

# C. Syllabus Econ 5080/6080

## Fall 2011

### C.1. General info about this Class

#### Instructor

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Hans's home page: <http://www.econ.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.pdf>, and an electronic copy with useful links is available as Appendix C of the pdf version of the Annotations <http://marx.economics.utah.edu/das-kapital/pdf/halfpage/akmk.pdf>.

#### Checklist: Five Steps to Get Started

The internet portion of this class does not use WebCT 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 2011 edition of Hans G. Ehrbar's Annotations to Karl Marx's Capital at the University of Utah Book Store, details on p. 757 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. 779 below, or on the class home page <http://marx.economics.utah.edu/das-kapital/index.html>

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3. Periodically during the Semester, at least every time just before you answer a homework question, you should also download into the same folder the pdf transcript of the current class discussion `2011fa.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 pseudonym to be of male gender and `: : q: 999` if you want it to be female. Don't add anything else to this first line. Of course, if your pseudonym is Henry then you must declare it as male. We are not playing games here, this is for those pseudonyms where the gender is unclear. If you want to give Hans permission to make your grades to be visible to others, you should say this in this email too. 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. 767 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 it tells you that something was wrong with your submission, so that you have to try again, or it tells you that things are ok and that you can start making your homework submissions now. It also gives you your shift number, which you need to know for some of your deadlines.
- The above five steps must be completed by your second class session, i.e., by Tuesday, Aug 30, 6 pm for the evening class, and Friday, Sep 2, 10:45 am for the day class. It is recommended that you complete these steps and start contributing to the homework mailing list as early as possible, so that you won't miss the important things that will be discussed in the early classes. Early participation is also rewarded by the rule that after you have made your first submission (even if it is an ungraded submission) most in-class sessions are voluntary as long as you keep up with the minimum requirements in homework contributions.

```
To: das-kapital@marx.economics.utah.edu
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Message Text -----
: :Q:999
Looking for arguments why Marx is wrong.
Please don't publish my grades, I find this embarrassing.
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Table C.1.: Initial email to the homework mailing list

The only in-class sessions mandatory for everyone are the exams *and* the third class session, which is Tuesday, Sep 6, 6 pm or Friday, Sep 9, 10:45 am.

The following is not yet implemented in the Fall of 2011 and Hans may find an alternative this year for notifying you of your grades. After you are subscribed to the mailing list, an account will be created for you at the interactive web site for the class <http://marx.economics.utah.edu:5080/Plone>. This is not immediate but Hans has to update the logins manually, therefore it may take a few hours before this login is created. Your login id at the interactive web site will be your pseudonym followed by the number 8, and your initial password will be the same as your password for the mailing list. On this site you will find Hans's latest announcements, information about the current assignments, and if you are logged in you will see link for "grades" in the upper right corner. This link leads you to a summary of your grades. The interactive web site can also be used for discussion and other free-form interaction between the students during the Semester, for instance it provides a platform for co-operation on the term papers.

After completing the fourth step subscribing you to [das-kapital@marx.economics.utah.edu](mailto:das-kapital@marx.economics.utah.edu), you can send homework submissions to [das-kapital@marx.economics.utah.edu](mailto:das-kapital@marx.economics.utah.edu). You should also receive a steady stream of emails in your inbox, namely, all homework submissions and discussion contributions of the other class participants. You can also read the homeworks on the web at <http://marx.economics.utah.edu/das-kapital/2011ffa/message.html>. This web site is updated frequently, and it contains the homework submissions in a cleaned-up and better organized form. Even better are the pdf archives of the current discussion at <http://marx.economics.utah.edu/das-kapital/pdf/screen/2011ffa.pdf>. It is easier to see what is going on if you follow the discussion in these well organized archives than if you rely on your incoming emails only.

## Overview

After linking into the class through the above five steps, you will be responsible for answers to the homework questions associated with the readings, contributions to the free discussion list, finding partners for your term paper and registering your term paper group, exams, exam resubmissions, writing the term paper co-operatively with your partners, plus you will receive certain extra-credit opportunities. Every participant is also required to give specific feedback to the work of others. Students enrolling under the 6080 class number should

consider themselves co-teachers who make some additional contribution enriching the class. All rules are described precisely below: for instance, the schedule of all homeworks is given on pages 759-767, and the format in which homeworks must be submitted is illustrated in Table C.2 on p. 774. Every now and then it is necessary to adjust the rules and the software underlying this class to the evolving demands, therefore Hans may consider it necessary to change these rules with proper notice.

## Prerequisites

The class does not have formal prerequisites, it is mainly about critical thinking and the close reading of a philosophical text (Marx's *Capital*). If you want to prepare for it, you might want to look at some introductory texts into Marxism. There is also a useful handbook *A Dictionary of Marxist Thought* edited by Tom Bottomore [Bot83]. Since Marx's thought is closely related to critical realism, Hans also recommends the two books *Critical Realism: An Introduction to Roy Bhaskar's Philosophy* by Andrew Collier [Co194], and *A Realist Philosophy of Social Science: Explanation and Understanding* by Peter Manicas [Man06].

## Class Goal

The purpose of the course is a close reading and collective discussion of Karl Marx's famous indictment of capitalist society, *Capital*. Although *Capital* was first published 130 years ago, it covers many issues relevant and debated today. Marx's analysis does not get much exposure in modern mainstream economics, not because it is wrong, but because it is critical of the capitalist system. The recent collapse of most socialist regimes does not invalidate Marx's *Capital*, which is a theory of capitalism, not socialism. Indeed, recent developments in capitalism have re-kindled interest in Marx. The scientific method employed in *Capital* may seem unfamiliar but is by no means outdated; Marx's method is a serious contender in the modern philosophical debates around "realism," and the various critiques of "positivism."

If this class is successful, you will collect experiences reading a difficult philosophical text, become acquainted with an alternative approach to social sciences, and gain new perspectives on contemporary capitalist society. While discussing gripping social, economic, and philosophical questions, you also have the opportunity to co-operate with others and polish your internet skills.

You should be aware that Marxism is an embattled theory, which is sometimes met with hostility. It may hurt your employment prospects if you have too many Marxist classes on 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 2011, 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 in, 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 6 at 6 pm, and for the day section it is Friday, Sep 9 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 27 and Tuesday, Nov 22, both at 6 pm, and the day section exams are on Friday, Sep 30 and Friday, Nov 18, 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/audiorecordings/2011fa/index.html>. This allows you to listen to the class sessions on your own schedule.

**Homeworks** On pages 759-767 below you find a schedule of the homework assignments. Each participant must submit only five written answers over the course of the Semester, but these answers must be thoughtful and well executed. Your answers are forwarded to everybody in class, with the identity of the author protected by a pseudonym, 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 email, 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 2011 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 - 5:30 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 (and 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. 779 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 about internet etiquette and writing are assembled at <http://marx.economics.utah.edu/das-kapital/netiquette.html>.

Transcripts of the class email discussion are accessible through the class home page <http://marx.economics.utah.edu/das-kapital/index.html>. It is recommended that before doing any homework questions you download the latest version of the type-

- Not all your submissions are necessarily graded; you can also make “ungraded” submissions for which you get feedback and, if appropriate, an informational grade which does not enter the GPA calculation determining your final grade. In order to designate a submission as ungraded, add up after the question number.
- if you write up after the question number, then your answer is accepted even after the deadline for the regular homework answers has expired, and your submission counts as one of your free discussion submissions.
- After sending in a homework answer, you have to wait until you get feedback and a grade from Hans before you can submit your next homework answer. But this waiting time will not be more than 24 hours; after 24 hours you are free to make your next submission even if you have not yet received a grade.
- Questions labeled “exam question” are accepted, but they always count as ungraded submissions. They are usually too easy for homeworks.
- You must make at least two homework submissions in two different homework periods before the first exam and another two between the first and second exam. If you made fewer than two submissions before the first exam, you must make up for them by the second exam.
- In addition to the five homework answers, each participant also has to make four contributions to a free discussion, in which everything can be discussed. This discussion takes place on the same mailing list using question number 888, which is always accepted. In order to keep track of this, every participant is assigned to one of three shifts. Your shift number is given in almost every email you receive from Hans. The deadlines which you have to meet are staggered according to shift number. If you are in shift 1, then you must make your first free discussion contribution to das-kapital on or before Sunday, Sep 11, and if you are in shift 2 or 3, this deadline is 1 or 2 weeks later. After this first deadline, shift 1 must make at least one submission between Monday, Sep 12 and Sunday Oct 2, with the deadlines for the other shifts staggered by one or two weeks again, etc. Here are links to the third deadline for shift 1, 2, 3, and the fourth deadline for shift 1, 2, 3.

**Evening session Tuesday, Aug 23, 6 pm:** Discussion of the format of the class. Hans will also summarize very briefly the main differences between Marx’s approach and the method of mainstream social sciences.

*Things Everyone has to do Between their First and Second Class Sessions*

As soon as possible at the beginning of the Semester (indeed you may do this before the Semester officially begins, as soon the August 2011 edition of this syllabus is available), you should go through the five steps which tie your email accounts into this class, as described on p. 752 above.

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set transcript of the current class discussion in pdf from <http://marx.economics.utah.edu/das-kapital/pdf/screen/2011fa.pdf> or <http://marx.economics.utah.edu/das-kapital/pdf/halffpage/2011fa.pdf> or <http://marx.economics.utah.edu/das-kapital/pdf/print/2011fa.pdf>. The web site and/or the pdf are important tools for doing your own homework. They contain, in a well-organized form, all the emails sent out to everybody in the class, and also show Hans’s comments which are never disseminated by email. They have relevant links into the *Annotations* and the transcripts of past class discussions.

One week before each of the two in-class Exams, the University Copy Center at 158 Union Building on main campus will sell printed collections of all the submitted homeworks, in order to make it easier for you to prepare for the Exams. They will be called *Econ 5080 Questions and Answers*, Installments 1 and 2. You will also be able to download these collections from the class home page. The Copy Center is open 7:30 am – 5:30 pm Monday through Friday, tel. 801 587 7928. The class home page also has all the multiple choice questions for you to practice.

**No Final Exam** There will be no Final Exam. This class is fairly labor intensive, but the heaviest work load is early in the Semester.

**Special Circumstances** The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services, and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodation in this class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the instructor and to the Center for Disability Services, <http://disability.utah.edu/>, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581 5020 to make arrangements for the kind of accommodation you need. If your personal circumstances call for a modification of the class requirements in order to receive a fair treatment, please see Hans in his office hour on or before Tuesday, Sep 6.

## C.2. Schedule of Homework Assignments

This section contains a week-by-week calendar of the topics covered in class and your assignments. Every week you should consult the entry for the current homeworks so that you won’t miss any assignments.

While reading the specific rules in the homework schedule below, you should be aware of the following general rules:

- Both day and evening classes are listed here. It does not matter for which class you are enrolled, the email assignments and everything else are the same.
- Homeworks will only be accepted during the three or four days when they are due.
- If you make more than one submission in the same homework period, your grade for this homework period will be the average of the individual grades.

*Mon Aug 22–Thu Aug 25* w1 Between Monday, Aug 22 and Thursday, Aug 25, the reading assignment is section 1.1.a: [*The Commodity as Natural Object and Use-Value*], pp. 125–126:1 in *Capital*, pp. 1–20 in the Annotations. You should also consult appendices A and B for this. During this time, you may submit per e-mail an answer to one of questions 6–63 or 955–959. If you would like to have a trial run, you should type up after the question number in your submission; in this case, Hans will read your homeworks carefully and give you feedback over email, and tell you what grade you would have received, but this grade will not be counted. This option is always open to you, not only in the first week; see page 768.

**Day session Friday, Aug 26, 10:45 am** w1 Hans will explain the format of the class for the day class, with slides. He will also discuss the topic covered in Assignment w1: Why begin with the commodity? The class always discusses the material right after the study questions for it were assigned as homeworks.

*Fri Aug 26–Mon Aug 29* w1 Reading assignment is section 1.1.b: [*From Exchange-Value to Value*], pp. 126:2–127:3 in *Capital*, 21–35 in the Annotations. This is an important section. Between Aug 26 and Aug 29, you may submit per e-mail an answer to one of questions 70–90.

**Evening session Tuesday, Aug 30, 6 pm** w1: We will discuss the material covered in Assignment w1: the Sherlock-Holmes approach to uncovering hidden economic structures.

*The Aug 30–Thu Sep 1* w2 Read section 1.1.c: [*From Value to Labor*], pp. 127:4–128:3 in *Capital*, 35–48 in the Annotations. Between Aug 30 and Sep 1, questions 93–111 are assigned.

**Last Day to Drop (Delete) Classes is Wednesday Aug 31**

**Day session Friday, Sep 2, 10:45 am** w2: We will discuss the material covered in Assignment w2: How can prices be governed by labor content, if most market participants have no idea how much labor is in the things they trade?

*Fri Sep 2–The Sep 6, 6 pm* w2 Read section 1.1.d: [*The Quantity of Value and Individual Differences*], pp. 128:4–131:1 in *Capital*, 48–63 in the Annotations. Between Sep 2 and Sep 6, 6 pm, questions 115–133 are assigned. Because of the Labor Day weekend, this homework period is extended until Tuesday 6 pm; usually the homework periods end at 3 am (3 hours after midnight).

**Evening session Tuesday Sep 6, 6 pm** w2: It seems only fair that those who work at a slower pace get paid less. But is it? This is a mandatory session for the evening class. Hans will also talk about Internet etiquette and the technicalities of email discussions. This is also a good early opportunity to find partners for your term paper group.

*The Sep 6, 6 pm–Thu Sep 8* w3 Read section 1.2: *The Double Character of Labor Represented in Commodities*, pp. 131:2–137 in *Capital*, 63–87 in the Annotations. Between Sep 6, 6 pm, and Sep 8, questions 135–174 are assigned.

**Day session Friday, Sep 9, 10:45 am** w3: Marx explains why production in capitalism is drudgery and oppression rather than the joyful expansion of the worker's horizons. This is a mandatory session for the day class. Hans will also discuss Internet etiquette and the

technicalities of email discussions. This is also a good early opportunity to find partners for your term paper group.

*Fri Sep 9–Mon Sep 12* w3 Regarding form of value, read section 1.3.A: *Portion of Text Brought In From First Edition*, i.e., pp. 27:1–35:2 in the *First edition of Capital*, 87–135 in the Annotations. Between Sep 9 and Sep 12, questions 176–223 are assigned. Members of the first shift must have made their first contribution to the free discussion (Question 888) by the end of Sunday, Sep 11.

**Evening session Tuesday, Sep 13, 6 pm** w3 Elements of the relation between money and commodities can already be found in the relation between two commodities.

*The Sep 13–Thu Sep 15* w4 Read sections 1.3.B–1.3.D: *The Expanded Form of Value, General Form of Value, and Money Form*, pp. 154:4–163:2 in *Capital*, 135–158 in the Annotations. Between Sep 13 and Sep 15, questions 225–244 are assigned. If you haven't made a homework submission yet, it is highly recommended to make one now. Every participant must make two submissions before the exam, and there is only one week left, since the days immediately before the exam are reserved for exam preparation.

**Day session Friday, Sep 16, 10:45 am** w4 The genesis of money out of the commodity. What is "dialectics," and does it have a place in economics?

*Fri Sep 16–Mon Sep 19* w4 Read the first half of section 1.4: *The Fetish-Like Character of the Commodity and its Secret*, until the end of 1.4.b, i.e., pp. 163:3–166:1 in *Capital*, 158–?? in the Annotations. Between Sep 16 and Sep 19, questions 247–288 are assigned. If you haven't made a homework submission yet, you must make one in this homework period, and one between Tuesday Sep 20 and Thursday Sep 22. Members of the second shift must have made their first contribution to the free discussion (Question 888) by the end of Sunday, Sep 18.

**Evening session Tuesday, Sep 20, 6 pm** w4 How did it happen that social control slipped away from the individuals, and can anything be done about it?

*The Sep 20–Thu Sep 22* w5 Read the second half of section 1.4: *The Fetish-Like Character of the Commodity and its Secret*, i.e., pp. 166:2–177:4 in *Capital*, 184–211 in the Annotations. Between Sep 20 and Sep 22, questions 296–330 are assigned. Everyone must have made two homework assignments before the first exam, this is your last opportunity to get one in, since the extra credit submissions do not count for this requirement.

**Day session Friday, Sep 23, 10:45 am** w5 Hans will discuss commodity fetishism. Hans will also give an overview of the whole first chapter, in preparation for the first exam. A typeset collection of all submitted answers to questions 6–330 and 955–959, called *Econ 5080 Questions and Answers, Installment 1*, will be available at the class home page <http://marx.economics.utah.edu/das-kapital/index.html>, and at the University Copy Center, 158 Union Building, hopefully in time for you to pick up at the beginning of class on Sep 23. You need this in order to prepare for the first Exam.

*Fri Sep 23–Mon Sep 26, 6 pm* X1 In preparation of the exam on Tuesday, Sep 27 or Friday, Sep 30, you should work through the collection of questions and answers called *Econ 5080 Questions and Answers, Installment 1*, and try to clarify any issues left unresolved in the

Again: do not forget to resubmit your exam answers; you have to resubmit them even if you don't wish to change them. Members of the *first* shift must make at least one contribution to the free discussion (Question 888) between Monday, Sep 12 and Sunday, Oct 2.

**Evening session Tuesday, Oct 4, 6 pm W6** What is wrong with private property?

*The Oct 4–Thu Oct 6 w7* Read section 3.1 of *chapter 3: Money*, pp. 188:1–198:1 in *Capital*, 240–268 in the Annotations. Between Oct 4 and Oct 6, questions **395–426** are assigned. Those who want to write their term papers at the earliest possible time may submit an essay comparing chapters 1 and 2 in *Capital* with chapter 1 in Marx's 1859 *Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy*, pp. 269–302. This is volume 29 of the Marx Engels Collected Works, available on reserve and also in the Marxists Internet Archive, or as a pdf-file with Hans's very preliminary Annotations in the collection of pdf files to be downloaded from the class home page. Use question number **957** for this term paper. This particular term paper is recommended only for those who already have good knowledge of Marx. On Wednesday, Oct 5, 3 am, all *exam resubmissions* will be published on the www. If you make your resubmission after this, there will be a grade penalty, and you are expected to use the other resubmissions and Hans's comments in order to correct any mistakes you may have made in your in-class answer.

**Day session Friday, Oct 7, 10:45 am w7** The function of money as measure of value—its most important function, which is often overlooked by neoclassical economists.

**Fall Break Monday Oct 10–Saturday Oct 15**

*Fri Oct 7–Mon Oct 17 w8* Read section 3.2.a in chapter Three: *Medium of Circulation: the Metamorphosis of the Commodity*, pp. 188–209:1 in *Capital*, 268–301 in the Annotations. Between Oct 7 and Oct 17, questions **427–463** are assigned. And discussions about the first term paper are invited. For the term paper discussion always use the question number of the term paper itself, i.e., use question number **957**. Term paper discussions should be written in such a way that they are useful for the writer of the term paper as well as for the other readers. Members of the *second* shift must make at least one contribution to the free discussion (Question 888) between Monday, Sep 19 and Sunday, Oct 16.

**Evening session Tuesday, Oct 18, 6 pm w8** The sale of a commodity is not a barter between that commodity and gold, but the value in that commodity changes its form from a particular use-value into the money form; it is that commodity's "salto mortale."

*The Oct 18–Thu Oct 20 w9* Read section 3.3 of *chapter 3: Money*, pp. 244:1–277:1 in *Capital*, 302–330 in the Annotations. Between Oct 18 and Oct 20, questions **472–495** are assigned. And you may submit a term paper discussing one of those two portions of chapter Three that were not assigned, i.e., either section 3.2.b, *The Flow of Money* (use question Number **465** for this), or section 3.2.c, *Coins and Symbols of Value* (question number **468**). You may also compare the discussions of money in *Capital* and *Contribution*, under question number **497**.

**Day session Friday, Oct 21, 10:45 am w9** Money, the independent form of value. Marx says here that money, although it is only the social representation of wealth, is considered more important than real wealth. Due to climate change, the hunt for symbolic wealth at the

class discussion. Hans would like you to do this publicly rather than privately, therefore he gives you the opportunity to earn a *riskfree extra-credit grade*: Take one of the questions assigned for the exam (i.e., it must either be printed in *Installment 1* or it must be labeled *Exam Question* in the Annotations) and submit a final answer to this question, which reflects all the email discussion about this question and draws the "right" conclusion from this discussion. You will receive a grade for this submission, which enters the computation of your homework average, but if it turns out that this grade hurts your overall grade for this class, Hans will not count it. In other words, you cannot lose! The purpose of this extra-credit homework is to resolve questions which *Installment 1* may have left unclear. If *Installment 1* already has a clearly recognizable correct answer, then a resubmission of this answer does not meet the criteria of the extra-credit assignment and its grade will therefore not be counted at all. The extra-credit grade does not count as one of your five obligatory homeworks, i.e., you still need to answer five ordinary homework questions in addition to it, and the extra credit submissions will not be counted for your deadlines involving regular homeworks. They must be truly additional work. This offer will be repeated for the second exam. If you submit more than one extra credit homework, the average grade will be taken. Submissions for the first exam must be made before Friday, Sep 23, 3 am, and Monday, Sep 26, 6 pm, which leaves 24 hours before the exam on Tuesday for Hans to respond and for others to read everything. Members of the *third* shift must have made their first contribution to the free discussion (Question 888) by the end of Sunday, Sep 25.

**Evening session Tuesday, Sep 27, 6 pm** First Exam for the evening class. If you are in the day class and want to take the exam already now, you are free to switch. If you are in the evening class and want to take the exam on Friday, you are free to switch, but if you switch now, you also have to switch in the second exam. Conversely, if you are in the day class and plan to switch in the second exam, you must switch now as well. Here is the logic behind this. The evening class takes the first exam before the day class, and the second exam after the day class. Hans does not want you to take both exams at the later of the two possible dates. Therefore Hans's computer will duck your second exam grade ten percent if you take the first exam in the day class and the second exam in the evening class. Every other combination is ok. Note that the deadline for term paper groups is approaching. Friday, Sep 30, the exam day for the day class, is the deadline for registering your term paper group as described on p. 778.

*Mon Sep 26, 6 pm–Thu Sep 29* Between Sep 27 and Sep 29, no homework questions will be accepted, but those who took the exam on Tuesday can already resubmit their exam answers, see p. 777 for more details. (These resubmissions will not be forwarded to others in the class.)

**Day session Friday, Sep 30, 10:45 am** First Exam for the day class. See comments made for Tuesday, Sep 27. Today is the deadline for registering your term paper group with Hans by emailing him the pseudonyms of all group members and the name of the group.

*Fri Sep 30–Mon Oct 3 w6* Read *chapter 2: The Exchange Process*, pp. 178–187 in *Capital*, 239 in the Annotations. Between Sep 30 and Oct 3, questions **333–392** are assigned.

rise of real wealth has become suicidal.

### **Last Day to Withdraw from Classes is Friday, Oct 21**

**Fri Oct 21–Mon Oct 24** w9 Read *chapter 4: The General Formula for Capital*, pp. 247–257 in *Capital*, 331–365 in the Annotations. Between Oct 21 and Oct 24, questions 499–543 are assigned. And discussion contributions to Term Papers 465, 468, or 497 are accepted, which should be submitted under the same question numbers as the term papers you are discussing. Members of the *third* shift must make at least one contribution to the free discussion (Question 888) between Monday, Sep 26 and Sunday, Oct 23.

**Evening session Tuesday, Oct 25, 6 pm** w9 *Capital*, the virus which subordinates social production to its own mindless drive for expansion.

**Tue Oct 25–Thu Oct 27** wa Read *chapter 5: Contradictions of the General Formula*, and *chapter 6: The Sale and Purchase of Labor-Power*, pp. 258–280 in *Capital*, 366–415 in the Annotations. Between Oct 25 and Oct 27, questions 544–614 are assigned. And you may submit a term paper about chapters Eight, question number 642, or Nine, question number 643.

**Day session Friday, Oct 28, 10:45 am** wa The origin of profits seems mysterious, even contradictory. Marx shows here that wage-labor is the source of profits and of all the apparent vitality of capital.

**Fri Oct 28–Mon Oct 31** wa Read *chapter 7: Labor Process and Valorization Process*, pp. 283–306 in *Capital*, 416–466 in the Annotations. Between Oct 28 and Oct 31, questions 616–641 are assigned, and discussions of the term papers 642 and 643 are invited; as always, use the question number of the term paper itself. Members of the *first* shift must make at least one contribution to the free discussion (Question 888) between Monday, Oct 3 and Sunday, Oct 30.

**Evening session Tuesday, Nov 1, 6 pm** wa How the profit motive transforms the labor process.

**The Nov 1–Thu Nov 3** wb Read *chapter 10: The Working Day*, first, second, and fifth sections, pp. 340:1–353:0 and 375–389:1 in *Capital*, pp. 467–496 in the Annotations. Between Nov 1 and Nov 3, questions 644–694 are assigned. You have to make at least two homework submissions between the first and second exam. If you haven't made a submission since the first exam yet, now is the time; the entry for Tuesday Sep 13–Thursday Sep 15 explains why. Term papers will be accepted about parts of chapter Ten which are not covered in the readings. Use question number 686 for this. You may also write an essay about term paper topic 687.

**Day session Friday, Nov 4, 10:45 am** wb Which economic laws determine the length of the working day?

**Fri Nov 4–Mon Nov 7** wb Read *chapter 12: The Concept of Relative Surplus-Value*, pp. 429–438 in *Capital*, 497–522 in the Annotations. Between Nov 4 and Nov 7, questions 697–720 are assigned. Besides, comments about term papers 686 and 687 are invited, as always use the same question number as the term paper discussed. Members of the *second* shift must make at least one contribution to the free discussion (Question 888) between

Monday, Oct 17 and Sunday, Nov 6.

**Evening session Tuesday, Nov 8, 6 pm** wb Capitalism's historic mission of expanding the productivity of human labor.

**The Nov 8–Thu Nov 10** wc Read *chapter 19: The Transformation of the Value of Labor-Power into the Wage of Labor*, pp. 675–682 in *Capital*, 523–552 in the Annotations. Between Nov 8 and Nov 10, questions 731–773 are assigned. Besides, term papers about chapters 11, 13 or 14 will be accepted, question numbers 722, 723 or 724, or the more general term paper 721.

**Day session Friday, Nov 11, 10:45 am** wc Why capitalist exploitation is “invisible”—and why “working more” is not a good strategy for getting rich.

**Fri Nov 11–Mon Nov 14** wc Read *chapters 20: Time Wages and 21: Piece Wages*, pp. 683:1–700:1 in *Capital*, 553–590 in the Annotations. Between Nov 11 and Nov 14, Questions 776–808 are assigned. Also, discussion about the term papers 721, 722, 723, and 724 are invited, use the same question number. Remember that every student must make two homework submissions between the first and second exam. This is your last opportunity to get one in, since the extra credit submissions do not count for this requirement. Members of the *third* shift must make at least one contribution to the free discussion (Question 888) between Monday, Oct 24 and Sunday, Nov 13.

**Evening session Tuesday, Nov 15, 6 pm** wc The tendency to decrease wages and extend the workday is built into the wage form. A typeset collection of all submitted answers to questions 333–808, called *Econ 5080 Questions and Answers, Installment 2*, will be available on the www and at the University Copy Center, 158 Union Building, hopefully in time for you to pick up at the beginning of class on Nov 15 (but note the Copy Center closes at 5:30 pm). This will be useful for preparing the second Exam.

**The Nov 15–Thu Nov 17, 10:45 am** x2 Between Tuesday and Thursday you have time to work through the Collection of Questions and Answers, in preparation of the second exam. This is the second opportunity to earn a riskfree extra-credit grade. Take one of the questions assigned for the exam (i.e., it must either be in *Installment 2* or it must be labeled *Exam Question* in the Study Guide) and submit a final “right” answer to this question which reflects your best thinking and all the email discussion about this question. You will receive a grade for your attempt, but if it turns out that this grade will hurt your overall grade for this class, Hans will not count it. This grade does not count as one of your five obligatory homeworks, i.e., you still need to answer five ordinary homework questions in addition to this. If you submit more than one extra credit homework, the average over both exams will be taken. Submissions must be made between Tuesday, Nov 15, 3 am and Thursday, Nov 17, 10:45 am.

**Day session Friday, Nov 18, 10:45 am** Second Exam for the day class. Remember, Hans does not want you to take both exams at the later of the two scheduled dates. If you took the first exam during the day then you must take the second exam already now. Otherwise you have a choice whether you want to take the second exam now or on Tuesday, Nov 22, 6 pm. **Thu Nov 17, 10:45 am–Mon Nov 21** Between Nov 18 and Nov 21, no homework questions

will be accepted. Those who took the exam on Friday can already resubmit their exam answers, see p. 777 for more details. (These resubmissions will not be forwarded to others in the class.) Members of the *first* shift must make at least one contribution to the free discussion (Question 888) between Monday, Oct 31 and Sunday, Nov 20.

**Evening session Tuesday, Nov 22, 6 pm** Second Exam for the evening class.

*Tue Nov 22–Mon Nov 28 We Read chapter 23: Simple Reproduction*, pp. 711–724:1 in *Capital*, 591–617 in the Annotations. Between Nov 22 and Nov 28, questions **810–837** are assigned. And you may submit a term paper about chapter 15 (either the whole chapter or some sections of it), question number **725**. Alternatively, you may choose chapters 16, 17, or 18, using question numbers **726, 727, or 728**. You may also answer question **707** as a term paper. Again: do not forget to resubmit the exam. Members of the *second* shift must make at least one contribution to the free discussion (Question 888) between Monday, Nov 7 and Sunday, Nov 27.

**Friday, Nov 25** No Class because of Thanksgiving Break

**Evening session Tuesday, Nov 29, 6 pm We** One can only see the truth of capitalist relations if one looks at it as an ongoing process. Instantaneous snapshots are misleading.

*Tue Nov 29–Thu Dec 1 We Read chapter 24: Transformation of Surplus-Value into Capital*, pp. 725–746:0 in *Capital*, 618–655 in the Annotations. Between Nov 29 and Dec 1, questions **843–865** are assigned. And discussions of term paper **707, 725, 726, 727, and 728** will be accepted, submit them under the same question number. All exam resubmissions go on the www on Wednesday, Nov 30, 3 am. If you submit your resubmission after this, there will be a grade penalty, and you are expected to use the other resubmissions and Hans's comments in order to correct any mistakes you may have made in your in-class answer.

**Day session Friday, Dec 2, 10:45 am We** Conversion of Surplus-Value into Capital.

*Fri Dec 2–Mon Dec 5 We Read chapter 25: The General Law of Capitalist Accumulation*, section 25.1, pp. 762–781:0 in *Capital*, 656–678 in the Annotations. Between Dec 2 and Dec 5, questions **866–892** are assigned. And term papers about chapters 26, 32, and 33 are accepted. Use the question numbers **838, 839, and 840**. You may also submit a term paper about the broader topics **841, 842, 949, or 461**, or one of the research topics **769, 782, or 894**. There is also the difficult methodological question **5**. This is the last opportunity to submit a term paper! Members of the *third* shift must make at least one contribution to the free discussion (Question 888) between Monday, Nov 14 and Sunday, Dec 4.

**Evening session Tuesday, Dec 6, 6 pm We** Those phases in capitalist growth in which demand for labor grows and wages rise.

*Tue Dec 6–Thu Dec 8 We Read chapter 25: The General Law of Capitalist Accumulation*, section 25.2–25.4, pp. 781:1–802:1 in *Capital*, 679–739 in the Annotations. Between Dec 6 and Dec 8, questions **895–953** are assigned. Discussions of term papers **5, 461, 782, 769, 838, 839, 840, 894, and 841, 842 or 949** are accepted as well. As always, use the same question number.

**Day session Friday, Dec 9, 10:45 am We** By replacing workers with machinery, capital creates unemployment and depresses wages. The working class is forced to build its

own economic prison. Unemployment and crises as systemic features of capitalism. This is the last day of the Semester. No homeworks, term papers, or exam resubmissions are accepted after Thursday, Dec 8.

### C.3. The Class Email List

Your first assignment at the beginning of the Semester is (1) to subscribe to the das-kapital mailing list, (2) to configure your subscription email account so that it sends plain text emails without attachments, and (3) to send a simple email message to that mailing list. Here are the details:

**(1) Mailing List Subscription** Visit the web site `http://marx.economics.utah.edu/mailman/listinfo/das-kapital` and subscribe your email address to the das-kapital mailing list. It does not have to be your email address, any email address will do. At the same time you must choose a pseudonym for yourself. It must consist of one word only, capitalized, only letters. Your pseudonym may not contain numbers, hyphens, or underscores etc.

**(2) Configure your Email Program** Modern email programs allow you to send html emails so that you can switch fonts and colors etc. This creates problems for mailing list archives. You must configure your emailer so that it sends plain text messages without attachments.

**(3) First Email** After this you must send an email to the mailing list `das-kapital@marx.economics.utah.edu` which has no attachments and where you tell the instructor Hans 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 pseudonym to be of male gender, and `::Q:999` if you want it to be female. Don't add anything else to this first line. If you want to give Hans permission to make your grades to be visible to others, you should say this in this email too. In response to this email you will get a report which assigns you to one of three "shifts" with staggered deadlines for your submissions to the free discussion, more about which below. In subsequent submissions of homework answers or free discussion pieces, there is no need to give your pseudonym or any of the other personal information. You also do not need to type the text of the question you are answering into the email. Instead, the first line of your email *must* for instance read `::Q:77` if you are answering question number 77. All these submission must be sent to `das-kapital@marx.economics.utah.edu`, and they will only be accepted if sent from an address subscribed to das-kapital.



**deadline** These three steps must be completed by your second class session, i.e., by Tuesday, Aug 30, 6 pm for those in the evening class, and Friday, Sep 2, 10:45 am for those in the day class. It is to your advantage to do them as soon as possible at the beginning of the Semester, for several reasons:

- After you have subscribed to the email list and successfully submitted your first homework answer, attendance at the in-class sessions (other than the third session) is voluntary.
- After you have subscribed to the email list, an account will be created for you at the interactive class web site <http://marx.economics.utah.edu:5080/PLone> in which you can see what is currently assigned, what your grades are, and where you can co-operate with others on your term papers.
- At the beginning, Hans's grading is more lenient than later on in the class.
- If you wait too long, you may miss some of the deadlines which ensure continuous participation.

## C.4. Homework Questions

The Semester is divided into 23 so-called homework periods, either lasting three days from Tuesday to Thursday, or four days from Friday to Monday. During each homework period, certain questions listed in the Annotations are assigned as graded homeworks. In at least five of these homework periods, you have to select one of these questions and submit answers thought-out and well formulated answer. Usually it is to your advantage to submit answers not in five but six homework periods, because if you do more than five, Hans will drop the homework period with the lowest grade when calculating the GPA for the homeworks. You can choose which assignments you want to do, but you need to meet the list of requirements beginning on p. 759.

In each homework assignment you will have a large number of questions to choose from. In your submission you must select *one* of the assigned questions and email a carefully thought-out and well-formulated answer to the class email address

`das-kaipital@marx.economics.utah.edu`

There are usually two homework assignment in each week. For the first assignment, submissions are accepted on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and they are discussed in class on Friday. For the second assignment, submission are accepted on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, and they are discussed in class on Tuesday. (You *don't* have to be enrolled in the Tuesday class to make submissions on Friday, Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. All homework periods are open to all class participants, regardless of the section.

## Timeliness of the submissions

In order to prevent a situation in which everybody sends his or her answers on the evening of the last day this homework is assigned, you are required to send the homework answers *on the average* one day prior to the deadline. For instance, 6 answers of which 3 are sent on Thursdays or Mondays (i.e., zero days before the deadline) and 3 on Tuesdays or Saturdays (i.e., two days before the deadline) are acceptable, or 2 on Thursdays or Mondays (i.e., zero days before the deadline) and 2 on Wednesdays or Thursdays (one day before the deadline) and 2 on Tuesdays or Saturdays (i.e., two days before the deadline), etc. In order to maintain equality between the assignments at the beginning of the week and those at the end, submissions on Fridays are counted as 2 days in advance instead of 3.

There is also an extra-credit assignment associated with the preparation for the exams. Details are given in the Schedule of Homeworks.

## CW Requirement

By attending Econ 5080 you are meeting the communications/writing requirement. Upon completion of such a writing-intensive course, the student should have:

- *Learned to speak and/or write critically.*

In Econ 5080, students not only learn to understand Marx's argumentation in *Capital*, but at the same acquire tools that enable them to better understand the society they live in. The capitalist system indoctrinates its population and generates proper capitalist biases—simply by *not* teaching some of the cognitive tools necessary to properly understand society. Econ 5080 tries to be an antidote to this. It gives the opportunity to question some very basic assumptions which permeate modern social sciences: methodological individualism or other forms of reductionism, the fact-value dichotomy, flat empirical realism rather than depth realism, de-totalization, and the failure to recognize contradictions. The student is confronted with these issues because Marx's text can only be understood if one makes oneself aware of these issues.

- *Used multiple forms of writing and communication.*

The main interaction in the course is written, by email, because the methodological issues addressed in the first point can be worked out better in a written rather than spoken communication. Besides the homework emails, the students also have to hand-write essay answers during the exams, and they co-operate in teams on the term papers for which they can use an interactive web site. Finally, they have the opportunity to discuss the issues in class, and they can also add comments to the web archives. There is emphasis on co-operation and team work. Students are not simply asked to deliver certain homework assignments to the instructor on an individual basis, but they are participating in a community of learning. They are asked to consider the impact

of their actions on others. Part of their grade reflects whether they behave as good citizens in that community.

- *Revised their work more than once, based on feedback.*

In this class, the students receive a lot of careful feedback. Some of the main issues of concern are not individual issues, but the students are trying to recognize and overcome an indoctrination which they all share. This is why the students receive in their email inboxes the homeworks of their peers as well as the feedback the instructor gives to their peers. Much of what their peers write is similar to what they themselves would have written, therefore they learn from the feedback given to their peers. The instructor Hans can justify the large amount of time spent on this feedback because this feedback is seen by more than one student and it lives on in the archives, which range back to 1995.

The participation in the homework mailing list is a continuous process of feedback and learning. However the students are not required to revise their work more than once based on the feedback they receive. It would be counterproductive to ask them to do this, since the issues are quite subtle, and it is easy to lose the broader perspectives if one concentrates too much on one answer or one specific situation.

The situation is different with the term papers. Before officially submitting their term papers to the homework mailing list, students have the opportunity to privately submit the papers to Hans and thus get one first round of feedback. Then, after the term papers are submitted to the class, they will receive feedback from other students to their term papers. The authors of the term papers are encouraged to use the peer feedback to their term papers in order to improve their grades. Their term papers are graded at the very end of the discussion, so that their responses to the feedback of their peers can be considered in their term paper grades. These responses to the term paper discussions can be considered a second round of revision of their original work.

- *Received direct instruction ("direct instruction" refers to codified discreet content presented formally to all students) in improving his or her writing and communicating.*

In the third week of the class a special in-class session is devoted to the stylistic requirements and technicalities of the email discussion, internet etiquette, how to prepare and edit an email submission, how to use the computer to check for typos etc. A simple yet excellent primer about this is [AH94], it is available on reserve in the library. The homework discussions, which can be found in the archives, also occasionally touch on the technical points of internet discussion. On issue which comes up often is how to fruitfully interact with your peers even if you are critical of them. In [1997WI:275] Hans said: "Being critical in a constructive manner, without a put-down, without nitpicking, and without the attempt to shine at the expense of others, is a skill worth learning." [2003fa:126] is an excellent example of peer feedback. Hans commented on it in [2003fa:133]. There are many other instances in the

archives, look at [1997ut:71] etc. Furthermore, in some cases when the writing style needed improvement, the original submission is visible on the web side-by-side with an edited version. See [2005fa:69] and [2005fa:119] as examples.

- *Received a final grade that is based, in large part, on their ability to communicate in writing or orally.*

The grades received by the students consist of two parts: a letter grade for the content of their work, and a percentage which may be less than 100 percent for the form of their work. For more details turn to p. 780 below.

- *Adapted his or her speaking and writing to different audiences, including those who are familiar and unfamiliar with their discipline.*

Students participate in two different email discussions, the homework submissions which are tightly regulated and moderated, and the free discussion, where they can develop their own discussions without interference from the instructor. The free discussion is sometimes heated, and one can clearly see that the discussion partners are using a different language than in the homework discussion.

- *Used technology to improve their writing and speaking.*

This class meets this criterion by focusing on the principal means of co-operation provided by modern Information Technology. For many years, email was the medium of choice for co-operation among scholars. In recent years, interactive web sites have started to provide an additional medium for co-operation at a distance. In recent Semesters, Hans has incorporated a phone-based interactive web site into the class, and this aspect of the class is under constant development.

In addition, this class will also teach you to

- detect classism, racism, or sexism in your own writing and that of others;
- overcome the subaltern mentality which the capitalist system inculcates into many of its citizens;
- make constructive and tactful critiques of the work of your peers;
- place your contributions in such a way that it furthers the general flow of the discussion.

You should therefore consider these homeworks as exercises in quality writing, collective learning, and good internet etiquette. A collection of web links about these issues is at <http://marx.economics.utah.edu/das-kapital/netiquette.html>. Your homeworks will not only be judged as individual pieces, but Hans will pay attention whether you are making efforts to enhance the overall quality of the discussion.

## Content and Writing Style of your Answers

Since all answers are forwarded to everyone, you will get a lot of e-mail. When writing your answers, always keep in mind that many others will be reading them. Be brief and to the point. Good answers need not be long, but they must be well thought out and carefully formulated. Take the time to review your message and to edit it if necessary. **If your message is hastily written with ill-formed sentences and typos, this will affect your grade.**

**Build on the Submissions of the Others** You are expected to read what others have written, so that your own contribution does not duplicate their work. If others have tried to answer the same or a similar study question as your own, your contribution must refer to these answers: criticize them, build on them, or say why you want to answer it in a completely different way. This interaction between the participants is an important aspect of the course. Do not ignore the other participants. If you do not read their contributions, you may get grades which have less than 100% weight, because you will not get credit for repeating things which were just said by others in their emailed contributions. However if your answer falls behind the answers of the others in the same semester, this will be reflected in your grade itself, not only in the weight assigned to your grade.

**Respond to what Others Write** At least *three* of your homework submissions or other class contributions must contain *detailed* responses to something others in the class have written, either in the current semester, or you may also refer to the submissions in the archives. This response can either be given in your own regular homework submissions, or there are other ways to do it which will be described shortly. If your submission contains a number in square brackets, this will automatically be converted into a link to the submission with that message number. These links are listed in your grade summaries and Hans will assign feedback points according to the relevance of these links.

You can also give feedback by filling out the web forms in the archived submissions. If you write a discussion piece about the submitted tempapers, this gives you feedback points plus a risk-less grade which will only be applied if it improves your GPA.

Marxian theory interprets capitalist society in a way which differs greatly from the views promoted in the newspapers or on TV. Due to these differences, Marx's intended meaning is easily misunderstood. If you catch and politely correct an error in someone else's homework submission, this will be rewarded in your grade. You should refer to the work of the others by their *message number* (not question number) and put this message number into square brackets. For instance, you may write: "Groucho's assertion in [175] that value depends on consumer tastes ignores the fact that you can always produce more of something if it is in high demand." You can even refer to submissions from earlier years; for this you should write "Unzufrieden's assertion in [2000fa:27] ..." etc. If you write this as text, the pdf and html versions of the archives will show it as a link (as demonstrated here). Your intervention also benefits the person to whom you respond: if you write in such a way that others are

moved to respond, this may make a difference for your grade in borderline situations.

**Use the Archives** The archives of the class discussions in prior years are included in the big zip file which every participant has to download from the [www](http://www). Many of the questions assigned this year were also discussed in prior years. Reading these archives may help you to write a more intelligent answer. Beware, the archives also have many wrong answers!

**Citations** If you quote books or other published sources in your answers, you are expected to give a citation; the same is valid if you quote answers from previous classes which are published on the web.

## Format of the Homeworks

All answers to the assigned Study Questions, exam resubmissions, term papers, etc., must be sent to

das-kapital@marx.economics.utah.edu

and *not* to any of Hans's personal email addresses. Class submissions sent or cc'd to Hans personally will be ignored. The submissions must not be sent by attachment, but as "flat" email messages.

Furthermore, the number of the Question which you are answering must be identified by the following "pseudo header" line at the beginning of your message before there is any other text:

```
:::q: (question number)
```

If your message does not start with this pseudoheader, or if you submit an answer to a question that is not presently assigned, or if you send it from an email address which is not registered for the class, an automated reply will be e-mailed to you, usually within minutes, with an explanation of your error. Then you must correct your error and re-submit the message. If you get an error message again, try again. Only if your message is forwarded to everyone in class, i.e., if you get it back in the form shown in Table C.3 below, will you get credit for it. It does not matter whose fault it is that the message did not make it: if it is not propagated to the class in the time period assigned for this Question, then you cannot get credit for it. **There will be absolutely no exceptions from this rule.** Unfortunately, this no-fault approach is the only practical way to conduct an email class. It is not as bad as it sounds. You always have several days to mail in your submission, the assignments are flexible enough that you can usually make up for a missed submission without a grade penalty, and even if you don't get a grade for it, you probably still have benefited from doing the assignment.

To: das-kapital@marx.economics.utah.edu  
 Subject: Abstract Drudgery

----- Message Text -----

::Q:159

Despite big differences between the labor of a carpenter, for

Table C.2.: Answer to Question 159; see also Table C.3

From: Groucho <das-kapital@marx.economics.utah.edu>

To: das-kapital@marx.economics.utah.edu

Subject: [208] Abstract Drudgery

::Q:159

159> What is abstract labor?

Despite big differences between the labor of a carpenter, for

Table C.3.: Message from Table C.2 Forwarded to Class

Do not copy the text of the Question into your submission; the computer inserts it automatically before forwarding it to everybody. An example submission is shown in Table C.2. Table C.3 shows what this submission looks like when it is sent to everyone in class.

A few hours or days after your homework has been submitted Hans will send you an email with the grade of your question. In some cases you may get a grade with a weight below 100%. This does not lower the grade; it simply means that you must submit additional answers to meet your minimum requirement. If the form of your submission is insufficient (grammar, typos, writing style), your grade may be penalized a certain percentage. This is, indeed, a lowering of your grade. A summary of all your grades will be available at the interactive web site or, if the interactive site is not implemented, Hans will email you your grade summaries on a regular basis or similar.

### Ungraded Study Questions

If you want to send a remark about a Study Question to the list for which you do *not* wish to receive a grade, include the two letters "ug" (as in "ungraded") in your : : Q: pseudoheader, for instance

: : Q: 159 ug

Answers to Questions which are labelled *Exam Question* in the Study Guide will also be graded as ungraded, because they are too easy.

### Subject Field

You should always carefully select an informative Subject: field in the header of your message. Many mail programs allow the user to access the messages by their subject fields, therefore this field is important to keep things organized. If the class as a whole gets too lax with the subject lines, Hans may revert to the rule, sometimes applied in the past, that anybody who does not supply a relevant header for his submission will get a 5% grade penalty.

### C.5. Feedback to Peer Submissions

Every class participant is required to give specific feedback to the homework submissions or term papers of his or her peers at least three times in the Semester. Giving detailed feedback is different than building on the other person's submission. You are always required to build on previous submissions in the same Semester. But if reading your comment would have enabled the author of the earlier submission to make his own submission better, or would have helped the reader to understand the earlier submission better, then you will get credit for peer feedback. More about this feedback requirement in Hans's comments to [2008SP:533]. There are several options how you can give this feedback:

- You can give this feedback in one of your regular homework submissions—this way the submission counts as homework and at the same time meets the feedback requirement.
- You can also give this feedback as a free discussion contribution under question number 888. Feedback to someone else's free discussion gets fewer participation points; feedback to a regular homework answer or a term paper is preferred. If you want to give this feedback after the assignment window for this homework or term paper discussion has closed, you can always submit it under question number 888. Besides giving you feedback credit this will also count as one of your free discussion contributions.
- You can give this feedback as a term paper discussion, see below in section C.8.
- Last but not least, you can give this feedback by filling in the feedback forms in the www archives. This is appropriate for shorter notes which will be attached to the original message in small print, rather than for a self-contained essay. Such web submissions will not get grades, but they count towards the requirement of three peer responses. They also allow the participant to talk back to Hans's grading comments, or to continue a discussion after the time interval in which this question was assigned. Such web submissions allow you to give feedback to contributions in past classes too while earning credit towards your requirement of three feedback contributions.

Feedback instances will get fractional participation points, a very thorough feedback will get one participation point.

## C.6. Interactive Web Site

Besides mailing lists, another modern tool for co-operation on the web are interactive Web Sites. Hans has tried several ways to integrate this into the class, but this aspect of the class may never be developed to Hans's satisfaction before his retirement. Perhaps it will even be dropped altogether. If the interactive web site is implemented, then every class participant will have an account at <http://marx.economics.utah.edu:5080/Plone>. This not only allows you to create free-form content, send emails to other class participants based on their pseudonyms, and work together with others on your term papers, but this web site also displays your grades to you. Your login id will be identical to your pseudonym in das-kapital, same capitalization, with the number 8 appended. For instance, Hans's login id is Hans8.

Hans is still experimenting how to make the interactive web site a good platform for class participants to communicate with each other, without violating their privacy.

## C.7. In-Class Exams

There will be two in-class exams, each 50 minutes long. The first exam can be taken either in the evening class on Tuesday, Sep 27, 6 pm, or in the day class on Friday, Sep 30, 10:45 am, and the second either on Friday, Nov 18, 10:45 am or Tuesday, Nov 22, 6 pm. You can choose between these alternate dates, but you are not allowed to take both exams on the later scheduled date. In other words, if you take the first exam in the day class on Friday, Sep 30 and the second exam in the evening class on Tuesday, Nov 22, Hans's computer will subtract a 10% penalty from your second exam grade. Every other combination is ok.

If you live so far away from the University of Utah main campus that you are unable to take your exams at the University of Utah, please email Hans at [ehrtbar@lists.econ.utah.edu](mailto:ehrtbar@lists.econ.utah.edu). Hans will work with you to make it possible for you to attend this class also from a distance.

These exams are closed book and closed notes. You must show that you understand Marx's basic arguments and that you have followed the e-mail discussion. For these exams you should prepare the questions discussed by email, and the questions labeled *Exam Question* in the Annotations. A printed collection of all e-mailed questions and answers is made available before each exam.

There is a difference between exam answers and homework answers. In the homework answers you are encouraged to do your own thinking in relation to the reading assignments, and creativity will be rewarded. In the exam you must show that you understand how a

Marxist would answer the question, and that you know how to benefit from the e-mail discussion. Many of the answers received on e-mail do not conform with Marx's theory, and often the collection of questions and answers will not contain one right answer, but several arguments and counterarguments. You are expected to work through these debates and make sense of them. If the collection of questions and answers contains materials which are relevant to your exam answer but which you ignore, this will count against you.

Each exam is 50 minutes long. Two of the questions you must answer are equal or similar to those in the Collection of questions and answers, and you should give a comprehensive answer which reflects all the discussion.

Two of the questions will be identical to the questions labeled *Exam Question* in the Annotations. They usually have one short answer that is right, everything else is wrong, and you should know which answers count as right.

Finally there will also be a few multiple-choice questions. They can be fairly difficult, but you can practice them on the class home page.

Come on time and bring your student ID card. A black ballpoint pen is recommended, since you will get a pair of "NCR" papers to make a copy as you are writing your exam. Blue books are not necessary.

## Exam Resubmissions

After the exam you must re-submit two of your answers by e-mail. In those resubmissions you may elaborate and develop your answer, and if you find errors in your original answer it will be to your advantage, grade-wise, if you point them out clearly instead of glossing over them. For all this you may use any help you consider necessary. You may revise and improve the answer you gave in class, if you want to—but be careful; it is also possible to make it worse! Hans will grade both the text you wrote in class and your resubmission, with weights 60% for the in-class answer and 40% for the resubmission. If your resubmission has the proper format, Hans's computer automatically sends you a confirmation message, but your answer will be propagated to the class only after the deadline for submissions has passed. Late resubmissions are accepted within limits, but there will be a grade penalty.

The exam resubmissions must have exactly the same form as the answers to the ordinary Study questions. You must use the question number given on the pre-printed form with the exam question. It is important that you use *a different email message for every exam question*. A resubmission which does not have the proper format will trigger an error email message and is equivalent, grade-wise, to no resubmission at all.

## C.8. Group Term Papers

Every participant must write an essay, together with a few others in class, explaining and discussing various aspects of one of the chapters in *Capital I* which are not otherwise covered in class. Just like the regular homeworks, these essays must be submitted by email.

Each essay can only be submitted at specific dates, which depend on the chapter covered. All submitted term papers will become visible in the archives at the end of the submission window. Full details are in the class schedule. Your term paper may be a concise "executive summary" of the chapter, or a more detailed paragraph-by-paragraph abstract of a part of the chapter, or perhaps a report about your personal reaction to the text, or you may address just one aspect of the content of the chapter.

If you submit your essay before the assigned submission window, but not earlier than 1 week prior to the final due date (which is the end of the term paper submission window), Hans will give you feedback and a preliminary grade. You have then a chance to resubmit it prior to the final due date, in which case the preliminary grade does not count—but Hans will watch for it how you have responded to the comments for your early submission.

In preparation of these term papers, you are required to find your term paper partners and to register your term paper group no later than the date of the first exam for the day class on Friday, Sep 30 (which is three days after the first exam for the evening class). In order to register your term paper group you have to decide on a name for your term paper group which has the same restrictions as the pseudonyms, i.e., it starts with a capital letter, consists of one word only, only letters, no numbers or special characters, and is at least two letters long. Then everybody in your term paper group must submit a message with question number : : q : 995 which has this term paper group name in the *subject* line. Otherwise the message should be empty. Those who send such a message before the deadline will get one participation point.

The following will be possible only if the interactive Plone site is implemented. After the term papers are registered, you will be able to send emails to everyone in your term paper group as follows: go to the interactive web site <http://marx.economics.utah.edu:5080/1> then click on the link "Send this page to specific users" and then click on the name of the term paper group (which will have a 8 appended just like the other pseudonyms.)

All authors of a given essay receive the same grade for the essay. Essays written alone, or essays written by a group that has not been registered, will not be accepted.

The term paper submissions look exactly like the submissions of answers to the homework questions, but they must carry the question numbers reserved for term papers as specified in the Schedule. Furthermore, this submission should have at the beginning the pseudonyms of those class participants who participated in writing this term paper. Normally, this is the entire term paper group, but sometimes some group members cannot be contacted. If their pseudonym is not listed at the beginning of the term paper submitted, they will not get credit for this term paper.

Late term papers will not be accepted. If there are special circumstances that make it impossible or very inconvenient for you to work with others in a group, discuss this with Hans *before* submitting your term paper; perhaps he will allow you to write your term paper

## Discussions of the Term Papers

Term papers can be submitted during one designated homework period, but they won't be forwarded to the class, and they won't be visible in the archives until after this submission window has closed. After the term papers are visible in the archives, others in class are invited to discuss these term papers. The term paper *discussions* are *not* group pieces but must be written individually. This is an opportunity for you to fulfill the requirement of three detailed interactions with somebody else's work. These term paper discussions will be graded, but these grades will only be counted as homework grades if they improve your overall grade. Each participant enrolled in Econ 6080 is required to submit at least one term paper discussion essay, for those in Econ 5080 it is optional.

The question number for the term paper discussion is the same as that of the term paper itself. A term paper discussion might draw attention to some aspects of Marx's text which were neglected in the term paper itself, or clarify things said in the term paper, or perhaps correct misunderstandings of Marx's text if there are any in the term paper. I.e., for the term paper discussion you should read not only the term paper itself but also Marx's text about which the term paper reported. The purpose of the term paper was to inform you about what Marx said in the assigned chapter, and the term paper discussions should check whether this purpose was met and add things that were missing or correct things that were wrong. Write something which is useful for the writer of the term paper as well as for the other readers.

## C.9. WWW-Support

The home page for the class on the web is <http://marx.economics.utah.edu/das-kapital.index.html>. The Class edition of the Annotations, together with Annotations of other works by Marx and Engels, and with transcripts of all previous class discussions since Winter 1995, is available as one big zip archive of interlinked pdf files <http://marx.economics.utah.edu/das-kapital/pdf/halfpage/ec5080.zip>. You should download this archive once at the beginning of the Semester and extract the contents of this archive to get a number of pdf files all in the same directory. The pdf version of the class materials is the file [akmk.pdf](#). It has the advantage over the printed version that all links are live. If you open the file [overview.pdf](#) with the Acrobat Reader, you will see descriptions of all the other files in the archive with links to them. (After extracting, you can of course delete [ec5080.zip](#) again.)

All homework submissions are emailed to you, and they are also instantly available at the archive of the class mailing list <http://marx.economics.utah.edu/pipermail/das-kapital/>. In addition, a much better structured web archive is available with a brief delay at <http://marx.economics.utah.edu/das-kapital/2011fa/message.html>. If you consider writing a submission you should definitely consult this archive so that you can see what others have already written.

In addition, it is strongly recommended that during the semester, you should periodically

Download <http://www.marx-economics.utah.edu/das-kapital/pdf/halpage/2011.pdf> into the same directory which has all the other pdf files from the zip archive. In this way you can take advantage of the cross links between all pdf files. If you click on the message numbers, you will be transported to the html archive.

### C.10. Grading

Since all your work will be on file, Hans will get to know you quite well, resulting in, it is hoped, helpful feedback and a fair grade. The grade will not be a gift; the class average will be comparable with other 5000 level Economics courses.

#### Grades for Homeworks, Exams, and Term Papers

Hans grades content and form separately. The content of your homework, exam, or term paper will get a letter grade, and the form will be a percentage to be applied to your numerical grade. For instance, if your letter grade is a B+, but the form percentage is 90%, then the numerical grade for this submission is not 3.3 but 90% of 3.3, which is 2.97.

The form involves spelling, grammar, general presentation, internet etiquette, sensitivity to group issues, etc. Furthermore, answers that are too short count as only half a homework submission or otherwise receive a weight less than 100%. This is more favorable for you than having the grade itself be reduced.

For instance, [2005fa:146] has the string (graded B+). The parentheses mean that it was really an ungraded question, i.e., it did not count towards the final grade, therefore the B+ was only given for informational purposes. [2005fa:56] has the string (content A - form 90%). Again, the message was ungraded; had it been graded, its grade point would have been 3.6 instead of 4.0. [2005fa:59] has the string graded B weight 50%. No parentheses, i.e., this grade actually counted. But the answer was so short that it only counted as half a homework submission.

New in 2011 and different from 2010: your final grade consists of three parts:

- Homeworks prior to the first midterm and first midterm grade: 45%
- Homeworks after to the first midterm and second midterm grade: 45%
- Term paper and term paper discussions: 10%

Each of the 45% portions of the grade is split up as follows: Two-thirds of this is homeworks, and one-third is exam. Homeworks means: you must submit at least 3 homeworks before the first exam, and 3 homeworks after the first exam. If you submit 4 homeworks, then the lowest grade is dropped. If you submit more than 4 homeworks, then the lowest grade is dropped and an average is taken of the others. If you participate in the extra-credit promotion in the preparation of the exams, the grade average for the extra credit answers

will be combined with the homework grades if this improves your grade, otherwise it will be ignored. But such extra-credit submissions cannot replace missed homework submissions. Regarding the term papers, each member of the term paper group receives the same grade. If you write a term paper discussion of somebody else's term paper the grade for this discussion will be counted only if it improves your term paper grade.

#### Participation Points

There are numerous deadlines etc. which measure your participation level and are designed to foster a smooth discussion. Your compliance with these requirements affects your grade. According to the principle of a million little nudges Hans has introduced 33 possible "participation points" or, in short, "ppoints":

- If you make two or more regular homeworks before the first midterm you earn 2 ppoints.
- If you make two or more regular homeworks between the first and second midterm you earn 2 ppoints.
- If you have made four or more regular homeworks between the beginning of classes and the second midterm you get a bonus of 4 additional ppoints.
- If you make one or more free discussion contribution in one of the three-week deadline periods you earn 2 ppoints, to a maximum of 8, i.e., the makeup period won't give you extra points if you have submissions in all the others.
- If you send in your 998 or 999 message in the first two weeks of classes you earn 1 ppoint.
- If you send in your 995 message registering your term paper group no later than the day of the first exam you earn 1 ppoint.
- For each specific reference to the work of others you can earn up to 1 ppoint (and if your feedback is exceptionally detailed and helpful it may even be 2 ppoints), to a maximum of 6.
- If your homeworks are on average one day or more before the deadline, you earn 5 ppoints, and proportionally less if your average is lower.
- If you attend classes on the mandatory class day you earn 3 ppoints.

This gives 32 possible points total. If you miss some of those, you can make up for them by attending class. For each class attendance on one of the voluntary class days you earn 1 additional ppoint. Hans will take attendance records so that you can get participation points for attendance. Furthermore, up to 8 ppoints are automatically forgiven. Hans hopes

this gives enough room for human error so that you don't have to lose sleep over specific deadlines, and gives you choice where you want to focus your participation in class. But if you end up with fewer than 25 points, then your final grade GPA will be reduced by one percent for each point you are below 25. Hans will report your total number of points along with your grades.

At the end of the Semester, Hans will review all your submissions. He may adjust the grade given from the above mathematical formulas according to the general quality of your submissions and of your participation in class and your contribution to the experience of others in the class.

Hans will not grade the contents of your free discussion contributions, because the discussion will be more interesting if you discuss the issues as *you* see them, without having to please the instructor.

## C.11. Observers

After Fall 2011, Hans hopes to teach this class again in the Fall Semester 2012. Hans is on phased retirement and must retire after the 2014/15 academic year, and he hopes to be teach in this class every Fall Semester during this time. Anybody who was enrolled once is welcome to enroll in the class email list of future classes and participate to any degree they wish. Since Hans has your student id on file, there is no problem with your subscription, you don't have to ask permission or even notify Hans. Each class also has a few outside observers, who were never enrolled and don't take it for credit. Their contributions often broaden the discussion.

## C.12. Teaching Philosophy for Econ 5080

From here on, the syllabus no longer gives additional rules but it is more a comment on the class.

### Marx's Method

Econ 5080 is a close reading of Marx's *Capital: A Critique of Political Economy*. Marx does not only criticize economics, but also the economy itself. He tries to show that capitalism, an ensemble of social relations organizing the production and distribution of goods and services, does not permit full human flourishing and emancipation. His main line of critique is not unequal income distribution or child labor, although he brings shocking examples of both, but capitalism is an obstacle to human emancipation because capitalist social relations project to the members of society a misleading image of their own social relations. As a consequence, modern humans are masters of nature but slaves of their own social relations.

In Marx's critique, facts and values are not kept separate. For Marx, to understand capitalism means to know both its historical contribution towards the development of labor productivity, and its inherent inability to allow full human emancipation—and it does not depend on the point of view of the observer that this is a bad thing. This direct tie between facts and values also gives a much stronger connection between theory and practice than can be found in modern science. Marx does not stop at interpreting the world but the same science which interprets the world also tells him that the world must be changed.

### Teaching Marx

When I teach such a practically engaged theory, it would be incongruous if I were to distance myself and describe it to the students in a value-free manner, asking the students themselves to decide about the merits of the argument, without being influenced by the professor's personal preferences. Rather I engage the class participants in a debate. I tell them that they will hear Marxism from the horse's mouth because I am a Marxist. Although I will try to argue from a Marxist point of view, I do not expect them to suddenly become Marxists themselves. Instead, I expect them to make their best argument about the issues Marx is talking about. And even if they do not adopt Marx's explanations, I promise them that acquaintance with Marx's arguments will broaden their horizons and benefit their own thinking and theory building.

This debate-style of teaching fits together well with Marx's critique, in *Capital*, of the false and misleading surface appearances of the capitalist social relations. For instance, the sale of labor, which seems an equitable and voluntary transaction, is according to Marx's theory the misleading surface appearance of a one-sided exploitative relationship. By asking whether this explanation makes sense for their own situation, class participants can try out whether Marx's theory fits together with their own practical experience.

The main interaction in the course is written (email), because the criticisms just described can be worked out better in written rather than spoken communication, giving people time to reflect on what they are writing. It is a collective learning process; participants learn from each others' mistakes because everybody is conditioned to make the same mistakes. I am spending a lot of time on my responses to the students individually, but I can justify this because everybody learns from my feedback. Everyone's original contributions and my responses are available to everyone—with the participant's privacy protected by a pseudonym. These interchanges remain accessible also in future Semesters; students can browse the class discussions back to 1995, and they do take advantage of this.

Class participants are also encouraged to respond to each other. Those who do not do their readings become the unwitting study material for those who do, because they demonstrate the difference between a naïve understanding of capitalist society, guided by the misleading surface appearances which Marx extensively discusses in *Capital*, and Marx's alternative, depth-realist interpretation. Therefore some of my responses are sophisticated interpretations of Marx's text, while others are simple examples how a Marxist would explain to a