Trade and Technology Policies in Historical Perspective" in Kicking Away the Ladder	58
Unemployment & Inflation	22 June	Kalecki, Michal. "Political Aspects of Full Employment."	10
Alternatives to Capitalism	27 June	Einstein, Albert. "Why Socialism?" in Monthly Review	5
Strategy & Rupture	27 June	Olin-Wright, Erik. How to be an Anti-capitalist for the 21st Century	73
Presentations	29 June		
Closing	29 June		