

SYLLABUS

Name of the course:	Variations of capitalism. Contemporary Developments in Critical Political Economy			
Teacher:	Steven Knauss			
University / organisation:	Université de Technologie de Compiègne			
Language of teaching:	English			
ECTS:	2			
Semester (S1, S2, S3 or S4):	<input type="checkbox"/> S1	<input type="checkbox"/> S2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S4
Teaching method(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lecture courses		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flipped classroom	
	Other:			
Type(s) of evaluation:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sitting exam		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Written report	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Oral defence		<input type="checkbox"/> Group project	
	Other comments:	<p>The sessions are dedicated to the presentation and discussion of a selection of books' extracts and articles. Reading the texts in bold is required. Reading more is better, as the course will not always allow for the exploration of the details of the texts in the classroom.</p> <p>For the evaluation, the students alone or by group (2 persons max) must elaborate an original stylized fact (a graph) designed to corroborate (or challenge) one theoretical insight touched upon in this course. A brief written essay (3-5 pages) should make explicit the motivations, the technicalities of the elaboration of the stylized fact and a discussion of its interpretation. The essays should be uploaded on the Nextcloud page (if it works, otherwise emailed directly to the professor) no later than January 15th.</p>		
Expected deadline(s) for the evaluation(s)	January 15th			
Expected date of final results:	January 30th			
Summary of the content:	This module introduces some developments in critical political economy. Throughout the reading of leading theorists, it proposes an introduction to the invariants of capitalism and to variegation dynamics. Some insights are more specifically provided concerning ecological crisis, intellectual monopoly, and the unravelling of globalization.			

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<p>Indicative list of lectures:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capitalism in general (November 25) 2. Institutional approaches and variegation dynamics (December 2) 3. Capitalism and ecological crisis (December 9) 4. Intellectual monopoly capitalism (December 16) 5. Geopolitically fragmented capitalism (January 6)
<p>Short bibliography:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Capitalism in general (Nov. 25) <p>Harvey, David (2017), <i>Marx, Capital and the Madness of Economic Reason</i>, Profile Books. chap 1. « The Visualisation of Capital as Value in Motion »</p> <p>Shaikh, Anwar (2016), <i>Capitalism: Competition, conflict, crises</i>, Oxford University Press, <u>Chap 7. “The theory of real competition”</u></p> <p>Wood, Ellen Meiksins. (2002) <i>The origin of capitalism: A longer view</i>. Verso.</p> <p>Elster, Jon (1985), <i>Making sense of Marx</i>, Cambridge University Press, Chap. 3, Sec. 4 <u>“Theories of capitalist crises”</u></p> 2. Institutionalist approaches and variegation dynamics (Dec. 2) <p>Peck, Jamie. (2023). <i>Variegated Economies</i>, Oxford University Press, <u>Chap. 5 “Relocating Variety: Toward Variegated Capitalism”</u> (with Nik Theodore)</p> <p>Hall, Peter A., and David Soskice (2001). “An introduction to varieties of capitalism.” in <i>Varieties of Capitalism. The Institutional Foundations of Comparative Advantage</i>: 1-68</p> <p>Hall, Peter A., and Rosemary C.R. Taylor (1996). “Political science and the three new institutionalisms.” <i>Political studies</i> 44(5): 936-957</p> <p>Jessop, Bob (2014). “Capitalist diversity and variety: Variegation, the world market, compossibility and ecological dominance.” <i>Capital & Class</i> 38(1): 45-58</p> <p>Caldentey, Esteban Pérez and Matías Vernengo (2023). “Varieties of peripheral capitalism: on the institutional foundations of economic backwardness.” in <i>Varieties of Capitalism: Second Generation Perspectives</i>: 114:135</p> <p>Boyer, Robert (2022). <i>Political Economy of Capitalisms</i>, Palgrave Macmillan, <u>Chap. 2 “The institutional forms on which a capitalist economy is based”</u></p> <p>Amable, Bruno and Stefano Palombarini (2023). “Multidimensional social conflict and institutional change.” <i>New Political Economy</i> 28(6): 942-957</p>

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Nölke, Andreas, Tobias ten Brink, Christian May and Simone Claar (2020), *State permeated capitalism in large emerging economies*, Routledge, Chap. 6 “The contours of state permeated capitalism”

Baccaro, Lucio, Mark Blyth and Jonas Pontusson, eds. (2022), *Diminishing Returns: The Politics of Growth and Stagnation*, Oxford University Press, Chap. 3 “Four Galtons and a Minsky: Growth models from an IPE perspective” (by Herman Mark Schwartz and Mark Blyth)

3. Capitalism and ecological crisis (Dec. 9)

Lebdioui, Amir (2024). "Survival of the Greenest: Economic Transformation in a Climate-conscious World." *Cambridge Elements: Development economics*, Cambridge University Press

O'Connor J. (1988) Capitalism, nature, socialism a theoretical introduction, *Capitalism Nature Socialism*, 1:1, 11-38

Larson, Mathias and James Jackson (2025). "The green versus environmental state: Reviewing two decades of conceptualizing state-led approaches." *Competition & Change*

Soener, Matthew (2024). “Decarbonization and the capitalist state.” *Sociology Compass* 18(11)

Kus, Basak and Gregory Jackson (2025). “Green Transitions: Rethinking political economy in the context of climate change.” *Regulation & Governance* 19(2): 287-302

Gabor, Daniela and Benjamin Braun (2025), “Green macrofinancial regimes.” *Review of International Political Economy* 32(3): 542-568

Althouse, Jeffry, Louison Cahen-Fourot, Bruno Carballa Smichowski, Cédric Durand and Steven Knauss (2023). Ecologically unequal exchange and uneven development patterns along global value chains. *World Development* 170

4. Intellectual monopoly capitalism (Dec. 16)

Durand, Cédric (2024), *How Silicon Valley Unleashed Techno-feudalism: the making of the digital economy*, Verso, Chap. 3 “The rentiers of the intangible” and Chap 4. “The techno-feudal hypothesis”

Pistor Katharina (2020). “Rule by Data: The End of Markets?,” *Law & Contemporary Problems* 83: 101-124

Seidl, Timo (2023). "Commodification and disruption: Theorizing digital capitalism." *Weizenbaum Journal of the Digital Society* 3(1)

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Törnberg, Petter (2023). "How platforms govern: social regulation in digital capitalism." *Big Data & Society* 10(1)

Rikap, Cecilia (2024). "Varieties of corporate innovation systems and their interplay with global and national systems: Amazon, Facebook, Google and Microsoft's strategies to produce and appropriate artificial intelligence." *Review of International Political Economy* 31(6): 1735-1763

Pagano, Ugo (2014). "The crisis of intellectual monopoly capitalism." *Cambridge Journal of Economics*, 38 (6), 1409-29

Anu Bradford (2023), *Digital Empires: The global battle to regulate technology*, Oxford University Press, Chap. 1 "The American market-driven regulatory model", Chap. 2 "The Chinese state-driven regulatory model", Chap 3. "The European rights-driven regulatory model"

5. Geopolitically fragmented capitalism (Jan. 6)

Malkin, Anton and Tian He (2024). "The geoeconomics of global semiconductor value chains: extraterritoriality and the US-China technology rivalry", *Review of International Political Economy* 31(2): 674-699

Hung, Ho-Fung (2022). "Clash of Empires." Cambridge Elements: Global China, Cambridge University Press

Panitch, Leo and Sam Gindin (2012), *The Making of Global Capitalism*, Verso, "Introduction"

Chin, Gregory T. and Kevin P. Gallagher (2025). "China and the Global Economic Order." Cambridge Elements: Global China, Cambridge University Press

Strange, Susan (1988), *States and Markets*, Pinter, Chap 2. "Power in the world economy"

Murau, Steffan and Herman Mark Schwartz (2025). "Decoding dollar dominance: the global credit view on the monetary system in international political economy." OBFA-Transform Working Paper No. 5

Lee, Yong Wook and Kyuteg Lim (2024). "Status quo crisis again? RMB challenges and dollar hegemony." *New Political Economy* 29(5): 709-732