Instructor: Minqi Li, Associate Professor
Office: OSH 365
Office Hours: Tu/Th, 12:30-1:30pm
E-mail: minqi.li@economics.utah.edu
Webpage: http://content.csbs.utah.edu/~mli/

Course Content / Description
The course applies Marxian, Ecological, and World System approaches to the study of the capitalist world system. It focuses on the structural contradictions of historical capitalism and evaluates possibilities of social transformation in the 21st century.

Course Objectives
Students will study and apply the following basic theoretical approaches/concepts: historical materialism, the endless accumulation of capital, core/periphery/semi-periphery, capitalist accumulation and crisis, long waves, hegemonic cycles, ecological limits to growth, socialism and communism.

Textbooks:

Teaching and Learning Methods
This course uses lectures, class discussions/presentations, exams, and term paper

Course Requirements and Grading:
Attendance: 10%
Presentation: 20%
Term Paper: 30%
Final Exam: 40%

Presentation: each student is required to make two in-class presentations on the reading topics (see the section on “Reading Topics”).

Term paper: each student is required to complete a 15-20 page, double-spaced paper that applies Marxist, post-Keynesian, Ecological, or World System theories to study the historical dynamics/structural contradictions of a capitalist economy chosen by the student.

The paper is due in the last class (April 22).
April 22
April 15 and 17
Week 15
April 8 and 10
Week 14
April 1 and 3
Week 13
March 25 and 27
Week 12
March 18 and 20
Week 11
March 9 to March 16
Week 10
March 4 and 6
Week 9
February 25 and 27
Week 8
February 18 and 20
Week 7
February 11 and 13
Week 6
February 4 and 6
Week 5
January 28 and 30
Week 4
January 21 and 23
Week 3
January 14 and 16

Review
Randles and Walliser
Does Capitalism Have a Future?
Pollin and Hembree
The End of Growth?
Sharma's Critique of Neoclassical Theory
Seligman and Robinson
Critical Economies
Hunt, Chapter 15
John Maynard Keynes
Spring Break
Review and Midterm Exam
Huyck and Friedman
In Defense of the Free Market
Hunt, Chapter 10 and 11
Neoclassical Economies
Hunt, Chapter 9
Karl Marx
Hunt, Chapter 6 and 8
Liberation
Hunt, Chapter 4 and 5
Mutius and Ricardian (continue)
Hunt, Chapter 4 and 5
Mutius and Ricardian