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
      - Class relations
      - Economic coordination:
   3.3 Complexity
      - Capitalism is mixed with a variety of non-capitalist forms
      - There are many different types of capitalism

4. Capitalism: core dynamics
   4.1. The key sources of dynamism
      (1) Capitalist competition
         - Lower costs of production and increase productivity.
         - New products & markets.
      (2) Class conflict
   4.2 Contradictions within these dynamics
      Definition: At its core, a contradiction means that there are chains of effects of a given process which disrupt the functioning of the process.
   4.3 An ambiguity in the analysis: From profits to Capital accumulation
      Question: Why does competition not merely force firms to maximize profits, but also forces them to into an endless accumulation of capital?

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