CAPITALISM IN THE ANGLO-AMERICAN ATLANTIC

COURSE SYLLABUS

**COURSE:** HIST 5390-001

**TIME:** MTWTh 3:30-5:30

**PROFESSOR**: C. Morris

**OFFICE**: UH 327

**OFFICE HOURS**: 9:30-10:30

**E-MAIL**: MORRIS@UTA.EDU

**CONTENT AND COURSE OBJECTIVES**: This course will trace the development of capitalism, from its origins in England, its growth in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries with the Atlantic commodities and slave trade, and its emergence in the nineteenth century as a global system. We will also consider the scholarly debates over the definition and historical manifestations of capitalism, of its relationship to slavery and the slave trade, of its role in the American Revolution, and of its place in the emergence of the empires of the nineteenth century, specifically, in particular, those of Great Britain in India and the U.S. across the North American continent.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**:

Fulcher, *Capitalism: A Very Short Introduction*

Bailyn, *The New England Merchants*

Beckert, *Empire of Cotton*

White, *Railroaded*

Additional required readings will be handed out or emailed to students as pdf files.

**RECOMMENDED TEXT:**

Seavoy, *An Economic History of the United States* ISBN 978-0-415-97981-8

**GRADING:**

Class discussion: 30 points

Four Short papers (2 pages): 40 points

One Long Paper (6-8 pages): 30 points

Discussion: Thursday classes will be set aside for discussion. All graduate students (seminar and colloquium) will be required to participate.

Short Papers: Short papers will consist of reaction papers, in which students will discuss and dissect a central theme in that week’s assigned reading.

Long papers: Some students are taking this class for **seminar** credit, and will be required to write a seminar research paper of 20 or more pages in length. Weekly reading (colloquium requirements) will be adjusted accordingly. Seminar students will be expected, where appropriate, to bring their own research into class discussions. For students taking the class as a **colloquium**, the longer paper will consist of a discussion of the historiography surrounding the subject of one of the required readings.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** By the end of the semester students will be able to explain: what distinguishes capitalism as a form or mode of economy; how capitalism took shape in the early modern Anglo-American Atlantic arena; the issues, concerns, problems and opportunities it presented to people who experienced early development of capitalism; the central issues in the debates among historians of early modern capitalism; In addition, students will be able to identify many of the major historians and the relevant texts in the history of historical theory and methods since at least the mid-nineteenth century. Progress toward this outcome will be monitored in class essays and discussions.

**ATTENDANCE:** At The University of Texas at Arlington, taking attendance is not required. Rather, each faculty member is free to develop his or her own methods of evaluating students’ academic performance, which includes establishing course-specific policies on attendance. As the instructor of this section, I will note attendance, as regular attendance is necessary for a participation grade. Students who miss more than two classes will find it difficult to earn a grade for the course of greater than C. Students who for whatever reason need to take an incomplete for the course are still required to attend class.

**DROP POLICY:** Students may drop or swap (adding and dropping a class concurrently) classes through self-service in MyMav from the beginning of the registration period through the late registration period. After the late registration period, students must see their academic advisor to drop a class or withdraw. Undeclared students must see an advisor in the University Advising Center. Drops can continue through a point two-thirds of the way through the term or session. It is the student's responsibility to officially withdraw if they do not plan to attend after registering. **Students will not be automatically dropped for non-attendance**. Repayment of certain types of financial aid administered through the University may be required as the result of dropping classes or withdrawing. For more information, contact the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships (<http://wweb.uta.edu/aao/fao/>).

**AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of all federal equal opportunity legislation, including the *Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)*. All instructors at UT Arlington are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodations" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Any student requiring an accommodation for this course must provide the instructor with official documentation in the form of a letter certified by the staff in the Office for Students with Disabilities, University Hall 102. Only those students who have officially documented a need for an accommodation will have their request honored. Information regarding diagnostic criteria and policies for obtaining disability-based academic accommodations can be found at [www.uta.edu/disability](http://www.uta.edu/disability) or by calling the Office for Students with Disabilities at (817) 272-3364.

**Title IX:** The University of Texas at Arlington is committed to upholding U.S. Federal Law “Title IX” such that no member of the UT Arlington community shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. For more information, visit [www.uta.edu/titleIX](http://www.uta.edu/titleIX).

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:** Students enrolled in this course are expected to adhere to the UT Arlington Honor Code:

*I pledge, on my honor, to uphold UT Arlington’s tradition of academic integrity, a tradition that values hard work and honest effort in the pursuit of academic excellence.*

*I promise that I will submit only work that I personally create or contribute to group collaborations, and I will appropriately reference any work from other sources. I will follow the highest standards of integrity and uphold the spirit of the Honor Code.*

UT Arlington faculty members may employ the Honor Code as they see fit in their courses, including (but not limited to) having students acknowledge the honor code as part of an examination or requiring students to incorporate the honor code into any work submitted. Per UT System *Regents’ Rule* 50101, §2.2, suspected violations of university’s standards for academic integrity (including the Honor Code) will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct. Violators will be disciplined in accordance with University policy, which may result in the student’s suspension or expulsion from the University.

**ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION:** UT Arlington has adopted MavMail as its official means to communicate with students about important deadlines and events, as well as to transact university-related business regarding financial aid, tuition, grades, graduation, etc. All students are assigned a MavMail account and are responsible for checking the inbox regularly. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, which remains active even after graduation. Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/cs/email/mavmail.php>.

**STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY:** At the end of each term, students enrolled in classes categorized as “lecture,” “seminar,” or “laboratory” shall be directed to complete an online Student Feedback Survey (SFS). Instructions on how to access the SFS for this course will be sent directly to each student through MavMail approximately 10 days before the end of the term. Each student’s feedback enters the SFS database anonymously and is aggregated with that of other students enrolled in the course. UT Arlington’s effort to solicit, gather, tabulate, and publish student feedback is required by state law; students are strongly urged to participate. For more information, visit <http://www.uta.edu/sfs>.

**FINAL REVIEW WEEK:** A period of five class days prior to the first day of final examinations in the long sessions shall be designated as Final Review Week. The purpose of this week is to allow students sufficient time to prepare for final examinations. During this week, there shall be no scheduled activities such as required field trips or performances; and no instructor shall assign any themes, research problems or exercises of similar scope that have a completion date during or following this week *unless specified in the class syllabus*. During Final Review Week, an instructor shall not give any examinations constituting 10% or more of the final grade, except makeup tests and laboratory examinations. In addition, no instructor shall give any portion of the final examination during Final Review Week. During this week, classes are held as scheduled. In addition, instructors are not required to limit content to topics that have been previously covered; they may introduce new concepts as appropriate.

**EMERGENCY EXIT PROCEDURES:** Should we experience an emergency event that requires us to vacate the building, students should exit the room and move toward the nearest exit, which is located outside the classroom and down the hall. When exiting the building during an emergency, one should never take an elevator but should use the stairwells. Faculty members and instructional staff will assist students in selecting the safest route for evacuation and will make arrangements to assist handicapped individuals.

**Student Support Services**:UT Arlington provides a variety of resources and programs designed to help students develop academic skills, deal with personal situations, and better understand concepts and information related to their courses. Resources include tutoring, major-based learning centers, developmental education, advising and mentoring, personal counseling, and federally funded programs. For individualized referrals, students may visit the reception desk at University College (Ransom Hall), call the Maverick Resource Hotline at 817-272-6107, send a message to [resources@uta.edu](mailto:resources@uta.edu), or view the information at [www.uta.edu/resources](http://www.uta.edu/resources).

**LECTURE/DISCUSSION TOPICS AND WEEKLY ASSIGNMENTS**

**WEEK ONE**

READINGS: Fulcher, *Capitalism: A Very Short Introduction* **(required)**

Seavoy, chapters one and two (recommended)

June 8 Introduction to course. European economies and the Mercantile System

June 9 The plantation economies of the southern colonies

June 10 Economic origins of the slave trade

June 11 Discussion of Fulcher, *Capitalism*

**WEEK TWO**

READINGS: Bailyn, *The New England Merchants* **(required)**

Seavoy, chapters three and four (recommended)

June 15 New England and the early fishing industry; The Middle Colonies and economic diversity

June16 Farms, cities, and colonial livestock and meat trade

June 17 The British Atlantic System at 1750

June 18 Discussion of Bailyn, *The New England Merchants*; first short paper due

**WEEK THREE**

READINGS: Selection of articles on the Origins of Capitalism in America **(required)**

Seavoy, chapters five and six (recommended)

June 22 The economic causes and consequences of the Revolution; Hamilton’s Plan

June 23 Jefferson’s Plan

June 24 The rural versus the urban origins of capitalism in America

June 25 Discussion of readings on the historical debate over the origins of capitalism in America; second short paper due

**WEEK FOUR**

READINGS: Beckert, *Empire of Cotton* to page 241 **(required)**

Seavoy, chapters seven and eight (recommended)

June 29 The economy of cotton and slavery

June 30 Slavery, Wage Labor, and Capitalism

July 1 Capitalism and Empire

July 2 Discussion of Beckert, *Empire of Cotton*; third short paper due

**WEEK FIVE**

READINGS: White, *Railroaded* to page 229 (possibly to page 325) **(required)**

Beckert, *Empire of Cotton*, chapter 9 **(required)**

Seavoy, chapters nine and ten (recommended)

July 6 Banking and Finance; Law and Economic Development

July 7 The Transportation Revolution

July 8 The Civil War and the Emergence of the U.S. as the World’s Largest Capitalist Economy

July 9 Discussion of Beckert, *Empire of Cotton* and White, *Railroaded*; fourth short paper due

Final paper (6-8 pages) due July 13.