

DePaul University
PSC 333-Marxism
Fall Quarter 2017

Faculty Information:

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Course Description:

This course will systematically explore the political and philosophical writings of Karl Marx and post-Marxian theorists. Marx's contributions to political philosophy is significant and most contemporary social and political theory pays some homage to Marx. We will begin the course by reading the primary works of Marx and Engels on a wide range of social, economic, and political issues. Students will be introduced to Marx's basic concepts such as historical materialism, the development of the state, alienation and class, surplus value and labor, ideology and consciousness, and revolution and change. In the second part of the course, we will look at the historical application of Marx's ideas employed by Lenin and Stalin and how they changed Marx's theory to adapt to the Russian context. We will then turn to post Marxist theorists to see how they modified, changed, developed and critiqued Marx's concepts.

Required Texts:

There will be four required books for this course:

Marx and Engels Reader, Robert Tucker

Marxism For and Against, Robert Heilbroner

Additionally, students will be required to read supplemental material throughout the quarter which will be posted on D2L.

Course Requirement and Expectations

Class Attendance and Participation

This course will be taught as a seminar and therefore class attendance is mandatory.

Students are expected to come to class prepared to discuss the readings of the day. The reading load for this course is quite extensive; therefore, students must keep up with the readings if they are to successfully pass this course. Since this course is an upper level political theory course, we will utilize mostly primary texts; therefore, students are advised to read the material carefully and take thorough notes. **Also, students should**

bring the Tucker book and other readings for the day to each class session since we will be engaging in close textual analyses. The paper assignments will be closely linked with the material discussed in class. **There are no examinations for this course, however, if I discover that the class is not reading the materials, I reserve the right to institute examinations to ensure students are reading the material.**

In order to encourage class participation, I will rigorously assess class participation in the following way:

A=Excellent preparation. Students, who are always prepared for class, demonstrate their knowledge of the reading assignments, ask provocative questions and apply the reading material in a meaningful ways.

B=Good preparation. Students who are frequently prepared for class and who frequently demonstrate their understanding of the reading material.

C=Average participation. Students who occasionally participate and who indicate they have read the assignments but occasionally have misread the text or demonstrate a superficial understanding of the readings.

D=Poor participation. Students who rarely participate in class discussions and who often miss the essential meaning of the assigned readings.

F=No participation. Students who never participate in class discussions.

Please note two caveats: If a student performs well on course assignments but excessively misses class sessions, he or she will not be able to receive an A in the course. Secondly, if a student attends class regularly but never speaks in the course, he or she will receive an F for class participation. Class participation will be worth 20% of your final grade.

Learning Disabilities

Students with special learning needs should contact the Center for Students with Disabilities (CDS) for additional assistance. Students are encouraged to discuss any learning issues with the instructor early in the quarter so that appropriate accommodations can be made.

Research Paper

In keeping with the Political Science Departments research requirement for 300 level courses, students will be required to write a 15-20 page final research paper for this course. From my experience, students often require assistance with keeping on task with their research during the quarter and often have difficulties constructing a thesis and developing a well-supported argument. Therefore, all of the writing you will do this quarter will be geared towards this final research project. Students will be required to create a topic proposal, write an annotated bibliography, construct a thesis, and write a rough draft prior to the due date of the final research paper. Each of these components to the research paper will be worth 5 points for a total of 20 points. See research paper guidelines at the end of the syllabus. Final research papers will be due on our scheduled final exam date, **November 22, 2017 from 11:30-1:45**. Students must submit their paper to the D2L drop box. Your research paper will be examined using D2L technology in

order to ensure students are not in violation of plagiarism and the University's Academic Integrity Policy (see statement below).

Plagiarism and Cheating

The University's **Academic Integrity Policy** in your student handbook defines cheating and plagiarism and the sanctions against those students who cheat and plagiarize. Plagiarism is a serious offense and could result in possible expulsion from the University. Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated in this course. Plagiarism is defined as *any student who hands in an assignment in which all or part of the words or ideas have been copied from a source--quoted, paraphrased, or summarized--without proper documentation or which have been borrowed from another student will receive a failing grade for the course.*

Grading Criteria

Your final grade will be assessed in the following manner:

Class participation: 20%

Two Short

Writing Assignments: 20%

Research assignments: 20%

Topic Proposal: 5 points

Annotated Bibliography: 5 points

Thesis statement: 5 points

Rough draft: 5 points

Final Research Paper: 40%

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1

Introduction

September 7

Introduction to the course

Note: I have selected a secondary text on Marx by Robert Heilbroner.

Please read this book, however, we will not discuss Heilbroner's critique of Marx until week 4 of the class.

Week 2

The Materialist Conception of History

September 12

Read *Theses on Feuerbach*, Marx (Marx-Engels reader)

Read *The German Ideology*, Marx (Marx-Engels reader, 146-200)

September 14

Society and Economy in History (M/E reader 136-142)

The Communist Manifesto, (reader 469-500)

Heilbroner, chapters 1 and 2

Week 3

Theory of Alienation and Labor

September 19

Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844, Marx, (reader 66-101)
read up to The Power of Money in Bourgeois Society

September 21

The Grundrisse, Capitalism, Machinery and Automation, Marx, (reader 278-293)

Capital, chapter XV, Machines and Modern Industry, Marx, (reader 403-419)

Heilbroner, chapters 3 and 4

Week 4

Marxian Economics

September 26

Wage, Labor, Capital, Marx (reader, 203-217)

September 28

Burawoy, *Marxism after Polanyi* (D2L)

Heilbroner, discussion of his critique of Marx

Week 5

Politics and Theories of the State

October 3

On the Jewish Question, Marx (reader, 26-52)

October 5

- **Research Topic Proposal Due (see research guidelines at end of syllabus)**

- **Writing Assignment # 1 due**

Week 6 **History and the Development of Marxism**
October 10
Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism, Lenin (posted on D2L)
October 12
Rise of Stalinism and the Second Revolution, *Stalin in Power*, Tucker excerpt (posted on D2L)

Annotated bibliography due

Week 7 **The Revisionist Debate**
October 17
To What Extent is the Communist Manifesto Obsolete?
Karl Kautsky (posted on D2L)
Evolutionary Socialism, Eduard Bernstein (posted on D2L)
October 19
Desan, Bourdieu, Marx, *Capital: A Critique of the Extension Model* (D2L)
Writing Assignment #2 due

Week 8 **Neo-Marxists**
October 24
Reification and the Consciousness of the Proletariat, Georg Lukacs (D2L)
Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses, Louis Althusser (D2L)
October 26
Antonio Gramsci, *Selections from Prison Notebooks* (D2L)

Thesis statement and introductory paragraph due

Week 9 **Contemporary Marxism: The Frankfurt School**
October 31
Read Herbert Marcuse, *Liberation from an Affluent Society* (D2L)
November 2
Read Erich Fromm, *Marx's Concept of Man* access at following website:
<https://www.marxists.org/archive/fromm/works/1961/man/index.htm>

Week 10 **Post Marxist Critiques**
November 7
Foucault, *Truth and Power* (D2L)
November 9
Barrett, *History, Discourse, Truth and Power: Foucault's Critique of Ideology* (D2L)
Research Paper rough draft due

Week 11 **Conclusion and Review**
November 14

Writing Assignments

Paper Assignment #1 (10 points)

Due Date: October 5, 2017

You are to write a 5-8 page paper on any essay written by Marx that we have read thus far. Your paper should include a well defined thesis; a brief synopsis of the chosen text; and the strengths and weaknesses of Marx's arguments. Try to select an essay that you can use for your final research paper.

Paper Assignment #2 (10 points)

Due Date: October 19, 2017

You are to read Robert Heilbroner's work, *Marxism For and Against*. Students are to write a 3-5 page paper that examines one or two areas where you agree with Heilbroner's analysis and one or two areas where you disagree with Heilbroner's critique of Marx. You should focus on a specific concept or idea in Marx like historical materialism, alienation, labor, etc. Please ground your critique of Heilbroner by using specific textual evidence from Marx's works that we have read this quarter.

Final Research Paper (40%)

Due Date. Final research papers will be due on our scheduled final exam date, **November 22, 2017 from 11:30-1:45**. Students must submit their paper to the D2L drop or I will not accept your paper. Late papers will not be accepted unless you have a good and documented excuse.

PSC 333 Final Research Paper

Your research paper must select one of the major themes in the course (class, ideology, historical materialism, fetishism of commodities, labor theory of value, revolution, communism/socialism, freedom, power, authority, etc.), choose a primary text or texts of Marx where he develops that concept or theme, and then compare and contrast it with a Marxists theorists.

This paper may include secondary sources, however, the substance of the paper should originate from your own engagement with the primary texts written by Marx and the post Marxists theorists you select.

Your grade will be based on three primary criteria: 1) the degree to which you demonstrate your understanding of Marx and the post-Marxist theorist you select; 2) the degree to which you not only summarize the theorist's ideas but how well you interpret, analyze and critique the text; 3) and lastly, the degree to which you creatively organize your ideas so as to resolve a question or problem from the text.

Feel free to consult with me your paper topic. I think you will need my help identifying a theorist to compare Marx with on a given topic. For example, Jean-Paul Sartre in his work, *A Search for Method*, lays the groundwork for a new approach to historical materialism. One could compare Marx's conception of historical materialism to that of Sartre's critique.

For those interested in Western Marxism, particularly on the topics of power, authority, freedom, ideology, aestheticism, one may consult the works of Georg Luckas, Louis Althusser, and Antonio Gramsci. Gramsci, for example, came up with the idea of the *quiet revolution* which could be compared to Marx's ideas on revolution.

Finally, The Frankfurt School, a group of German intellectuals, developed ideas known as cultural Marxism which employed Marxism and Freudian theory to an analysis of culture. The Frankfurt School includes theorists such as Eric Fromm, Herbert Marcuse, Theodor Adorno, Jergen Habermans, Max Horkheimer, to name a few. As you can see there are a range of possibilities for this research paper. Please feel free to contact me to discuss your area of interest.

RESEARCH PAPER MECHANICS AND DUE DATES

You are to write a 15-20 page research paper this quarter that addresses a major philosophical concept or theme in the course such as: class, ideology, freedom, authority, power, ideology, historical materialism, fetishism of commodities, labor theory of value, revolutionary change, communism, etc. Your research paper will be worth 40% of your final grade. Your paper should begin with a well-developed thesis, employ at least ten or

more *scholarly sources*, and incorporate some of the ideas and debates that we address in class. Your paper must use the proper form—either standard MLA or Chicago Manuscript Style—for footnotes and bibliographic citations. Whatever form you choose, you must be consistent throughout your paper.

In order to help you stay on task, each phase of the research paper is broken down with specific due dates. Each stage of the process will be worth 5 points for a total of 20 points towards your final grade.

- **Paper Proposal Due Date: October 5, 2017**

Students must submit a **paper topic proposal** one-page in length that identifies your topic. Your paper proposal is **due on October 5, 2017** and is worth **5 points**. Your proposal ought to include an identification of a topic of interest and this must include a concept or theme from Marx, a series of research questions involving your topic, and a brief literature review of your topic. Papers should be one or two pages in length, double-spaced and typed. Late paper will not be accepted for credit.

- **Annotated Bibliography Due Date: October 12, 2017**

Secondly, students must write an annotated bibliography. Examples of an annotated bibliography will be distributed in class; however an annotated bibliography is a list of sources that are relevant to your topic with a brief summary or description of the source's content. Students must have at least 5 sources annotated at the aforementioned due date and this too is worth 5 points.

- **Thesis Statement and Introduction Due Date: October 26, 2017**

Thirdly, students will write a **thesis statement and introductory paragraph** worth 5 points. Students will be instructed as to how to write a thesis. Thesis construction models are posted on D2L. The thesis statement and introductory paragraph to your paper will be **due on October 26, 2017**.

- **Rough Draft Due Date: November 2, 2017**

And finally, students are strongly encouraged to write a **rough draft** to be submitted by November 2, 2017. I will provide students with feedback on their drafts prior to submitting their final research paper. The rough draft too will be worth 5 points. Please note that if you do not submit the above writing assignments on time, you will receive zero credit. I will read your work after the due date and provide feedback but you will be penalized 5 points per assignment.