



INSTEP-WFU Cambridge

## CONTEMPORARY CAPITALISM

This course seeks to develop an understanding both of capitalism in general - its fundamental structure and functioning - and of its historical and national varieties, and its global expansion. The course examines general theories of the structure of capitalism in both the classical and modern literature; its historical development and fundamental institutions, such as markets, money, property rights, and work. The course has four core themes: the interconnection between states and markets, power and structural inequalities, the historical and national varieties of capitalism, and the relationship between capitalism and other forms of economic activity.

### **Highly Recommended Readings:**

Geoffrey Ingham. 2008. *Capitalism* (Polity Press)  
James Fulcher. 2015. *Capitalism: a Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press)  
Robert O'Brien and Marc Williams. 2016. *Global Political Economy: Fifth Edition* (Palgrave)

### **Additional Readings:**

Nina Bandelj and Elizabeth Sowers. 2010. *Economy and State: A Sociological Perspective* (Polity Press) NB Available as an e-book from the University Library  
Ha-Joon Chang. 2014. *Economics: the User's Guide* (Pelican)  
Paul Hirst, Graeme Thompson and S Bromley 2009. *Globalization in Question* (Polity Press)  
Fernand Braudel. 1982 *Civilisation and Capitalism Vol.II. The Wheels of Commerce* (Collins)  
David Graeber. 2014. *Debt, the first 5,000 years* (Melville House)  
Jurgen Kocka. 2016. *Capitalism: a Short History* (Princeton University Press)  
Leo Panitch and Sam Gindin. 2013. *The making of global capitalism: the political economy of American empire* (Verso)  
Neil Smelser and Richard Swedberg. 2005. *The Handbook of Economic Sociology. Second Edition.* (Princeton University Press)  
David Coates *Capitalism: the Basics.* (Routledge)

Other reading will be made available electronically for each topic of the course.

### **Assessment:**

Assessment is by coursework - students will need to submit two essays of 2,500 words each. You will be assessed on your ability to answer the set essay questions, so any students wishing to opt for an alternate title must discuss this with the faculty member beforehand.