

Political Science 287/487: Theories of Political Economy
Instructor: James Johnson (jd.johnson@rochester.edu)
Fall 2017 ~ T-Th 9:40-10:55 * Harkness 210
Office Hours Tuesday 3:30-5:00 * Harkness Hall 312 (x5-0622)

workplace democracy
of the most central institutions of
~ Carole Pateman (Presidential Address to APSA – 2010)

This class is an intellectual experiment prompted by an actual political-economic experiment. Several American cities, including Rochester, are exploring the use of worker cooperatives firms that are owned and democratically controlled by the people who work in them as part of broader community economic development initiatives. Cooperatives are proposed both as a remedy for both economic hardship and in hopes of empowering local communities politically. This experiment prompts a whole set of questions at the intersection of political theory and economics. The course explores some of those questions. Mostly I am interested in whether the expectations reformers are placing on worker coopormers

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Readings

The required reading for this course is difficult, it is diverse, and there is a lot of it. Moreover, none of the reading is presented in predigested textbook form. In both senses

Bonanno, Jessica, Violeta Duncan, and Ted Howard. 2016.

Problems of Implementation & Transition III

* Nembhard, Jessica Gordon. 2014. *Collective Courage: A History of African American Cooperative Economic Thought and Practice*. Penn State University Press.

Bachrach, Peter and Aryeh Botwinick. 1992. *Power & Empowerment*. Temple University Press. Chapters 2-3, 5

Schedule

August

31 Introduction

September

5 Cohen-Dawson; Kneebone (2); Doherty (2)

7 EdBuild; Anderson; Jargowsky

12 *Sen

14 *Sen

19 *Dewey (2) First Short Paper Due

21 *Dewey

26 *Unger

28 *Unger; Knight & Johnson

October

3 Riley (3); Palmer; Kerr; Rogers

5 Alperowitz; Epstein; Bonnano

10 *Fall Break - No Class*

12 *Lindblom

17 *Lindblom

19 Hirschman; Coase

24 Lazonick; Block

26 Nembhard