

# History of Capitalism Minor

Capitalism has delivered unrivaled prosperity, but with unparalleled 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).

## *Minor Requirements*

This minor requires that students complete at least five (5) courses. Each student will take one (1) grounding course (see I. below) in a nation or region’s history of capitalism (see I below), as well as one (1) course in economics or business (see II below). Three (3) historical courses will constitute the remainder of the minor (see III below).

*Below is a list of 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**

American Capitalism (AMST 1540/HIST 1540/ILRLR 1845)

## **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/HIST 4234 Melancholy Left: Marx to Benjamin  
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 2423 Dazed and Confused: The Politics of Drug and Alcohol in US History  
HIST 2430 The History of Things  
HIST 2063 Anarchism: History, Theory, Practice  
HIST 2131 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

*Academic Standards*

All courses must be 3 or 4 credits and must be taken for letter grades, with a grade of C or better. AP, study abroad, and transfer courses are not eligible for consideration.