This reading course will examine the origins of capitalism, largely in the West, through an examination of classical social and economic theory, modern economic anthropology, and some critical works of history from a range of different periods up though the nineteenth century. The major question to be addressed will lie at the intersection of practice and culture: how did the patterns of meaningful behaviour congenial to capitalism come into being?

Jan. 13: The Classical Debate

- Adam Smith, *Wealth of Nations* (1776), Book 1, chaps. 1-4; Book 3
- Karl Marx, *Pre-Capitalist Economic Formations* (1857-58)
  http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1857/precapitalist/index.htm
- Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *Communist Manifesto* (1848), parts 1 & 2

Jan. 20: Modern Directions

- Mary Poovey, “For Everything Else, There's...” *Social Research* 68 (2001), 397-426.

Jan. 27: The Anthropological Challenge

- Marcel Mauss, *The Gift* (1925)
  http://archive.org/stream/giftformsfunctionmaus#page/80/mode/2up .
Life of Things: Commodities in Cultural Perspective (Cambridge, 1986), 64-91.


Feb. 3: Sources for Study

- T.B.A. Primary Sources for the study of capitalism

Feb. 24: The Transition to Capitalism in Europe and America

- Fernand Braudel, *Civilization and Capitalism*, vol II, chaps. 3, 4; vol. III, Conclusion
- Charles S. Grant, *Democracy in the Connecticut Frontier Town of Kent*, get pages

Mar. 3: Resistance


Mar. 10: The Economists' Response

- Philip T. Hoffman, Gilles Postel-Vinay and Jean-Laurent Rosenthal, "Information and


**Mar. 17: The Consumer Revolution?**


**Mar. 24: Debt**


**Mar. 31: The West and the Rest**

- Review articles by Peter Coclanis, Jan de Vries, Phillip Hoffman, and Bin Wong, with Response by Kenneth Pomeranz in *Historically Speaking*, 12/4 (Sept., 2011), 10-25