

## Brief Course Outline

**Course Title:** Critique of Capitalism

**Course Number and Section:**

CGS

2004G 550

**Instructor Name(s):** Dr. Wendy Russell

**Instructor Email(s):** wrussell@huron.uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

### Course Description:

This course explores the socio-economic form of capitalism and examines the development and spread of the key features of capitalist social organization – the division of labour, private property, primitive accumulation – and examines their function in a globalized world.

### Learning Outcomes:

This course provides you the opportunity to learn the skill of scholarly critique: to undertake a close reading of a work, to identify and unpack the author's assumptions, goals, and arguments.

You will undertake such a close reading of the four books assigned for the course, meaning that you will have time to explore, in detail, the arguments each book presents. You will learn to identify the key ideas being put forward in each work, and to compare and contrast the similarities and differences in how these scholars explain the same social phenomenon.

Each assignment in the course depends on this close and analytical reading of our assigned reading, and gives you the opportunity to explain these arguments, and to apply the key ideas in each work in your answers to the problems assigned for each of your response papers. These assignments will help you develop both your skills as a researcher drawing on scholarly sources and your skills of argumentation.

### Textbooks and Course Materials:

In addition to these books, and as announced in class and via our shared OWL world, from time to time there may be additional materials to review. Those materials will include scanned book chapters and short videos. We will be reading all four these books (not every chapter in Sundararajan), and you will need to access them all for the final take home exam.

- Bauman, Zygmunt, 2006. Consuming Life. Cambridge, UK: Polity.
- de Soto, Hernando, 2000. The Mystery of Capital: Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else. New York: Basic Books.
- Gibson-Graham, J. K., Jenny Cameron and Stephen Healy. 2013. Take Back the Economy: An Ethical Guide for Transforming Our Communities.
- Sundararajan, Arun, 2016. The Sharing Economy: The End of Employment and the Rise of

Crowd-Based Capitalism. Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press.

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
5 Response Quizzes		75%
Take Home Examination		25%

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Wednesday, January 22, 2025