DESCRIPTION

This course provides students with the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the work of prominent interdisciplinary social scientists who have tackled important issues facing the contemporary world. These scholars, most of whose work has been published over the past half century, are all highly original thinkers who have contributed greatly to the advancement of social and cultural theory as well as to the understanding of the world we live in. Each of them, in varying ways, draws on and builds on several different social science disciplines to develop their own distinctive and influential approach to such issues as the nature and desirability of capitalism and “the market;” the social goals of equality, justice, freedom, democracy and community; the rise and decline of nations and societies; and the sources of social change.

READING LIST

Course reading assignments are listed by general topic area, and by week, on the following pages. All readings are required except for those marked by an asterisk, which are recommended. Because it would be prohibitively expensive to make the reading materials available via course-packs, I am planning to make all of the readings available on-line at the course CTools website (under Resources/Required Readings or Resources/Recommended Readings). I will ask each student to take responsibility for some of the book-page scanning needed to digitize the required readings. I will take responsibility for digitizing the recommended readings.

The required readings will be drawn from the following books, listed under two broad headings.

1. Capitalism, the Market, and the Goals of a Good Society


Herman Daly, Beyond Growth (Boston: Beacon Press, 1996).
2. Individuals, Groups and Society: Self-interest & Social Commitment


All of these books will be available at the Shapiro Undergraduate Library, and they can be bought on-line. I urge you to consider buying copies of the ones you find most interesting.

1. Capitalism, the Market, and the Goals of a Good Society

Jan. 7    Introduction


Blank: pp. 11-56, 91-101,111-128 (75 pages)
McGurn: pp. 57-90, 102-110, 129-144 (59 pages)

*Goodwin, Weisskopf et al., “Markets, Politics and the State” (19 pages)

Jan. 19-21 Karl Polanyi, *The Great Transformation*

Foreword by Joseph Stiglitz: pp. vii-xvii (11 pages)
Introduction by Fred Block; pp. xviii-xxxviii (21 pages)
Chs. 6-7, 11-12, 14-17, 21; pp. 71-89,136-57,171-217,257-268 (95 pages)

Jan. 26-28 Milton Friedman, *Capitalism and Freedom*

Introduction and chs. 1-2, 6-7, 10-12: pp. 1-36, 85-118, 161-195 (105 pages)

*Samuel Bowles, “What Do Markets Do?,” Challenge (July-Aug. 1991), pp. 11-16 (6 pages)
Feb. 2-4  Amartya Sen,  *Development as Freedom*

Introduction, chs. 1-2, 4-6, 8; pp. 3-53, 87-159, 189-203 (139 pages)


Chs. 1-7; pp. 1-120 (120 pages)


Chs. 1-2, 3, 6-7, 10: pp. 3-59, 61-74, 81-90, 97-101, 161-210, 269-292 (158 pages)

Feb. 23-25  Herman Daly,  *Beyond Growth*


2. **Individuals, Groups and Society: Self-interest & Social Commitment**

March 9-11  Mancur Olson,  *The Rise and Decline of Nations*

Chs. 2-3, 4, 6, pp. 17-74, 75-117, 146-180 (136 pages)

March 16-18  Albert Hirschman,  *Exit, Voice and Loyalty*

Chs. 1(part), 2-9; pp. 1-5, 21-129 (114 pages)


March 23-25  Robert Frank,  *Passions Within Reason*

Chs. 1-3, 9-12; pp. 1-70, 163-236, 253-259 (151 pages)

Ma. 30-Ap. 1  Glenn Loury,  *The Anatomy of Racial Inequality*

Chs. 1, 2 (pp. 17-23 only), 3-5; pp. 1-13, 17-23, 55-169 (129 pages)

[Also skim the Appendix tables, pp. 175-204.]
April 6-8  Nancy Folbre, *The Invisible Heart*

Introduction, chs. 1-5, 8; pp. xi-xx, 1-135, 185-208 (169 pages)

April 13-15  Robert Putnam, *Bowling Alone*


April 20  Conclusion