

# D. Syllabus Econ 5080/6080 Fall 2012

## D.1. General Info about this Class

### Instructor

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hans G. Ehrbar

Office: 363 OSH,

Tel: 801 581 7797 (office) and 801 908 6937 (home)

Email: [ehrbar@economics.utah.edu](mailto:ehrbar@economics.utah.edu)

Hans's home page: <http://content.csbs.utah.edu/~ehrbar>

Class home page for Econ 5080: <http://marx.economics.utah.edu/das-kapital/index.html>

Office hours: Any time Hans is in his office, or by appointment

Hans will post with the pseudonym Hans, and please call him "Hans" when referring to him or in the email conversations.

If you would like to look at the entire syllabus before committing yourself to the class, a printable version is at <http://marx.economics.utah.edu/das-kapital/pdf/print-syllabus-5080.pdf>. A pdf copy of the Annotations with useful links, which contains this syllabus as Appendix D, is available at <http://marx.economics.utah.edu/das-kapital/pdf/halffpage/akmk.pdf>.

### Checklist: Five Steps to Get Started

The internet portion of this class does not use Canvas but ordinary email and public web pages. Therefore the following five steps are necessary to become part of Econ 5080/6080.

1. Buy the August 2012 edition of Hans G. Ehrbar's Annotations to Karl Marx's Capital at the University of Utah Book Store, details on p. 783 below.
2. Download the zip archive `ec5080.zip` and extract the contents into a separate folder on your computer. It contains the pdf files necessary for Econ 5080. Instructions are either on p. 806 below, or on the class home page <http://marx.economics.utah.edu/das-kapital/index.html>

### D.1. General Info about this Class

3. You will get a lot of email during this class. This email discussion is also archived on the web. It is recommended to follow these archives so that you know the context of the emails presently sent. At the very least you should do this every time just before you answer a homework question. There are two ways to do this:
  - You can do this with your browser by visiting <http://marx.economics.utah.edu/das-kapital/2012fa/message.html>. This is the recommended way of keeping track of the conversation, simply because this is presently how Hans himself keeps track of it, therefore Hans knows when something is missing and will fix it.
  - You can also download nicely typeset pdf versions of the current conversations. For this you should download into the same folder where you have the other pdfs the pdf transcript of the current class discussion `2012fa.pdf` (which is not in the zip archive because it changes daily).
4. Go to <http://marx.economics.utah.edu/mailman/listinfo/das-kapital> and follow the instructions to subscribe to the mailing list `das-kapital`, which is the mailing list where all class participants submit their homeworks and term papers. This is an ordinary mailing list, similar to many on the internet, with the additional feature that the identity of the subscribers is protected by a pseudonym, and that also processes the question number of the question asked. Select a pseudonym which is not yet chosen. If you wish to receive email at several different email addresses, you may subscribe several addresses, using the same pseudonym for all. Each address entered into these subscription forms receives an email requesting confirmation, and in order to finalize the subscription you have to respond to these emails.
5. After your subscription is complete, i.e., after you have received the welcome email telling you that you are now subscribed to `das-kapital`, you are required to send a simple email message to the homework address `das-kapital@marx.economics.utah.edu` which has no attachments and where you tell the instructor and others in class why you are taking this class and what your learning objectives are. The first line in this message should be `:q:998` if you want your grades to be private, and `:q:999` if you want them to be public. Don't add anything else to this first line. The subject line should be just the letter M if you want your pseudonym to be of male gender, F if you want it to be female, or some brief explanation, perhaps human regardless of gender or not a person but an argument or not binary but a continuum if you don't want to associate your pseudonym with the M or F genders. You have to learn for this class to send emails in plain text without attachments, and this introductory email is a test whether your email has the right format. Plain text emails are a valuable skill for anyone participating in mailing lists. See p. 794 for more instructions about sending plain text emails without attachments. After sending this email, you will get an immediate automated response which you should read carefully: either

your transcript, and participants who intend to apply for US citizenship should be especially cautious.

### Format of the Class

**Time and Location of Classroom Sessions** In Fall 2012, the class is taught in two sections, a day section 5080-001 resp. 6080-001 and an evening section 5080-002 resp. 6080-002. The day section meets Fridays 10:45–11:35 am in BUC (Business Classroom Building) 105, and the evening section Tuesdays 6–6:50 pm in OSH 113. All assignments are open for participants in both sections. It does not really matter which section you enroll for, but since there are two sections you have more flexibility with class meetings and exams.

**Attendance Requirements** Since the main class interactions take place by email, attendance at these class meetings is *voluntary* for everybody after they have successfully submitted their first homework contribution, with the following exceptions:

- Attendance is required for the third class session of the Semester. For the evening section this is Tuesday, Sep 4 at 6 pm, and for the day section it is Friday, Sep 7 at 10:45 am. Hans will discuss important technical issues about writing and internet etiquette.
- Attendance is required for the two in-class exams. The evening section exams are on Tuesday, Sep 25 and Tuesday, Nov 20, both at 6 pm, and the day section exams are on Friday, Sep 28 and Friday, Nov 16, both at 10:45 am.

For a careful reader of the class notes and participant in the email discussion, attendance in class should not be necessary. It is nevertheless recommended that you sometimes visit class. Written material can be brought to life and put into perspective by talking about it. You may attend either the day class on Fridays or the evening class on Tuesdays or both if you wish. Hans will try to make audio recordings of his classes (no guarantee that all of them succeed) and make them available for download from <http://marx.economics.utah.edu/das-kapital/2012fa/audioid/index.html>. This allows you to listen to the class sessions on your own schedule.

**Homeworks** On pages 786–793 below you find a schedule of the homework assignments. Each participant must submit only six written answers over the course of the Semester, but these answers must be sent in six different homework periods and must be thoughtful and well executed. Your answers are forwarded to everybody in class, with the identity of the author protected by a pseudonym or nick-name, i.e., an invented name to protect your identity, and you will get detailed feedback from the instructor and from others in class.

Your homeworks will be graded, and if you give explicit permission, these grades will be public, so that everyone who reads your contribution in the archives also sees the grade it has

earned. This grade will never be associated with your name, since only your pseudonym, not your name, is visible in the email sent out to the class and in the archive. There is no requirement that you allow your grades to be made public, not even the presumption that you ought to give this permission; it is a completely voluntary option on your part, which you may also revoke again at any time.

You are expected to access your computer several times a week in order to read your e-mail, and to participate in the email discussion. There are no pre-set times *when* you have to be at your computer; you can do so on your own schedule. However you must read the same material during the same half-week period as all other participants in the class, in order to be able to discuss these readings with them on the internet. You must access the computer more than just once or twice per week, because otherwise the amount of mail accumulated in your mailbox will be overwhelming. Hans may send random emails out just to test how long it takes you to respond. The format of this class presupposes that you have easy access to electronic mail, either from home, work, or school.

**Class Materials** You need the August 2012 edition of Hans Ehrbar's *Annotations to Karl Marx's 'Capital'*, containing Hans's own translation of selected passages of *Capital*, with detailed notes and Study Questions, and also the syllabus for this class in the Appendix. You can buy your copy at the University Campus Store on the main campus of the University of Utah, tel. 801-581-6326. Normal hours are 8 am – 6 pm Monday through Friday, but 8 am – 7 pm on Tuesdays, and 11 – 4 on Saturdays. Last year's copy will not do; there are so many changes (Hans hopes improvements) between each print run that you definitely need the latest edition.

The Annotations contain the assigned passages of Marx's text in full. Volume One of Karl Marx's *Capital* is therefore only an *optional* textbook. It would be to your advantage to either use the Vintage edition [Mar76] ISBN 0-394-72657-X (which is identical to the Penguin edition ISBN 0-14-044568-4), or the German-language edition [Mar62], because the page references in the Annotations refer to these two editions. It is useful for the term paper to have your own paper copy of Marx's *Capital* since the chapters about which you have to write term papers are not in the Annotations. Your own paper copy also allows you to read Marx's text in one piece, not interrupted by interpretations and study questions. The easiest method to acquire Marx's *Capital* is to use the bilingual cap1.pdf available in the collection of pdf files for this class, or to read it in html at the Marxists Internet Archive [www.marxists.org](http://www.marxists.org). But Hans thinks that reading and understanding a text on the computer screen is more difficult than having a printed version.

You must also download a number of pdf files to your computer, including a pdf copy of the Annotations. The pdf files have live links which allow you to follow cross references in the document with a click of the mouse. Detailed downloading instructions are on p. 806 below, and also on the class home page [marx.economics.utah.edu/das-kapital/index.html](http://marx.economics.utah.edu/das-kapital/index.html).

Since this course meets the communications and writing requirement, some resources