

DePaul University
PSC 333-Marxism
Winter Quarter 2015

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. A wide range of social, economic and political issues will be examined such as the materialist conception of history and the development of the state, alienation and class, surplus value and labor, ideology and consciousness, and revolution and change. Since this course is an upper level political theory course, we will utilize primary texts and therefore students are advised to read the material carefully and take thorough notes.

Required Texts:

There will be four required books for this course:

Marx and Engels Reader, Robert Tucker
Marxism For and Against, Robert Heilbroner
Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism, V.I. Lenin

Additionally, students will be required to read supplementary 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. The examinations and paper assignment will be closely linked with the material discussed in class.

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 15% of your final grade.

Learning Disabilities

Students with special learning needs should contact the PLUS program of the Office for Students with Disabilities 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.

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.*

Writing Assignments and Final Examination

Students will be required to write two short papers 5-8 page papers on a given topic or issue from the course readings. Each paper will be worth 20% for a total of 40% of your final grade. Also, students will write a final research paper for the course worth 30% of the final grade. Additionally, Students will also be required to take a cumulative final exam for the course worth (20%). Details as to the nature of the writing assignments are listed on the last page of the syllabus.

Grading Criteria:

Your final grade will be assessed in the following manner:

Class Participation	10%
2 Writing Assignments	40%
Final Research Paper	30%
Final Exam	20%

COURSE OUTLINE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Week 1 Introduction

January 5

Introduction to the course

January 7

Read Heilbroner, *Marxism for and Against*, Introduction

Week 2 The Materialist Conception of History

January 12

Theses on Feuerbach, Marx (Marx-Engels reader)

The German Ideology, Marx (Marx-Engels reader), pp. 146-200

Heilbroner, chapter 1

Note: you must complete the entire Heilbroner book; however, we will not be discussing the text until Week 5.

January 14

The Communist Manifesto, Marx-Engels (reader)

Heilbroner, chapter 2

Week 3 Theory of Alienation and Labor

January 19

Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844, Marx (reader)

Read pages 66-101, read up to The Power of Money in Bourgeois Society

January 21

The Grundrisse, Marx (reader)

Read the following selections:

Section G: Capitalism Machinery, Automation (p.278)

Section H: The End of Capitalism (p.291)

Section I: Capitalism, Alienation, and Communism (p.292)

- Week 4** **Marxian Economics**
January 26
Wage, Labor, Capital, Marx (reader)
January 28
Capital, Volume One (reader) pp. 294-328
Capital Volume Three (2 page excerpt in reader)
Heilbroner, chapter 4
- Week 5** **Politics and Theories of the State**
February 2
On the Jewish Question, Marx (reader)
February 4
Discussion of Heilbroner's work
Heilbroner, chapter 5
- Week 6** **History and the Development of Marxism**
February 9
Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism, Lenin
Paper #1 Due
- February 11**
Imperialism: The Highest Stage of Capitalism, Lenin
- Paper #1 due (details at end of syllabus)**
- Week 7** **The Rise of Stalinism and the Second Revolution**
February 16
Stalin in Power, Tucker (D2L)
February 18
Marx and the Eco-logic of Fossil Capitalism, Devan Pillay
- Week 8** **The Revisionist Debate**
February 23
To What Extent is the Communist Manifesto Obsolete?
Karl Kautsky (posted on D2L)
Evolutionary Socialism, Eduard Bernstein (posted on D2L)
- February 25**
Marxism after Polanyi, Michael Burroway
Paper #2 due (details at end of syllabus)

Week 9

Contemporary Marxism: The Frankfurt School

March 2

Reification and the Consciousness of the Proletariat, Georg Lukacs (d2l)

Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses, Louis Althusser (d2l)

March 4

Escape from Freedom, Erich Fromm (d2l)

Week 10

Post Marxist Critiques

March 9

Power/Knowledge: Selected interviews 1972-1977, Foucault

Body/Power (d2L)

Truth and Power (d2L)

The Eye of Power (d2L)

March 11

Final Exam in class, March 11, 2015.

Research papers are due on or before March 16, 2015, between 2:45 to 5:00. You must submit your papers to the D2L drop box in order to receive a grade.

Writing Assignments

Paper Assignment #1 (2%)

Due Date: February 11, 2015

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.

Paper Assignment #2 (20%)

Due Date: February 25, 2015

Students are to write a 2-page reflection essay on Heilbroner's work, *Marxism For and Against*. Your paper should briefly summarize Heilbroner's major arguments and should examine two areas that you agree with Heilbroner's analysis and two major problems with Heilbroner's critique of Marx. Please ground your argument in Marx's texts.

Final Research Paper (30%)

Due Date: Monday, March 16th, during final exam time 2:45-5:00. You must submit your paper through the drop box on D2L. Late papers will not be accepted unless you have a good and documented excuse.

Students are required to write a 10 page research paper on a Marxist theorist and enter into a dialogue with one of the major themes in the course such as *class, ideology, historical materialism, fetishism of commodities, labor theory of value, revolutionary change, communism, etc.* Each student will be required to select a theme that interests them, research the primary text written by the Marxist theorist, compare and contrast the selected topic with Marx's writings. The Heilbroner text will serve as a model as to the type of engagement of Marx's ideas that I would like to see developed in the course of your paper. While this paper may include secondary sources, the substance of the paper should originate from your engagement with primary texts. Students are expected to consult with me about your paper topic.