CU71012A **Cultural Studies & Capitalism – 30 CATS**
Course Leader: **Prof John Hutnyk**
Term: **Spring (an option course)**
Time: **Tuesday 5 – 7 pm Lecture)**
Lecture/ Room: **RHB 309**
Assessment: **One essay (5000 words)**

Course description

Lecture course Spring 2012

This course involves a close reading of Karl Marx's Capital (Volume One). The connections between cultural studies and critiques of capitalism are considered in an interdisciplinary context (cinema studies, anthropology, musicology, international relations, and philosophy) which reaches from Marx through to Film Studies, from ethnographic approaches to Heidegger, from anarchism and surrealism to German critical theory and poststructuralism/post-colonialism/post-early-for-christmas. Topics covered include: alienation, commodification, production, technology, education, subsumption, anti-imperialism, anti-war movement and complicity. Using a series of illustrative films (documentary and fiction) and key theoretical texts (read alongside the text of Capital), we examine contemporary capitalism as it shifts, changes, lurches through its very late 20th and early 21st century manifestations – we will look at how cultural studies copes with (or does not cope with) class struggle, anti-colonialism, new subjectivities, cultural politics, media, virtual and corporate worlds.

Indicative reading:

The main reading will be the relevant chapter or chapters of Capital each week. Do also read the footnotes, they are sometimes quite entertaining (attacks on 'moneybags', comments on Shakespeare, notes on bamboo 'thrashings', and celebrations of the work of Leonard Horner, factory inspector).
K Marx, Capital: Volume One (Penguin or Progress Press)

T Adorno, Minima Moralia

G Bataille, The Accursed Share

Marx and Engels, The Communist Manifesto

F. Jameson, Representing Capital: A Reading of Volume One

S Lotringer (ed), Hatred of Capitalism: A Reader

G Spivak, A Critique of Postcolonial Reason

M. Taussig, My Cocaine Museum