

College Seminar 23101/06  
Fall 2009

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Office Hours:  
M, W 3:00-4:00  
and by appt.

## Money

### College Seminar

The College Seminar is a unique one-semester course experience shared by all sophomores majoring in the College of Arts and Letters. The course offers students an introduction to the diversity and distinctive focus of Arts and Letters at the University of Notre Dame. Specific sections of the College Seminar vary in their topics and texts, but all feature an interdisciplinary approach, commitment to engaging important questions, employment of major works, and emphasis on the development of oral skills.

### Attendance and Participation

Given the oral-intensive nature of the course, and given that the majority of the grade you will receive will reflect your ability to communicate your thoughts clearly and effectively, it is **imperative** that you attend every class meeting. While an excellent attendance record will be rewarded, any unexcused absences (without documentation from your coach, your band director, your doctor, etc.) will affect your grade negatively. This attendance policy includes days before and after holidays and vacations. You should inform me in advance of unavoidable absences. Although missing class is never recommended, departmental policy allows 3 absences without penalty (Keep them for emergencies only!) For every unexcused absence after the third your final grade will be lowered one step (e.g. A to A-, B+ to B, B- to C+).

### Homework and Assignments

In order for the class discussions to be fruitful and well-grounded, we will be reading a substantial amount throughout the course of the semester. It is therefore **extremely important** that you come to class prepared: i.e. that you have read the **entire** assignment for class that day, if possible made notes or the like, and thought about the text before class. And given the pace of the semester, it is likewise **crucial** that you keep up with the reading; falling behind will only add to the reading burden and make it difficult, if not possible, to catch up.

In addition, there will be an **Oral Presentation** once a week by each participant of the class on the topic of that week or day. The precise nature of the topic of the presentation is to be determined in advance in consultation with me. The presentation can be given extemporaneously or

from a written text (former preferred), but should be no longer than 15-20 minutes in length. The presentation will be followed by a short discussion of it by the class.

There will also be a short paper and a written final exam.

### **Honor Code**

Throughout all course activities, including written assignments, quizzes, and exams, the Honor Code is in effect: all of this work has to be your own and not anyone else's. To familiarize yourself with the Honor Code, please read the pertinent chapter in *Du Lac* (beginning on p. a-33): particularly section IV, entitled "Student Responsibilities under the Academic Code of Honor," points A through D; or visit [http://www.nd.edu/~hnrcode/IV-Student\\_Resp.htm](http://www.nd.edu/~hnrcode/IV-Student_Resp.htm). If secondary sources are used for any assignments, these sources should be listed in a bibliography at the assignment's end, and any quoted material should be placed in quotation marks and clearly attributed in a footnote. Plagiarism (i.e., any written work presented as entirely your own and original to the particular assignment that is *not*, in fact, entirely your own and/or original to the particular assignment) is a serious matter. If you have questions about this policy and how it applies to your work for our course, and if you are in doubt about the legitimacy of your activities with respect to this course, please don't hesitate to ask me—before any problems can arise.

### **Required Texts**

Niall Ferguson, *The Ascent of Money*  
Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*  
Honoré de Balzac, *Père Goriot*  
Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *Manifesto of the Communist Party*  
John Maynard Keynes, *The Economic Consequences of the Peace*  
John Kenneth Galbraith, *Money: Whence it came, where it went*  
Margaret Atwood, *Payback*

There will also be a showing of films by Oliver Stone, *Wall Street*

### **Requirements and Evaluation:**

Attendance, Class Participation	45 %
Oral Presentation	25 %
One Short Essay	10 %
Final Exam	20 %

### **Contacting and Meeting with Professor Norton:**

During office hours, I will be in my office in O'Shaughnessy 318, ready to discuss course issues or anything else. If you can't make my office hours, contact me after class or by e-mail; we can then either solve the issue right

there or set up a time to meet. E-mail (Norton.15@nd.edu) is a good way to get in touch with me to ask specific questions.

### Week One

**Wednesday**

**Aug. 26**

Introduction

Assignment:

Niall Ferguson, *Ascent of Money*,  
Introduction and Chapter 1

### Week Two

**Monday**

**Aug. 31**

Money and the Origins of Banking

Assignment:

Niall Ferguson, *Ascent of Money*,  
Chapter 2

**Wednesday**

**Sept. 2**

“Of Human Bondage”

Assignment:

Niall Ferguson, *Ascent of Money*,  
Chapter 3

### Week Three

**Monday**

**Sept. 7**

“Blowing Bubbles”

Assignment:

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*,  
Book I, Chapters I-VII (pp. 7-71).

**Wednesday**

**Sept. 9**

Labor and Commodities

Assignment:

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*,  
Book I, Chapters VIII-X (pp. 72-160).

### Week Four

**Monday**

**Sept. 14**

Stocks

Assignment:

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*,  
Book II, Chapters I-III (pp. 291-371).

**Wednesday**

**Sept. 16**

More Stocks

Assignment:

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*,  
Book IV, Intro and Chapters I-II (pp.  
447-524).

### Week Five

**Monday**

**Sept. 21**

Political Economy

Assignment:

Honoré de Balzac, *Père Goriot*,  
Introduction and to p. 90.

**Wednesday**

**Sept. 23**

Old Goriot

Assignment:

Honoré de Balzac, *Père Goriot*, pp. 90-  
191.

### Week Six

**Monday**

Balzac, Writing and Money

Sept. 28 Assignment: Honoré de Balzac, *Père Goriot*, to end.

Wednesday Wages of Sin  
Sept. 30 Assignment: Karl Marx, Friedrich Engels, *Communist Manifesto*

### Week Seven

Monday Workers of the World Unite!  
Oct. 5 Assignment: Georg Simmel, "The Philosophy of Money"

Wednesday **CLASS CANCELLED**  
Oct. 7 Assignment: Georg Simmel, "The Philosophy of Money"

### Week Eight

Monday Simmel and the Sociology of Money  
Oct. 12 Assignment: John Maynard Keynes, *The Economic Consequences of the Peace*, Introduction and Chapters I-III, pp. ix-55.

Wednesday Europe and the First World War  
Oct. 14 Assignment: Keynes, *The Economic Consequences*, Chap. IV, pp. 56-112.

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### Mid-Term Break

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### Week Nine

Monday Versailles  
Oct. 26 Assignment: Keynes, *The Economic Consequences*, Chap. V, 113-225.

Wednesday The "Peace"  
Oct. 28 Assignment: Keynes, *The Economic Consequences*, to end.

### Week Ten

Monday The Consequences  
Nov. 2 Assignment: John Kenneth Galbraith, *Money: Whence it came, where it went*, Chapters I-VI, pp. 1-67.

Wednesday The Origins of Today

Nov. 4 Assignment: Galbraith, *Money*, Chaps. VII-XI, pp. 68-145.

**Week Eleven**

Monday Rise and Fall  
Nov. 9 Assignment: Galbraith, *Money*, Chaps. XII-XV, pp. 146-215.

Wednesday And Fall again  
Nov. 11 Assignment: Galbraith, *Money*, Chaps. XVI-XX, pp. 216-301.

**Week Twelve**

Monday The Disappearance of Money  
Nov. 16 Assignment: Ferguson, *Ascent of Money*, Chapter 4, "The Return of Risk," pp. 176-229

Wednesday Risky Business  
Nov. 18 Assignment: Ferguson, *Ascent of Money*, Chapter 5, "As Safe as Houses," pp. 230-282.

**Week Thirteen**

Monday A Roof over ones Head  
Nov. 23 Assignment: Ferguson, *Ascent of Money*, Chapter 6, "From Empire to Chimerica" and Afterword, pp. 283 to end.

**Week Fourteen**

Monday Poof!  
Nov. 30 Assignment: Watch *Wall Street*

Wednesday Greed is Good  
Dec. 2 Assignment: Margaret Atwood, *Payback*, "Ancient Balances" and "Debt and Sin", pp. 1-80.

**Week Fifteen**

Monday Debt is Bad  
Dec. 7 Assignment: Atwood, *Payback*, "Debt as Plot", pp. 81-122.

Wednesday Money and Memory  
Dec. 9