Instructor
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About the course: This course will introduce students to two important lines of inquiry within Marxian political economy that emerge from Volume III and II of *Capital*, respectively: (1) the debates on the labour theory of value centered around the so-called transformation problem that started with the publication of the third volume of *Capital* in 1894 (and is still with us), and (2) the Marxian circuit of capital framework for macroeconomic analysis of capitalist economies that builds on the discussions in the second volume of *Capital*.

Background Reading: The following books can be used for reference and background reading.


Grading: A total of 100 points will be divided between class participation, presentation in class and a research paper as follows:

**Class participation and presentation:** Students will be expected to choose one paper, in consultation with the instructor, and lead discussions in class on the paper. The presentation will count for 30 points and general participation will count for 20 points.

**Research paper:** The research paper will be worth 50 points and will involve either (a) replicating the arguments of an existing paper, and critically extending it further if possible, or (b) presenting original research. Typically the paper will be chosen by the student in consultation with the instructor and can draw on the class presentations.
Tentative schedule: The tentative schedule for the course is as follows.

Part I: Debates in the Labour Theory of Value

- **Week 1: Preliminaries:** the first week will introduce students to the basic concepts of the labour theory of value like value, money, capital, the rate of profit, and also offer an overview of the circuit of capital model. We will draw on Marx (1993b), Marx (1993a) and Foley (1986). The class will primarily be a lecture.

  **Required readings:**

- **Week 2: The Standard Interpretation:** in the second week, we will go over Marx’s procedure for transforming values into prices of production in Chapter 9, Volume III of *Capital*, and the critique and correction of Marx’s procedure offered by von Bortkiewicz, which was popularized in the English language by Sweezy (1942), and the subsequent refinements of this method by Winternitz (1948), and Seton (1957).

  **Required readings:**

- **Week 3–4: Sraffa and Marxian Economics:** in these two weeks, we will be going over details of the Sraffian critique, primarily drawing on Steedman (1977). We will also draw on critiques offered by Robinson (1960), Samuelson (1971), Roemer (1981), and some rebuttal (or clarification) offered in Wolff et al. (1982), Roberts (1987), parts of Morishima and Catephores (1978), and Shaikh (1981). The classes will be organized as discussion sessions.

  **Required readings:**
• **Week 5: The Iterative Solution:** in this week, we will study the iterative solution to competing Marx’s transformation procedure offered in Shaikh (1977), and parts of Morishima and Catephores (1978). The class will be organized as discussion sessions.

  Required readings:


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• **Week 8: The Temporal Single System Interpretation:** in these two weeks, we will study the TSSI interpretation of Marx’s value theory drawing on parts of Carchedi and Freeman (1996), Kliman and McGlone (1999), and Kliman (2006), and also the critique in Veneziani (2004). Classes will be organized as discussion sessions.

  Required readings:

  

**Part II: The Circuit of Capital Model**

• **Week 9-10: The Circuit of Capital Model-I:** in these two weeks, we will study parts of Volume II of *Capital* and its formalization in Foley (1986, ch. 5), and Kotz (1991). Classes will be organized partly as lectures and partly as discussion sessions.

  Required readings:

  
• Week 11: The Circuit of Capital Model and Crises under Capitalism: in this week, we will study Kotz (1991) and Harvey (2010) as examples of the use of the circuit of capital framework to think about crises under capitalism. Classes will be organized partly as lectures and partly as discussion sessions.

Required readings:


• Week 12-14: The Circuit of Capital Model-II: in these two weeks, we will study further refinements of the circuit of capital model, drawing on Foley (1982a), and dos Santos (2011). Classes will be organized partly as lectures, and partly as discussion sessions.

Required readings:


References


