

ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

SOCI 3384

Spring 2018
online course

Instructor

Dr. Alessandro Bonanno
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Online Office hours

M-F 8:00 am – 4:00 pm (US Central Time)

Required Texts:

Marx, Karl and Frederick Engels. *The Communist Manifesto* (any edition)
Weber, Max. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (any edition)
Polanyi, Karl. *The Great Transformation* (any edition)
Bell, Daniel. *The Cultural Contradictions of Capitalism*. (any edition)
Friedman, Milton. *Capitalism and Freedom*. (any edition)
Foucault, Michel. *The Birth of Biopolitics* (any edition)
Crouch, Collin. *The Strange Non-Death of Neoliberalism*

Course Description, Objectives and Learning Outcomes

This course analyzes the effects that the evolution of the economy has on the organization of society and vice-versa. It proposes a critical review of the basic tenets and evolution of capitalism stressing the laissez-faire regime, Fordism and neoliberalism. Students must have a basic understanding of the functioning of the economy and of the organization and functioning of society as provided by courses other than Principle of Sociology and Introduction to Ethnic Studies. At the end of the semester students will be able to understand the basic functioning of regimes of organization of the economy and society and the major issues that affects them. They will be able to manage concepts such as Fordism, neoliberalism and the crisis of capitalism.

Lectures

There will be brief video lectures by Dr. Bonanno available on Blackboard. Student familiarity with blackboard is necessary. Blackboard and posted material can be accessed through any electronic device including PC computers, laptop computers, tablets and smartphones.

Evaluation and Grades

Students will be evaluated through assigned **book reviews** and participation in **discussions**. **7 (seven) books** will be assigned during the semester. Students are required to study them and prepare book-reviews **for at least 4 (four) of them**. Students can select which four of the seven assigned books they will review. Samples of book reviews and instructions on how to prepare a book review are provided on Blackboard. Each book review should be at least 1,000 words in length excluding the name of the student and the title and number of this course. **Shorter book-reviews will not be accepted. For each book review a total of 200 points is available.** A total of **800 points** is available through the 4 book reviews. If students submit more than 4 book reviews,

the lowest grades will be eliminated from the calculation of the final grade and they can be used as part of the extra credit program (see below).

The grading of book reviews will follow the attached rubric:

POINTS	FEATURES OF THE BOOK -REVIEW
150-200	It provides a good summary of the book. It correctly identifies its key contributions and possible limits and offers an original evaluation of the book
100-149	It provides a good summary the book and correctly identifies its key contributions and possible limits
50-99	It provides a good summary of the book and attempts to discuss its contributions and possible limits
1-49	It only attempts to provide a description of the book and fails to correctly identify its key contributions and possible limits

Note that grading will be at the total discretion of Dr. Bonanno and his staff.

Two hundred (200) total points are available for participation in the class **discussions**. Students are required to address the questions/themes proposed and use their sociological knowledge to develop their posts. There will be 5 (five) class discussions. A total of **forty 40 points** will be available for each of these **five (5)** class discussions. Points will be assigned according to the following rubric.

POINTS	DISCUSSION POST(S)
0	No post submitted
1-5	Posts that simply state agreement or disagreement with previous posts.
6-15	Posts that elaborate on the original post by Dr. Bonanno
16-25	Posts that elaborate on the original post by Dr. Bonanno and offer a substantive dialogue with other posts.
26-35	Posts that substantially elaborate on the overall discussion through one reference to pertinent literature
36-40	Posts that substantially elaborate on the overall discussion through multiple references to pertinent literature

Students may post more than once and the total amount of points they will receive for each discussion will be based on the comprehensive evaluation of all their individual posts.

A total of **1,000 points** is available in this class.

The final class grade will be based on the following scale.

POINTS	LETTER GRADE
900 to 1,000	A
800 to 899	B
700 to 799	C
600 to 699	D
Less than 600	F

Extra Credit Program

Students can gain **100 extra credit points** by submitting up to 2 (two) of the 3 (three) book reviews that were **NOT submitted** during the semester and/or excluded from the calculation of the final grade. **50 points** are available for each of the two extra credit book reviews (book reviews previously submitted can be revised by students for the extra credit submission and are re-graded). These extra credit book reviews must be submitted through the appropriate Blackboard window during the last class period and before the end of the last day of class (May 4, 2018 at 12:00 midnight CDT). Extra credit points are assigned according to the following rubric.

EXTRA CREDIT POINTS	FEATURES OF THE BOOK -REVIEW
40-50	It provides a good summary of the book. It correctly identifies its key contributions and possible limits and offers an original evaluation of the book
30-39	It provides a good summary the book and correctly identifies its key contributions and possible limits
20-29	It provides a good summary of the book and attempts to discuss its contributions and possible limits
1-19	It only attempts to provide a description of the book and fails to correctly identify its key contributions and possible limits

Attendance and class behavior

Students must logon to Blackboard regularly and frequently during the semester. It is each student responsibility to have access to a devise that would allow him/her to follow the class and complete the assignments. It is each student responsibility to be able to complete the assignments online.

Religious Holy days

Students desiring to absent themselves from a scheduled exam in order to observe (a) religious holy day(s) shell present to Dr. Bonanno a written statement concerning the religious holy day(s). This request must be made during the first twelve days of the semester (i.e., on or before February 1, 2018). Please check the attached web-site:

<http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/0953c7d0-7c04-4b29-a3fc-3bf0738e87d8.pdf>

Academic Dishonesty

SHSU expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of the academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. Cheating on an exam or assignment is an act of dishonesty. Students who cheat will automatically receive the grade of 0 (zero) in the exam and/or assignment. Students who cheat more than once will receive an automatic F in the class. This statement is in accordance with SHSU Policy Statement 810213. Please check the attached web-site: <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/728eec25-f780-4dcf-932c-03d68cade002.pdf>

Students with Disabilities

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student feels he/she has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then he/she is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with Dr. Bonanno about how he/she can be helped. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. No accommodation can be made until students register with the Counseling Center. Please check the attached web-site: <http://www.shsu.edu/dotAsset/9edd8433-cad5-40d1-b4bf-6a91b08f90e4.pdf>

Class Schedule

January 17-19 – Introduction

Assignments: Students are required to become familiar with the syllabus, the course requirements and assigned texts. Students are also required to become familiar with the course web-page on Blackboard.

January 22 – February 5 – The characteristics of capitalism

Assignments: Study the assigned text. Review the material published on Blackboard. Prepare the book-review.

Assigned reading: Marx, Karl and Frederick Engels. *The Communist Manifesto* (any edition).

The book review of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels. *The Communist Manifesto* is due on February 5 at 11:59 pm.

Participate in the class discussion (part one -- this discussion will continue into the next period). This discussion will close at 11:59 on February 5.

February 6 – 19 – The cultural dimension of capitalism

Assignments: Study the assigned text. Review the material published on Blackboard. Prepare the book-review.

Assigned reading: Weber, Max. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* (any edition).

The book review of Max Weber. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* is due on February 19 at 11:59 pm.

Participate in the class discussion (part two. This discussion will close at 11:59 on February 19.

February 20 – March 5 – The crisis of laissez-faire capitalism

Assignments: Study the assigned text. Review the material published on Blackboard. Prepare the book-review.

Assigned reading: Polanyi, Karl. *The Great Transformation* (any edition).

The book review of Karl Polanyi. *The Great Transformation* is due on March 5 at 11:59 pm.

Participate in the class discussion. This discussion will close at 11:59 on March 5.

March 6 – 26 – The cultural contradictions of Fordism

Assignments: Study the assigned text. Review the material published on Blackboard. Prepare the book-review.

Students are not required to work on their assignments during spring break

Assigned readings: Bell, Daniel. *The Cultural Contradictions of Capitalism*. (any edition) Antonio, Robert J and Alessandro Bonanno. “A New Global Capitalism? From Americanism and Fordism to Americanization-Globalization.” Available on Blackboard.

The book review of Daniel Bell. *Cultural Contradictions of Capitalism* is due on March 26 at 11:59 pm.

Participate in the class discussion. This discussion will close at 11:59 on March 26.

March 27 – April 9 – The neoliberal turn

Assignments: Study the assigned text. Review the material published on Blackboard. Prepare the book-review.

Assigned reading: Friedman, Milton. *Capitalism and Freedom*. (any edition).

The book review of Friedman, Milton. *Capitalism and Freedom* is due on April 9 at 11:59 pm.

Participate in the class discussion. This discussion will close at 11:59 on April 9.

April 10 – 23 – The power of Neoliberalism

Assignments: Study the assigned text. Review the material published on Blackboard. Prepare the book-review.

Assigned reading: Foucault, Michel. *The Birth of Biopolitics* (any edition).

The book review of Michel Foucault. *The Birth of Biopolitics* is due on April 23 at 11:59 pm.

Participate in the class discussion. This discussion will close at 11:59 on April 23.

April 24 – May 4– The crisis of neoliberalism

Assignments: Study the assigned text. Review the material published on Blackboard. Prepare the book-review.

Assigned reading: Crouch, Collin. *The Strange Non-Death of Neoliberalism*

The book review of Collin Crouch. *The Strange Non-Death of Neoliberalism* is due on May 4 at 11:59 pm.

Extra credit book reviews are due on May 4 at 11:59 pm.

END OF THE SEMESTER