**MAKING MONEY**

General Education / HIST 1180 6.0

Fall-Winter 2020-2021

**Professor David Koffman**

**What You Will Learn**:

How and why do we humans make money *meaningful*?  This course examines money, the "stuff" with which all of us are preoccupied, but about which few have spent much time thinking critically. As an introduction to one of the core substances of human life, the course conveys the powerful and mind-bending notion that money is not a single “thing” but a construct that changes enormously over time, across cultures, and, most importantly, on account of the questions we ask about it. “Making Money” explores a set of issues, problems, and themes from the dawn of human life to the digital age, including the tensions between risk & reward, freedom & security, individuals & systems, power & value. *It is* ***not*** *a “how-to” class on acquiring more wealth.*

**How You Will Learn:**

As a General Education credit, this course aims to develop some of the skills that are necessary for successful undergraduate careers: critical thinking, engaged reading, and polished writing. No calculators or calculations will be required. The yearlong course is divided into 12 x two-week-long units, each of which asks a deceptively simple question. In order to answer these questions, the course draws on readings from a variety of print media and scholarly fields, as well as film clips, music lyrics, sources from far and wide, past and present.

Most two-week-long units include:

* A broad, introductory lecture on the theme by the course instructor
* A second, more specialized lecture on the same theme by a guest professor
* Two readings, closely related to the themes of the lectures
* Two asynchronous tutorial sections, run by TAs and designed to help students work through the content of the lectures and readings, and to practice essential academic skills.

**Mode of Delivery**:

This course will be offered remotely and asynchronously. Weekly opportunities for optional synchronous video-conferencing with the instructor and TAs will be available during scheduled class times.

* Recorded Lectures will be posted to the course Moodle site on Fridays at noon in the week ahead of scheduled class times.
* Lecture notes will be posted to the course Moodle site along with the lectures.
* All of the readings for this course will be available, for free, through the York University Library website or online. Links will be provided on the course Moodle site.
* Assignments will be submitted, graded, and returned electronically.
* Quizzes and Skill-Builders will be taken on directly on the course Moodle site.

**Tentative Assessment Scheme:**

**Fall Term:**

1. Childhood Memories of Money 10% Due late September
2. Find + Analyze an Image About Money 10% Due: late October
3. Responses to Readings and Lectures 8% Due: 8 out of 12 weeks
4. Skill Builders 5% Due: 5 of 6; 1st tutorial of unit
5. Fall Term Quizzes 12% Due: 2nd tutorial of each unit

**Winter Term:**

1. One Unit, In-Depth 10% Due: late January
2. Create a Unit 10% Due: late February
3. Revise One Prior Assignment 10% Due: late March
4. Responses to Readings and Lectures 8% Due: 8 out of 12 weeks
5. Skill Builders 5% Due: 5 of 6; 1st tutorial of unit
6. Winter Term Quizzes 12% Due: 2nd tutorial of each unit

+ bonus points available to be earned

**Tentative Schedule of Topics:**

UNIT 1: Do I Make Money or Does Money Make Me? (Psychology)

UNIT 2: Why did Money Begin? (Anthropology)

UNIT 3: Is an Old Coin a Telescope? (Classics)

UNIT 4: Does God Hate Money? (Religious studies)

UNIT 5: What’s Your Pain Worth? (Law)

UNIT 6: How, Exactly, is Money on my Mind? (Neuropsychology)

UNIT 7: When did Time Become Money? (History)

UNIT 8: Is There Democracy without Capitalism? (Political science)

UNIT 9: More Money, More Happiness? (Philosophy)

UNIT 10: What Can’t Money Buy? (Sociology)

UNIT 11: How Beautiful is Money? (Art history)

UNIT 12: Is Digital Money Safe? (Communications)