In this seminar, we will begin with readings from Smith, Marx, Jevons, Marshall, and Veblen to set the stage. Together, they give us a sense of classical political economic, Marxist, institutionalist, and neoclassical economic thinking on work, wealth and well-being. Next, we will read several books that give us a sense of the character of work and the labor process across the 20th and into the 21st century, including a book that questions the productionist or laborist emphasis or work ethic at the heart of most political economic thought. Then, we will explore the construction of self or subjectivity necessary to modern consumption and work and end with texts on and from the happiness industry, one an exemplar of happiness research and another dedicated to a critique of the happiness industry itself.

The course aims to: (1) cultivate a sense of intellectual history, including understanding how the thought of the past weighs like a nightmare on the present or, more optimistically, how contemporary thinking stands on the shoulders of giants; (2) display the way social/political economic theory informs and intertwines with “empirical” studies of work and consumption to produce insights; and (3) help us reflect on our own career goals, life choices, and professional fears/anxieties about contemporary social and economic life.

Course requirements:

a. Prepare for class. The “primary readings” will be the principal basis of class discussion. You may want to dig deeper into the list if that literature draws you in or if you are responsible as the day’s key commentator. Generally, the additional readings at the end of each class period serve as reference points beyond the course. Leave them for later or other work. Participation in classroom discussion figures in 20% of your final grade. Participation grade includes point b.

b. Submit questions (a minimum of two) for class discussion each week. Circulate them by 9 am each Thursday via email. In addition to the four questions, provide the pedagogical or theoretical rationale for the questions, individually or as a set. Explain where these questions might lead us.

c. Class presentation and essay. Each week one student will prepare a ten-minute discussion of the readings—turning on some key themes or questions. The daily commentator’s role will involve launching each class period, as a way of focusing and intensifying our discussions. It may help to draw on additional readings from the secondary list – or not. By the next class period, the commentator will turn in an essay of 4-5 pages. Together = 20% of final grade. Presentations will be scheduled during the initial class period.
Produce an annotated review of the literature for a class period different than the one for which you take responsibility in part c or for some imagined class period that doesn’t exist on my syllabus. There are numerous limits to and gaps in my syllabus. Take this as an opportunity to fill in some lacuna in the course. You are welcome to choose an area that supports your own work. These will be shared with the rest of the class, so make them useful to a wider audience. That means your annotations need to connect the texts you review to wider themes. 20% of the grade

Final paper (approximately 20 pages). 40% of the grade.

Milestones:
- **Jan 19**: Send me a few paragraphs stating your aspirations and intentions for this research project, such as topic, approach or genre, how it supports your graduate work.
- **Feb 16**: an initial fragment of the paper (5-7 pages) and a discussion of where this fragment fits into the overall project.
- **Tues Apr 18**: Final paper due

You may want to acquire these books, though they will be provided online or reserve by the library:


Andrew Rossi, *The Labour of Subjectivity: Foucault on Biopolitics, Economy, Critique* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2016)


Week 1 (Jan 5) Introductions

I. History of Thought

Week 2 (Jan 12) Smith and Marx: Work and the Cost (and benefits) of Wealth

Adam Smith, excerpts from Lectures on Jurisprudence and Theories of Moral Sentiments (handout via email)

Smith, Wealth of Nations, Vol/ I: Book 1 (chapters 1-5); Book 2 (Introduction and Chapter 3); Book 3 (chapter 1)

Marx, section on “Estranged labor,” from Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts


Additional readings on Smith and Marx:


Richard Teichgraber III, “Free Trade” and Moral Philosophy (Duke, 1986)


Ronald Hamowy, The Scottish Enlightenment and the Theory of Spontaneous Order (University of Illinois, 1987)

David Harvey, A Companion to Marx’s Capital (Verso, 2010)

Istvan Mesaros, Marx’s Theory of Alienation (Harper, 1970)

Schlomo Avineri, Social and Political Thought of Karl Marx (Cambridge, 1968), chapters 3 and 4

Carol Gould, Marx’s Social Ontology (MIT, 1978), chapters 2 and 3

Moishe Postone, Time, Labor, and Social Domination (Cambridge, 1993)

Ben Fine and Laurence Harris, Rereading Capital (Columbia, 1979), chapters 2 and 3

Week 3 (Jan 19) Jevons and Marshall: Rethinking Value and the Costs and Benefits of Work and Consumption
W. Stanley Jevons, *Theory of Political Economy*, chapter 1 (1-16, 23-7); chapter 2 (28-36); chapter 3 (37-61); chapter 5 (pp. 167-74; 178-83; 203-9)

Alfred Marshall, *Principles of Economics*, 8th edition, Book I (Chapters 1 and 2); Book II (chapter 3); Book III (Chapters 1-4); Book IV (chapter 6, 8-10)

James Caporaso and David P. Levine, *Theories of Political Economy* (Cambridge, 1992), Chapter 4, “Neoclassical Political Economy”

Additional readings on Jevons, and Marshall:

Harro Maas, *William Stanley Jevons and the Making of Modern Economics* (Cambridge University, 2005), chapters 6 and 8

Bert Mosselmans, *William Stanley Jevons and the Cutting Edge of Economics* (Routledge, 2007), chapters 2 and 3


**Week 4 (Jan 26): Thorstein Veblen and the Sociology of Consumption**

Thorstein Veblen, *Theory of the Leisure Class*, chapters 1-6


Additional readings on Veblen, etc.:


**The Labor Process and Work in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries**

**Week 5 (Feb 2): Modes of Labor Control and the Contradictions of Fordism**


Additional readings on labour process in 20th and 21st centuries:


*The Labour Process and Class Strategies*, CSE Pamphlet no. 1 (Conference of Socialist Economists, 1978)

David Harvey, *The Condition of Postmodernity* (Blackwell, 1989), Part II: “The political-economic transformation of late twentieth-century capitalism”


Mark Doussard, *Degraded Work: The Struggle at the Bottom on the Labor Market* (University of Minnesota, 2013)


Leslie McCall, *Complex Inequality: Gender, Class and Race in the New Economy* (Routledge, 2001)

*Week 6 (Feb 9): Global Working Class?*

Immanuel Ness, *Southern Insurgency and the Coming of the Global Working Class* (Pluto, 2016), Introduction, Part 1, at least one of the chapters in Part II, and the conclusion

Additional Reading:


Anita Chan (ed), *Walmart in China* (Cornell, 2011)
Michael Davis, *Planet of Slums* (Verso, 2006)

Melissa Wright, *Disposable Women and Other Myths of Global Capitalism* (New York: Routledge)


Rick Baldoz, Charles Koeber, and Phillip Kraft (eds) *The Critical Study of Work: Labor, Technology and Global Production* (Temple, 2001) [various chapters on assembly and service work]

*Week 7 (Feb 16): Work in the Digital Age*


Additional readings on information economy and work in the Twenty-First Century:


*Week 8 (Su Feb 19-Su Feb 26) Winter break*

*Week 9 (Mar 2): Contra Laborist or Productivist Bias*

Kathi Weeks, *The Problem with Work: Feminism, Marxism, Antiwork Politics, and Postwork Imaginaries* (Duke University, 2011), Introduction, chapters 1, 3 or 4, 5 and epilogue

Additional readings:

Max Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

Emile Durkheim, *Professional Ethics and Civic Morals*

Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition*

**Subjectivity, Consumption, and Governmentality**
Week 10 (Mar 9): The Subject as Consumer


Additional readings on subjectivity and consumerism

Peter Stearns, *Consumerism in World History: The Global Transformation of Desire* (Routledge, 2001)


Daniel Miller, *Capitalism: An Ethnographic Approach* (Berg, 1997)

Week 11 (Mar 16): Governmentality and the Production of Subjectivity

Andrew Rossi, *The Labour of Subjectivity: Foucault on Biopolitics, Economy, Critique* (Rowman and Littlefield, 2016), especially part 1

Additional Readings:

Michel Foucault, *Society Must be Defended: Lecture at the Collège de France, 1975-6* (Picador, 1997)


Nikolas Rose and Peter Miller, *Governing the Soul: The Shaping of the Private Self* (Routledge, 1990)


Week 12 (Mar 23): Wealth, Consumption, and Happiness


Additional Readings:


*Week 13 (Mar 30): Happiness as Industry*

William Davies, *The Happiness Industry: How the Government and Big Business Sold us Well-Being* (Verso, 2015), could skip chapters 4 and 5

Additional readings on the industry/happiness science:


Academic Accommodations

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism: The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
• using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
• using another’s data or research findings;
• failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
• handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Grading: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

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<th>Percentage</th>
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<th>Percentage</th>
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<td>A+</td>
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<td>67-69</td>
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Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Carleton E-mail Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

Carleton Political Science Society: The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit https://www.facebook.com/groups/politicalsciencesociety/
or come to our office in Loeb D688.

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.