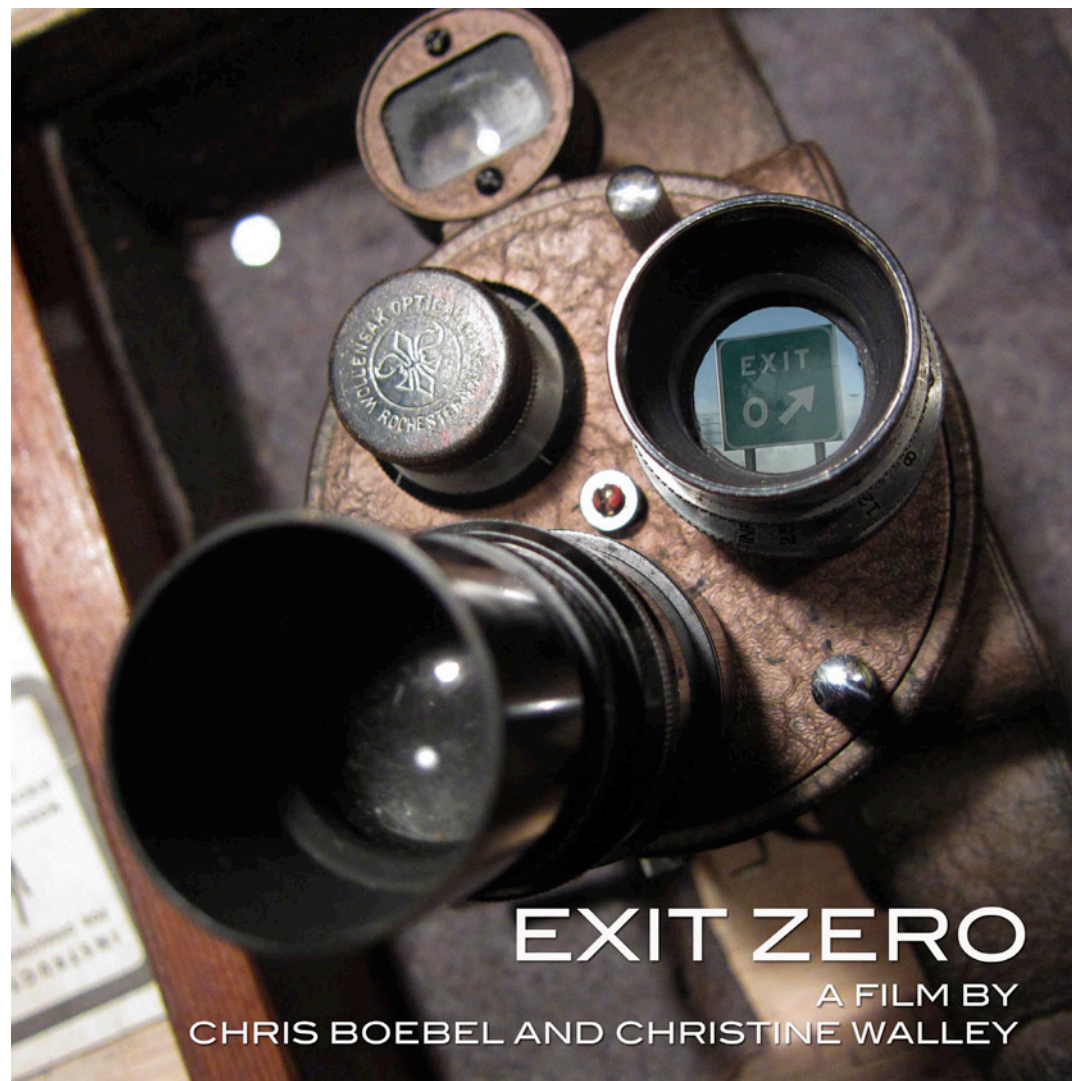


What is Capitalism? 21A.461

Prof. Chris Walley, Fall 2021



Walley, Christine J. *Exit Zero: Family and Class in Postindustrial Chicago*. University of Chicago Press, 2013. © University of Chicago Press. All rights reserved. This content is excluded from our Creative Commons license. For more information, see <https://ocw.mit.edu/help/faq-fair-use/>.



EXIT ZERO
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How my anthropological research relates to the topic of “What is Capitalism?”

KEY ORIENTATIONS OF “WHAT IS CAPITALISM?” CLASS:

- 1) Need to think about “economics” in more expansive way; referencing back to older models of *political economy* (while bringing in social, cultural and environmental)
- 2) Thinking about the evidence for our views – how do we judge what is good information or knowledge? How do our media ecologies shape our views? How can we think more critically and in-depth through our discussions and debates with each other?
- 3) This is an exploration of capitalism so the “?” is key! It’s an exploration in two senses – taking a larger big picture frame focuses on ideas and understandings of capitalism and then honing in on how capitalism plays out for people in their everyday lives

CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:

-short paper on theories about capitalism

-short paper on ethnographies of capitalism

-final 10 page research paper (to be revised) on topic of your choice

What is Anthropology? What is Ethnography?

Doing Anthropology (8 minute video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BhCruPBvSjQ>

MIT OpenCourseWare
<https://ocw.mit.edu>

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