
The title of this seminar is an acronym borrowed from Wu-Tang Clan’s 1993 song of the same name, and it means “cash rules everything around me.” But what exactly is “cash,” and what does it have to do with art? Is it true that money “seems at first glance to be a self-evident, trivial thing,” but is really “full of metaphysical subtlety and theological perversities,” as Marx said of the commodity form?

This class will be interdisciplinary, examining literature, visual art, music and cultural criticism.

Texts

Excerpts from the Bible, Ovid, Karl Marx
Videos from Wu-Tang Clan and Dave Chapelle
Money: A Suicide Note Martin Amis
Pride and Prejudice Jane Austen
“Women on the Market” Luce Irigaray
“The Notion of Expenditure” Georges Bataille
Crazy Rich Asians Jon M. Chu, dir.
The Big Short (film) Adam McKay, dir.
How to Get Filthy Rich in Rising Asia Moshin Hamid
Society of the Spectacle Guy Debord