

#### IV. Four tasks of Emancipatory Social Science

##### Task #1: Normative Foundations

###### 1. Interests versus Justice: what is the point?

###### 2. Three Principles

1. Equality/Fairness: *In a just society all persons would have broadly equal access to the material and social means necessary to live a flourishing life.*
2. Democracy/Freedom: *In a fully democratic society, all people would have broadly equal access to the necessary means to participate meaningfully in decisions about things which affect their lives.*
3. Community/Solidarity: *People should cooperate and help each other not simply because what they personally get out of it, but also out of a commitment to the wellbeing of others and a moral obligation that this is the right thing to.*

##### Task #2. Diagnosis & Critique of capitalism

##### Task #3. Alternatives

- Limits of possibility different from natural limits
- Alternatives that emerge endogenously and prefigure future possibilities: immanent future
- Evaluation triplet: desirability, viability, achievability

##### Task #4. Transformation – lecture 4

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### Capitalism: Basic structure & dynamics

#### 1. A note on concepts & definitions

- Words // Levels of abstraction of a definition // Concepts and Theories

#### 2. Capitalism: the contrast space

- Mode of production vs other ways of classifying societies.
- Capitalism vs other modes of production

#### 3. Two approaches within the Marxist tradition for developing a definition of capitalism

##### 3.1 Capitalism as a distinctive *form of market society*:

- *Simple commodity production*:  $C - M - C$
- *Capitalist commodity production*:  $M - C - M'$ .

##### 3.2. Capitalism as a distinctive *organization of production*. The basic structural definition has two dimensions:

- (1) Class relations. (2) mechanism of economic coordination

##### 3.3 Complexity – two forms:

- Capitalism is mixed with a variety of non-capitalist forms: hybrid systems
- There are many different *types of capitalism* -- laundry list versus theoretical typology

#### 4. Capitalism: core dynamics

##### 4.1. The key *sources of dynamism*

- (1) *Capitalist competition*: (a) *Lower costs and increase productivity*; (b) *New products & markets*  
(2) *Class conflict*

##### 4.2 Contradictions within these dynamics

*Definition*: (1) Chains of effects of a given process disrupt the functioning of the process. (2) Multiple functional requirements of system in which satisfying some conditions undermine others.

##### 4.3 The “surplus absorption” problem

##### 4.4 An ambiguity in the analysis: From profits to relentless capital accumulation

Three explanations for capitalist imperatives of growth:

- Economies of scale
- Aggregate political and economic instability from lack of growth
- Motivations of capitalists, rather than structural imperatives