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Colleen Dunlavy  
Professor

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Curriculum Vitae: [View PDF](#)

Office Hours: Mondays 1:00 - 3:00

Education: PhD: Massachusetts Institute of Technology; MA: BA: University of California - Berkeley

Bio Sketch:

My interests center on what I have come to think of as the history of capitalism -- an amalgam of business history, the history of technology, labor history, legal history, and political economy, with healthy doses of (quantitative) economic, social, and cultural history. At heart, I am a comparativist with special interests in the U.S. and Europe (especially Germany) in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

A key theme motivating my research, writing, and teaching is the relationship between political and economic change -- in particular, understanding the manifold ways in which politics, broadly construed, has shaped economic change. Under the rubric of "politics," I include not only policymaking (regulation and promotion) but also the (largely overlooked) effects on capitalist activity of the overall structure of political institutions.

My current research interests include: the history of shareholder voting rights in the U.S., Britain, France, and Germany in the nineteenth century; the history of "economic history" since the turn of the twentieth century; the history of chain stores in the U.S. and Germany, 1870s-1930s; and the standardization movement in the U.S. and internationally in the 1920s.

Selected Publications:

- With Thomas Welskopp. "Peculiarities and Myths: Comparing U.S. and German Capitalism." German Historical Institute *Bulletin* no. 41 (Fall 2007): 33-64.
- "Social Conceptions of the Corporation: Insights from the History of Shareholder Voting Rights." *Washington and Lee Law Review*, vol. 63, no. 4 (2006): 1347-1388. Reprinted in *Rivista delle società*, nr. 2/2007 March-April.
- "Why Did Some American Businesses Get So Big?" In *Major Problems in American Business History*. Edited by Regina Blaszczyk and Philip Scranton. New York: Houghton-Mifflin, 2006. pp. 257-263.
- "From Citizens to Plutocrats: 19th-Century Shareholder Voting Rights and Theories of the Corporation." In *Constructing Corporate America: History, Politics, Culture*, eds. Kenneth Lipartito and David Sicilia. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004. Pp. 66-93.
- Politics and Industrialization: Early Railroads in the United States and Prussia. Princeton Studies in American Politics: Historical, International, and Comparative Perspectives, edited by Ira Katznelson, Marin Shefter, and Theda Skocpol. Princeton Studies in Business and Technology, edited by David Hounshell. Princeton: Princeton University Press. 1994

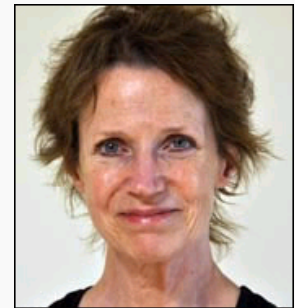
Courses Taught:

Lecture Courses:

- History 109 - History of American Capitalism - [Syllabus 2013 \(pdf\)](#)
- History 247 - American Business History - [Syllabus 2013 \(pdf\)](#)
- History 411 - History of American Tehnology
- History 537 - Theories of History

Undergraduate Seminars:

- History 500 - Reading Seminar in History - Topics: "History Politics of Capialism - The Corporation"



- History 600 - Advanced Seminar in History - Topics: "American Capitalism" [Syllabus 2009 \(pdf\)](#); "Corporations in American History" [Syllabus 2007 \(pdf\)](#); "Globalization" [Syllabus 2013 \(pdf\)](#)
- History 680/690 - Honors Thesis Colloquium [Syllabus 2010 \(pdf\)](#)

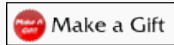
Graduate Courses:

- History 703 - History and Theory
- History 753 - Seminar—Comparative World History - Topics: "The Industrial Powers, 1860s-1910s"
- History 822 - Studies in Economic History - Topics: "History Politics of Capitalism - The Corporation"
- History 900 - Intro to History for U.S. Historians - [Syllabus 2011 \(pdf\)](#)
- History 901 - Studies in American History

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