

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Tales of the Market: Capitalism and Critique
Status: Definitive
Code: **5036ENGLIS** (117943)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2011

Owning School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science
Teaching School/Faculty: Humanities and Social Science

Team	Leader
Ross Dawson	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ5
Credit Value: 24.00
Total Delivered Hours: 46.00
Total Learning Hours: 240
Private Study: 194

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	11.000
Online	12.000
Seminar	22.000
Tutorial	1.000

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Reflection	reflection		50.0	
Essay	essay		50.0	

Aims

- 1) To introduce students to narratives of capitalism in fiction and non-fiction.
- 2) To make sense of the key concepts of capitalist critique and how they help read cultural texts.
- 3) To critically read the desires, contradictions and failures of the market through

significant cultural texts.

Learning Outcomes

After completing the module the student should be able to:

- 1 Make sense of different types of narratives of capitalism using an appropriate critical vocabulary.
- 2 Analyse and evaluate a range of key concepts and ideas relating to modern capitalism.
- 3 Generate ideas through close readings of the cultural, aesthetic, and political components of specific tales of the market.

Learning Outcomes of Assessments

The assessment item list is assessed via the learning outcomes listed:

reflection	1
essay	2 3

Outline Syllabus

Week 1 Capitalism and Culture: Making Sense of the Market

The Constraints of the Market

Week 2 Market Capitalism and Success Narrative: Sinclair Lewis Babbitt

Week 3 Self Presentation and the Market: Babbitt

The Critiques of the Market

Week 4 Market Satire

Week 5: Reading Capitalism Aesthetically: key concepts

The Pleasures of the Market

Week 7: Narratives of Late Capitalism: Vikram Seth The Golden Gate

Week 8: Capitalism and Desire: Vikram Seth The Golden Gate

The Failures of the Market

Week 9: Capitalism and Individual Crisis: Jonathan Frantzen Freedom

Week 10: Capitalist Realism: Freedom

Week 11: Market Crisis: Michael Lewis The Big Short

Learning Activities

Lectures, Seminars, Blog Discussion.

References

Course Material	Book
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Author	Dienst, R.
Publishing Year	2011
Title	The Bonds of Debt: Borrowing Against the Common Good
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Verso
ISBN	1844676919

Course Material	Book
Author	Frank, T.
Publishing Year	2005
Title	One Market Under God
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Random House
ISBN	0385495048

Course Material	Book
Author	Franzen, J.
Publishing Year	2010
Title	Freedom
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Fourth Estate
ISBN	0007269757

Course Material	Book
Author	Godden, R.
Publishing Year	2008
Title	Fictions of Capital
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Cambridge University Press
ISBN	0521064031

Course Material	Book
Author	Jameson, F.
Publishing Year	2011
Title	Representing Capital: A Reading of Volume 1
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Verso
ISBN	1844674541

Course Material	Book
Author	Lewis, M.
Publishing Year	2011

Title	The Big Short: Inside the Doomsday Machine
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Penguin
ISBN	0141043539

Course Material	Book
Author	Lewis, S.
Publishing Year	1925
Title	Babbit
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Dover
ISBN	0486431673

Course Material	Book
Author	Seth, V.
Publishing Year	2002
Title	The Golden Gate
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Faber and Faber
ISBN	0571212654

Course Material	Book
Author	Wallerstein, I.
Publishing Year	1996
Title	Historical Capitalism with Capitalist Civilization
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	Verso
ISBN	1859841058

Course Material	Website
Author	
Publishing Year	
Title	K-Punk website http://k-punk.abstractdynamics.org/
Subtitle	
Edition	
Publisher	
ISBN	

Notes

Tales of the Market focuses on the ways in which texts represent, narrate, aestheticize, and critique capitalism. The fears and desires of capitalism will be

explored through compelling modern literature such as *Babbit* by Sinclair Lewis and *Money* by Martin Amis, and contemporary accounts of "boom and bust" like Michael Lewis's *The Big Short*. In addition, students will be introduced to scholarly critiques of capitalism such as David Harvey's *The Enigma of Capital*. The texts studied will be nominally organised around narratives of 20th/21st Century America.