In recent years, historians have challenged the reigning economic wisdom that market exchange reflects timeless laws by exploring capitalism as a historically contingent and culturally specific economic system, with myriad manifestations across the globe. The new scholarship builds on and responds to previous work in economic history, business history, labor history and histories of consumption. This seminar will examine the new histories of capitalism in conversation with these older historiographies. We will also ground our discussions in some of the classic theoretical works on capitalism. Reflecting the focus of the new historiography, the course will be centered on US history but with frequent readings and discussions on capitalism in other parts of the world and as a global system. Assignments will include a short book review and a longer historiographical essay.

1. September  6 Introductions

“In History Departments, It’s Up With Capitalism” NYTimes, 4/6/2013

2. September 13 Big Stories, I

________, “The Labor-Process and the Process of Producing Surplus-Value,” ch. 7 in Capital, v. 1
Luc Boltanski and Eve Chiapello, The New Spirit of Capitalism, ch. 1

3. September  20 Big Stories, II

Michel Foucault, Birth of Biopolitics: Summary 317-24, Lecture 7, 159-84
Dipesh Chakrabarty, Provincializing Europe: Ch. 2, 47-71
J.K. Gibson-Graham, The End of Capitalism: Ch. 11, 251-265
Jason Moore, Capitalism in the Web of Life: Chs. 1-2, 33-74
4. September 27
Origins
Book Review is due
Karl Polanyi, *Great Transformation* Chs 3-10, pp. 33-129
Friedrich Hayek, *Road to Serfdom* (Condensed Version, pp. 39-70)
Fernand Braudel, *Afterthoughts on Material Civilization and Capitalism*
Immanuel Wallerstein, *World-Systems Analysis:* Ch. 2, 23-41

5. October 4
Empires, I
James Fichter, *So Great a Profit:* Ch 9-Conclusion, 232-290
Jane Guyer, *Marginal Gains:* Ch 1-2, 3-48

6. October 11
Transitions, I
John Lauritz Larson, *The Market Revolution in America*
Jon Levy, *Freaks of Fortune,* prologue, Ch. 1, 5
Stephen Mihm, *A Nation of Counterfeaters,* Prologue, ch. 1

7. October 18
Slavery
Eric Williams, *Capitalism and Slavery,* ch. 1, 3, 7, 10, 13
Sven Beckert, *Empire of Cotton,* ch. 4, 5.
Edward Baptist, *The Half Has Never Been Told*

8. October 25
Labor
Karl Marx, “The Working Day” ch. 10 in *Capital,* v. 1
_________, *The Making of the English Working Class,* ch. 6, 9, 16.
Dipesh Chakrabarty, *Rethinking Working Class History:* Intro & Ch. 3
Bethany Moreton, *To Serve God and Wal-Mart,* ch. 4, 5, 8

9. November 1
Management
Alfred Chandler, *The Visible Hand,* Introduction, ch. 4
Richard White, *Railroaded,* ch. 1, 3, 9, 11
Schumpeter, *Capitalism, Socialism, and Democracy,* ch. 11, 12
10. November 8  Consumption

Frank Trentmann, *Empire of Things*, ch. 3, 5, 8
Jeremy Prestholdt, *Domesticating the World*, Introduction, ch. 2

11. November 15  Empires, II

J.A. Hobson, *Imperialism*: Chs. 4-6, 51-99
V.I. Lenin, *Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism*: Chs. 7-8, 265-84
Ritu Birla, *Stages of Capital*: Ch. 2, 67-102

12. November 29  Debt, Currency and Finance

David Graeber, *Debt*: Chs. 2-4, 21-88
Louis Hyman, *Debtor Nation*: Intro & Ch. 1, pp. 1-44
Johan Mathew, *Margins of the Market*: Intro & Ch. 4, 1-20 & 113-42
Massimo Amato and Luca Fantacci, *The End of Finance*: Part I, 3-63

13. December 6  Transitions, II

James Ferguson *Anti-Politics Machine*: Intro & Ch. 5, 1-22, 135-166
David Harvey, *Brief History of Neo-Liberalism*: Intro & Chs. 1-2, 1-63
Anna Tsing, *Friction*: Intro & Ch. 1, 1-54

14. December 13  What Now?

Pankaj, Mishra, *Age of Anger*, ch. 1
Philip Mirowski, *Never Let a Serious Crisis Go to Waste*, ch. 3
Nancy Fraser, “Contradictions of Capital and Care,” *New Left Review* 100 (July-August 2016), 99-117.