WHAT IS CAPITALISM?

INSTRUCTOR: DARIO GAGGIO

HISTORY 445.001 / 594.006 • 3 CR

Description: This course examines the history of capitalism by reading the works of some of its most influential interpreters and critics, from Adam Smith, Karl Marx, and Max Weber to recent theorists of financialization and globalization. Although we will be focusing primarily on Euro-American authors and historical processes, we will also examine debates on the role of capitalism in the practices and ideologies of imperialism. This is predominantly a class at the intersection of intellectual and socio-economic history, and open to the influences of a variety of social sciences. Many of the readings, while offering invaluable insights into the contradictions and possibilities of western modernity, are quite challenging. Therefore, the instructor will provide guidance in short lectures followed by wide-ranging discussions.