**Marx**

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Office Hours: R 2-3:50  
SCH 242

**PHIL 453/553**  
M&W 4-5:50  
204 CHA

**Course Description:**
This course will serve as an introduction to Marx’s thought. We will pay particular attention to Marx's treatment of the relation between theory and practice consistent throughout his corpus. Readings will provide occasion to discuss the structure and contemporary relevance of basic concepts such as alienation, capital, class struggle, ideology, and emancipation.

**Required Texts:**

The Marx/Engels Collected Works is available online at https://www.marxists.org/. Texts that are not included in the Reader, will be available through this website.

**Some Secondary Sources:**
1. McLellan, *Karl Marx: His Life and Thought*
2. Bottomore, *Dictionary of Marxist Thought*
3. Avineri, *The Social and Political Thought of Karl Marx*
4. Osborne, *How to Read Marx*
5. Gould, *Marx's Social Ontology*
7. Kolakowski, *Main Currents of Marxism*
8. Nelson, ed., *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*
9. Arruzza, *The marriages and divorces of Marxism and Feminism*
11. Wendling, *Karl Marx on Technology and Alienation*
12. Löwy, *Marxism in Latin America*

A substantive bibliography by topic from University of Sussex can be found online. While substantive, it is not exhaustive. There is exciting work on Marx or in a Marxist vein within Critical Theory (not only classic texts by, e.g., Walter Benjamin, TW Adorno, but also contemporary work by, e.g., Nancy Fraser), queer theory (e.g., Kevin Floyd), the Italian Autonomists (e.g., Franco Berardi, Christian Marazzi), affect theory (e.g., Lauren Berlant), post-colonial and decolonial thought (e.g., Spivak, Dussel), and more. Explore on your own and feel free to come speak with me.

**Course Structure and Requirements:**

**Attendance:**
You are expected to attend classes regularly and promptly. More than 3 absences will result in a failing final grade, unless proof of illness or emergency is provided.

**Participation:**
The lecture will presuppose familiarity with the assigned readings for the class session. Having read the assigned text and coming prepared to participate in class discussion are requirements.
Commentaries:
On Friday of weeks, 2, 4, and 6, you will hand in a 2-page commentary on one concept of your choice discussed in the weeks prior to the commentary (in week 2, engaging texts read in weeks 1 and 2; in week 4, engaging texts discussed in weeks 3 and 4, so on). You must merely explain the concept that you have chosen (e.g., alienation, history, materialism, so on). You should not respond to the argument critically.

Prospectus:
You will submit a one-page prospectus stating the topic of your paper and the argument that you intend to pursue. Graduate students must include an annotated bibliography with at least 3 secondary sources that you intend to use.

Final Paper:
Undergraduate Students: This 2,000 wd. paper should develop further—both exegetically and critically—one of your commentaries.

Graduate Students: This 3,000 wd. paper should develop a thesis about a section or problem in Marx. You must situate your thesis within relevant secondary literature. Engaging secondary sources is a requirement.

Guidelines for papers:
• clarity: the paper should have a clearly defined topic and thesis.
• accuracy: the paper should present an author’s position in a fair way.
• assessment: the paper should evaluate the author’s position, and bring to bear on the text or issue your own view; you must defend your view.

All of your work must be typewritten (12 pt. font, double-spaced). Cite philosophical texts that you are using appropriately, including secondary literature and online resources.

All papers are due by 4pm at the Philosophy Department. Undergraduate students must also submit the paper electronically via SafeAssign. No late papers will be accepted, unless accompanied by proof of illness or emergency.

Statement on Plagiarism:
Plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional unacknowledged use of someone else’s work as one’s own in all forms of academic endeavor (such as essays, theses, examinations, research data, creative projects, and so on). Plagiarized material may be derived from books, journals, Internet postings, student or faculty papers, and so on including the purchase or “outsourcing” of written assignments for a course. See http://www.libweb.uoregon.edu/guides/plagiarism/students/. Plagiarism is grounds for failing the course.

Grading Standard:
A+ = superb. No mistakes, well-written, well-researched, and pursues an original thesis.
A = excellent. No mistakes, well-written, and distinctive in some way or other.
B = good. No significant mistakes, well-written, but not distinctive in any way.
C = OK. Some errors, but basic grasp of the material.
D = poor. Several errors. A tenuous grasp of the material.
F = failing. Problematic on all fronts indicating either no real grasp of the material or complete lack of effort.
**Grading Rubric:**

Class participation 10%
Commentaries (3) 30% (10% each)
Prospectus 10%
Final paper 50%

**Accommodation for a Disability:**
If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me soon.

**Senate Task Force to Address Sexual Violence and Survivor Support:**
The UO is committed to providing an environment free of all forms of discrimination and sexual harassment, including sexual assault, domestic and dating violence and gender-based stalking. If you (or someone you know) has experienced or experiences gender-based violence (intimate partner violence, attempted or completed sexual assault, harassment, coercion, stalking, etc.), know that you are not alone. UO has staff members trained to support survivors in navigating campus life, accessing health and counseling services, providing academic and housing accommodations, helping with legal protective orders, and more.

Please be aware that all UO employees are required reporters. This means that if you tell me about a situation, I may have to report the information to my supervisor or the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity. Although I have to report the situation, you will still have options about how your case will be handled, including whether or not you wish to pursue a formal complaint. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources you need. Visit the SAFE website at safe.uoregon.edu or call 541-346-SAFE.

**Schedule of Classes and Readings:**
The schedule of readings is subject to change during the quarter. All changes will be announced in advance via email.

**Wk. 1**

M *Introduction to the Course*
   “For a Ruthless Criticism of Everything,” pp. 12-15

W *Philosophy*
   Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right, pp. 16-25 and
   Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right: Introduction, pp. 53-65

**Wk. 2**

M *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts*, pp. 67-105

W Class Cancelled – Professor Zambrana at SPEP

**Wk. 3**

M Comments on James Mill (online)

W Theses on Feuerbach, pp. 143-145
   Recommended: w/ Engels, 'Critical battle against French materialism' from The Holy
   Family, ch. 6, sec. 3d (online)
Wk. 4
M  The German Ideology, pt. 1, pp. 146-200 and Preface to A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy, pp. 3-6
W  Capital, vol. 1, chap. 1, §4 The Fetishism of Commodities and the Secret Thereof and Letter Engels to Mehring on ‘False Consciousness’ (online)

Wk. 5
M  Economy
Introduction to the Grundrisse, pp. 221-246
Recommended: Wage-Labor and Capital, pp. 203-217
W  “The Production of Absolute and Relative Surplus Value,” pt. 5, Capital, pp. 417-431
Recommended: “The Dynamics of Capitalism,” Grundrisse, pp. 247-250

Wk. 6

Wk. 7
M  Machinery and Modern Industry, chap. 15 of Capital, pp. 403-417 and “Capitalism, Machinery and Automation,” section G of Grundrisse, pp. 278-290
W  Politics
“The End of Capitalism,” section H of Grundrisse, pp. 291-292,

Wk. 8
M  Pt. 1 of On the Jewish Question, pp. 26-52
W  The Communist Manifesto, pp. 469-500

Wk. 9
M  Critique of the Gotha Program, pp. 525-541
W  The Eighteenth Brumaire, pp. 594-617

Wk. 10
M  The Civil War in France, pp. 618-652
W  Closing Discussion