

Liverpool John Moores University

Title: Tales of the Market: Capitalism and Critique
Status: Definitive
Code: **6043ENGLIS** (119369)
Version Start Date: 01-08-2019

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

Team	Leader
Ross Dawson	Y

Academic Level: FHEQ6
Credit Value: 24
Total Delivered Hours: 57
Total Learning Hours: 240
Private Study: 183

Delivery Options

Course typically offered: Standard Year Long

Component	Contact Hours
Lecture	13
Online	16
Seminar	26
Tutorial	2

Grading Basis: 40 %

Assessment Details

Category	Short Description	Description	Weighting (%)	Exam Duration
Reflection	ref	reflection 2000 words	40	
Essay	essay	essay 2500 words	60	

Aims

- 1) To introduce students to narratives of capitalism in fiction and non-fiction.
- 2) To develop an interdisciplinary knowledge of the key concepts of capitalist critique and examine their relevance in making sense of significant 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 Frant

Week 10: Capitalist Realism: Freedom

Week 11: Market Crisis: Michael Lewis The Big Short

Learning Activities

Lectures, Seminars, Blog Discussion.

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 Babbitt 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.