

Fall 2022

INDEPENDENT STUDY: READINGS ON THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN CAPITALISM

HIS 59901
Dr. Camden Burd



INDEPENDENT STUDY REPORT

TERM: Fall 2022

Student: _____

E#: _____

Course number and CRN: _____

Hours of credit: _____

Instructor: Dr. Camden Burd

E#: _____

Work required:

“Readings on the History of American Capitalism”
Dr. Camden Burd
HIS 5990

Overview: This independent study will examine the history of capitalism over the course of American history from the colonial era to the present day. In doing so, the student will both understand the ways in which this economic system developed, grew, morphed, and defined major social, economic, environmental, and political events of American history. This is a readings-based course that will involve weekly discussion. Additionally, the student will be required to submit a final historiographical essay at the end of the semester that examines important themes, debates, and directions of the field.

Assignments: The student will read and discuss each reading with the instructor. These will be in-person meetings. The student will also complete a historiographic essay based on a provided prompt at the end of the semester.

OPENING ESSAYS & DISCUSSION

Week 1 August 22

Meet and discuss the layout of the semester, expectations, and reading plan.

Week 2 August 29

- Sven Beckert, “History of American Capitalism,” in *American History Now*, eds. Eric Foner & Lisa McGirr (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2011), 314-335.
- "In History Departments, It's Up with Capitalism." *New York Times*, April 6, 2013.

Week 3 September 5

- T.H. Breen, *The Marketplace of Revolution: How Consumer Politics Shaped American Independence* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004).

Week 4 September 12

- Jeanne Boydston, *Home and Work: Housework, Wages, and the Ideology of Labor in the Early Republic* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1990).

Week 5 September 19

- Edward E. Baptist, *The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism* (New York: Basic Books, 2016).

Week 6 September 26

- (no discussion, use week for reading)

Week 7 October 3 –

- William Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1991).

Week 8 October 10

- Alan Trachtenberg, *The Incorporation of America: Culture and Society in the Gilded Age* (New York: Hill and Wang, 1982).

Week 9 October 17

- David Montgomery, *The Fall of the House of Labor: The Workplace, the State, and American Labor Activism, 1865-1925* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1987).

Week 10 October 24

- Eric Rauchway, *The Money Makers: How Roosevelt and Keynes Ended the Depression, Defeated Fascism, and Secured a Prosperous Peace* (New York: Basic Books, 2015).

Week 11 October 31

- Lizabeth Cohen, *A Consumers' Republic: The Politics of Mass Consumption in Postwar America* (New York: Vintage Books, 2003).

Week 12 November 7

- Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor, *Race for Profit: How Banks and the Real Estate Industry Undermined Black Homeownership* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2019).

Week 13 November 14

- Bethany Moreton, *To Serve God and Wal-Mart: The Making of Christian Free Enterprise* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2010).

Week 14 November 21 FALL BREAK**Week 15 November 28**

- Gary Gerstle, *The Rise and Fall of the Neoliberal Order: American and the World in the Free Market Era* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2022).

Week 16 December 5**DUE FINAL HISTORIOGRAPHIC ASSIGNMENT**

PLEASE INITIAL

Approved by: Student _____

Faculty Member _____

Graduate/Honors/Undergraduate Advisor _____

Department Chairperson _____