This course offers a broad overview of American capitalism from the era of the American Revolution through the present day. Focusing on the reasons for and effects of economic growth, it follows the transformation of North America from a rural, colonial outpost of the British Empire to the largest industrial power in the world, and considers how this in turn shaped the ways Americans produced and lived. The course will examine the political, social, cultural, geographical, legal, moral, environmental, and technological dimensions of economic life, capturing the historical dynamics of American capitalism.

Participation (25% of course grade). Your participation grade will be assessed on the quality and frequency of your contribution to in-class discussion. This, in turn, relies on the careful reading of assigned materials ahead of class meetings.

Papers (40%). You must submit all written assignments by email to both Prof. Clark and Prof. Canedo. You have two options for fulfilling this component of the course. You must make a commitment by email to one of the two options by Tuesday, February 3.

Option #1: Write three short papers (4-6 pages each) based on assigned course readings. Each paper will be based on the reading assignments for a given week. No outside reading is expected. However, the paper must be submitted by email before our class meets on that given week. Additionally, at least one paper must be submitted before the midterm exam.

Option #2: Write one longer research paper (10-13 pages) that explores a particular event, individual, organization, or theme related to the course by examining outside sources and scholarship.

Midterm Exam (10%). The midterm exam will consist of three short-answer identifications and one lengthier essay question. One week before the exam, you will be given three possible essay questions, of which one will appear on the actual exam. Though you will not have advance notice of possible short-answer IDs, you will be able to select the IDs you wish to write on from a list that appears on the exam.

Final Exam (25%). The final exam will follow the same format as the midterm exam, except that there will be four IDs and two essay questions (one of these will be cumulative and the other will cover material from the second half of the term). As with the midterm exam, you will be given possible essay questions one week ahead of the final exam.
Readings. All readings will be available through our HuskyCT course website. Readings are subject to change; any changes will be preceded by an announcement in class.

Academic Integrity. Plagiarism and cheating are the gravest violations of academic conduct. They will be punished to the fullest extent possible, including failure in the course. Plagiarism consists of reproducing or utilizing ideas or text from other sources without proper attribution. For more information, see http://www.plagiarism.org and http://www.community.uconn.edu/student_code.html.

Accessibility. To request accommodations for a disability you must first contact the Center for Students with Disabilities (room 204 of the Wilbur Cross Building; http://www.csd.uconn.edu). You must have the appropriate forms from this office before we can arrange accommodations.

SCHEDULE & READING ASSIGNMENTS
(Revised, 1/26/15)

1. Introductions to Capitalism
1/20 (Tu.)
1/22 (Th.)


2. American Revolution
1/27 (Tu.)
   
   **Class canceled due to weather.**

   1/29 (Th.)


   2/3 (Tu.)


   *United States Constitution*, Article 1, Article 4 section 2, Article 6.


3. Slavery
2/5 (Th.)


2/10 (Tu.)

“Management of Slaves, etc.,” Farmer’s Register (1837).
Solomon Northup, Twelve Years a Slave: Narrative of Solomon Northup (1853), chapter 6, pp. 78-88.

4. Early Industrialization
2/12 (Th.)

Christopher Clark, The Roots of Rural Capitalism: Western Massachusetts 1780-1860 (1990), excerpts.

2/17 (Tu.)

Factory Tracts. Factory Life as it Is (1845).
Andrew Jackson, Bank Veto Message (1832).

5. American Civil War
2/19 (Th.)

James Henry Hammond, ‘Cotton is King’ Speech,” (1858).
Abraham Lincoln, “Address before the Wisconsin State Agricultural Society” (1859).

MIDTERM EXAM: 2/24 (Tu.)

6. New Birth of American Capitalism
2/26 (Th.)

3/3 (Tu.)

3/5 (Th.)

7. Revolt and Reform
3/10 (Tu.)

3/12 (Th.)
People’s Party of America, “Omaha Platform” (1892).

*SPRING BREAK*

8. Consolidation
3/24 (Tu.)

3/26 (Th.)
The *Plow That Broke the Plains*, directed Pare Lorentz (1936).
9. Corporate Liberalism
3/31 (Tu.)

4/2 (Th.)
*The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit*, directed by Nunnally Johnson (1956).

10. Great Expectations
4/7 (Tu.)


4/9 (Th.)

11. Disruption
4/14 (Tu.)

*Harlan County U.S.A.*, directed by Barbara Kopple (1976).

4/16 (Th.)
12. New Economy
4/21 (Tu.)

4/23 (Th.)

13. Insecuritization
4/28 (Tu.)

4/30 (Th.)
*Inside Job*, directed by Charles Ferguson (2010).

**FINAL EXAM:** 5/7 (Th.), 8-10 a.m. (to be confirmed)