

Summer 2017 – ISF 100 I Consumer Society and Culture



MTWT 10–12 • Fang Xu • GPB 103 • 4 Units • Class Number 15109 • Session D: July 3–August 11

Following Weber, Veblen, and Bourdieu, social scientists often emphasize consumers' motivations to establish or display their status. In many ways, consumption defines our lives. But what are the implications of a society in which "you are what you consume?" In this class, we will address: Under what conditions does a "consumer society" develop? What does global commodity chain tell us about colonization, global inequality, and environmental injustice? How can we shape the life cycle of basic commodities in a socially sustainable way? This course will be interdisciplinary in its attempt to understand consumer society and culture in terms of political economy, geography, history, anthropology and sociology. The goal of this course is to provide students with a broad overview of debates and theories about consumption, and to provide them with an opportunity to explore a consumption-related topic themselves.

Meets the Social and Behavioral Sciences or International Studies breadth requirement in Letters and Science.

isf.ugis.berkeley.edu