

Community Studies 142: Introduction to Marxism
Summer Session 1, 2012
In Location to be arranged at UCSC

Class Meetings: Monday and Wednesday 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., plus a section to be arranged meeting once a week in the evening on Wednesday or Thursday from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. (includes a potluck). A final class meeting on Friday, July 27 from 1-5pm.

Location: Classrooms To Be Arranged

Instructor: Mike Rotkin openup@ucsc.edu; Cell Phone: 831-345-8469)
Office Hours: To Be Arranged

Course Description:

An introductory approach to Marxism including philosophy, history, alienation, commodity fetishism, exploitation, class, ideological hegemony, political and civil society, contradictions, and the state. Readings include the *German Ideology*, selections from *Capital*, *Early Writings*, and other primary texts. Also readings in Domhoff's *Who Rules America*, Sherman's *Reinventing Marxism*, and other contemporary sources. Lecture, film, and seminar format. Students are responsible for facilitating discussions and directing the course. Students are also required to submit a final paper or a creative project related to course topics or take a final exam. Students planning to have the course be accepted as an elective in a major need to check with the major to get that approved and will be expected to do their final paper or project on a topic related to their major.

Required Texts: The following should be purchased for the course (available at Bay Tree Bookstore on campus)--

- 1) David McLellan, *Karl Marx, Selected Writings*, Oxford U. Press, 2000 (Second Edition) (referred to as K.M. throughout the syllabus)
- 2) Howard Sherman, *Reinventing Marxism*, Johns Hopkins U. Press, 1995
- 3) G. William Domhoff, *Who Rules America*, McGraw-Hill, 2010 (Sixth Edition)
- 4) A Reader for the course that will be available on-line for free.

All Reserve readings are located in McHenry Library at the Reserve Desk. They are on two-hour reserve, but you can take them overnight if you come late in the evening. You will notice that there is a small amount of required reading (it is difficult reading, but understanding the reading will be a question of effort, not previous knowledge) and a great deal of recommended reading, which is not required to do well in the course, but which will enhance your understanding of Marxism and your ability to apply the theory to contemporary issues.

Course Requirements: This course will attempt to work like a study group, with lectures and films added to help students contextualize the assigned readings and collectively struggle to understand otherwise difficult texts. Consequently, the most important course requirement is preparing readings for discussion, attending class regularly, and participating in discussions. Class participation, including facilitating discussions, will count for 80% of the grade. The other 20% will be based on the final paper, or project, or final exam. It will be easy to get a B in this course and more difficult, but not impossible, to get an A.

Course Schedule, Readings, and Topics (Tentative):

Monday, June 25: Introduction to the course etc. Lecture: An Overview of Marxism; Set up section times and membership; first sections meet right off the bat to do introductions, select topic facilitators, and prepare for discussion on Theses on Feuerbach; Film: The Take

Wednesday, June 27: Lecture: Hegel and Feuerbach; Film: The History Book

Required Reading:

"Leading a Discussion for Class" (in Reader)

Recommended Readings (only recommended, not required!):

"Some Comments and Ideas on Group Dynamics and Facilitating Discussions" (in Reader)

"Combat Liberalism" (in Reader)

Paulo Freire, "Pedagogy of the Oppressed" (in Reader)

David McLellan, "The Life of Karl Marx" (in Reader)

Sherman, *Reinventing Marxism*, Chapter 1

Priscilla Robertson, *Revolutions of 1848* (on Reserve)

Howard Sherman, "Dialectics as a Method" (in Reader)

Richard Lichtman, "Notes on the Dialectic in Hegel and Marx" (in Reader)

Spencer & Karauze, *Introducing Hegel* (in Reader)

Richard Osborne, *Philosophy for Beginners* (in Reader)

John Judis, "The Personal and the Political" (Xerox on Reserve)

Section night/potluck Week of June 25 (time and place TBA): *Theses on Feuerbach*

Required Readings:

"Notes on Reading the Theses on Feuerbach" (in Reader)

Theses on Feuerbach I through IV in K.M. pp. 171-2.

"Introduction to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right," in K.M. pp. 71-2 (up to "...the following exposition.") Read this in relationship to the Thesis on Feuerbach IV.

Theses on Feuerbach V through VIII and XI in K.M. pp. 172-3. (skip theses IX and X for now)

Monday, July 2: *German Ideology* discussion section; Lecture: The French Revolution and Revolution of 1848/Paris Commune.

Required Readings:

"Historical Materialism" (in Reader).

Preparation for Reading *The German Ideology* (Class handout)

The German Ideology K.M. pp. 175-6.

"Feuerbach: Opposition of the Materialistic and Idealistic Outlook" (in Reader)

The German Ideology, K.M. pp. 176-181.

O'Connor, "The Need for Production and the Production of Needs" (in the Reader).

The German Ideology, K.M. pp. 181-184.

Recommended Readings:

The Capitalist System, Chapter 2, (on Reserve)

K.M., pp. 187-192 (up to "The ideas of the ruling class...") and other Selections from Part II

Sherman, *Reinventing Marxism*, Chapters 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 13, & 14

Wednesday, JULY 4: HOLIDAY, NO CLASS

Section night/potluck Week of July 2: *German Ideology* discussion section (continued).

Required Readings: (Continue Readings for Monday, July 2)

Monday, July 9: *Alienation* discussion section (and finish GI if necessary); Lecture: Marxist Economics; Film: David Harvey on Capitalism

Required Readings:

"Alienation and Labor" (in Reader)

Mandel, "The Causes of Alienation" (in Reader)

Alienated Labor in K.M., pp. 85-95

The German Ideology in K.M., pp. 184-7 and 196-8

"On Free Human Production" (in Reader)

Recommended Readings:

Michael Albert & Robin Hahnel, *Looking Forward: Participatory*

Economics for The Twenty First Century (on Reserve)

Michael Albert & Robin Hahnel, *The Political Economy of Participatory*

Economics (on Reserve)

Andre Gorz, selection from *Critique of Economic Reason* (xerox on Reserve)

Andre Gorz, *Strategy for Labor*, Chapters 1 and 2 (on Reserve)

The rest of Chapter 4 in *The Capitalist System* (on Reserve)

The rest of Mandel and Novack, *The Marxist Theory of Alienation* (on Reserve)

Barbara Garson, *All the Livelong Day* (on Reserve)

Strongly Recommended Readings (not for discussion, but to sum up where we are.)

"The Capitalist Mode of Production" & "The Essence of Capitalism" (in Reader)
"The Historical Tendency of Capitalist Accumulation" in K.M., pp. 523-5.

Wednesday, July 11: *Commodity Fetishism discussion section*; Lecture: Marx' theory of class; Film: Manifestoon.

Required Readings:

Marx's Capital for Beginners (in Reader)
Capital I, Chapter 1, sections 1 and 2 in K.M., pp. 458-467
"How Capitalism is Mystified" (in Reader)
Capital I, Chapter 1, section 4, in K.M., pp. 472-480.

Recommended Readings:

Amin, "In Praise of Socialism" and Response I (in Reader)
Balbus, "Marxism and Domination" (Xerox on Reserve)

Section night/potluck Week of July 9: Exploitation and Surplus Value discussion section.

Required Readings:

Paul Sweezy, "Surplus Value and Capitalism" (in Reader)
Capital I, Chapter 4, in K.M., pp. 482-488
"Wage Labor and Capital" in K.M., pp. 273-293
"Speech on Free Trade" in K.M. pp.295-296
"Alternatives to Economic Globalization" (in Reader)
Sherman, *Reinventing Marxism*, Chapter 7

Recommended Reading:

"Rolling Back Globalization" (in Reader)
The Capitalist System, Chapter 3 (on Reserve)
Capital I, Chapters 6 and 7 in K.M., pp. 488-508
The Capitalist System, Chapters 9, and 10 (on Reserve)
Sherman, *Reinventing Marxism*, Chapter 8
Other selections from Part IV of K.M.
Robin Broad, Ed., *Global Backlash: Citizen Initiatives for a Just World Economy* (on Reserve)

Monday, July 16: Social Classes discussion section; Lecture: Social Democracy

Required Readings:

The Communist Manifesto in K.M., pp. 245-271 (esp. parts 1 and 2)
"Introduction to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right," in K.M., pp. 78 (1st new paragraph)-82
Lipset and Bendix, "Karl Marx's Theory of Social Classes" (in Reader)
Classes, in K.M., pp. 544-5
Sherman, *Reinventing Marxism*, Chapter 6

Highly Recommended (section leaders must select from among following readings):

Domhoff, G. William, *Who Rules America*, Chapters 1-3.
Rotkin, "Expanding the Proletariat" (in Reader)
"Racism" (in Reader)
"Male Dominance" (in Reader)
David Smith, "The Myth of the Middle Class" (in Reader)
"Capital Accumulation and the Capitalist Class" (in Reader)
"The Labor Process and the Working Class" (in Reader)
"Class and Inequality" (in Reader)
Almaguer, "Class, Race, and Chicano Oppression" (in Reader)
Hartman, "Patriarchy and Capitalism" (in Reader)
Hartman, "The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism" (in Reader)

Also Recommended:

Gintis, "The New Working Class and Revolutionary Youth" from *Socialist Revolution #3* (on Reserve)
Omi and Winant, "Race in the U.S.," in *Socialist Review #71* (on Reserve)
Eisenstein, "Capitalist Patriarchy and Socialist Feminism" (Xerox on Reserve)
Pat Walker, Ed., *Between Labor and Capital* (on Reserve)
Mike Rotkin, "Marx's View of Social Class" (Xerox on Reserve)
The Capitalist System, Chapters 3, 4, 6, 7, & 8 (on Reserve).
Braverman, "The Structure of the Working Class and Its Reserve Armies" (Xerox on Reserve)
Michael Lind, "To Have and Have Not" (Xerox on Reserve)

Wednesday, July 18: Ideological Hegemony discussion section; Lecture: The Russian Revolution

Required Readings:

The German Ideology in K.M., p. 192 ("The ideas of the Ruling Class..." to end of paragraph)
Gitlin, "The Whole World is Watching" (in Reader)
Michael Parenti, Selections from *Power and the Powerless* (in Reader)

Recommended Readings:

Richard Lichtman in *Socialist Revolution #23* (on Reserve)
Douglas Kellner in *Socialist Review #45* (on Reserve)
Daniel Ben-Horin on TV in *Socialist Review #35* (xerox on Reserve)
Herbert Marcuse, *One Dimensional Man* (on Reserve)

Section night/potluck Week of July 16: *Political and Civil Society discussion section.*

Required Readings:

Jennifer Nedelsky, *Private Property & the Limits of American Constitutionalism* (in Reader)

A Reading Guide to "On the Jewish Question" by Mike Rotkin (in Reader)

"On the Jewish Question" in K.M., pp. 46-64 (stop at p.64!)

"Theses on Feuerbach" IX and X in K.M., p. 173

Recommended Readings:

John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty* (on Reserve)

Milton Freedman, *Capitalism and Freedom* (on Reserve)

The rest of Nedelsky, *Private Property and the Limits of American Constitutionalism* (on reserve)

Monday, July 23: Political and Civil Society discussion section (continued); Lecture: Marxist Theories of The State

Required Readings: (Continue Readings for Section Night above.)

Wednesday, July 25: The State discussion section; Lecture: Contradictions and Socialist Transformation.

Required Readings:

Domhoff, G. William, *Who Rules America?*, Chapters 4-8.

Recommended Readings:

Richard Barnett, "Lords of the Global Economy" (Xerox on Reserve)

V.I. Lenin, *State and Revolution* (on Reserve)

The Eighteenth Brumaire and The Civil War in France in K.M., pp. 329-354

Poulantzas, "The State and the Transition to Socialism" (xerox on Reserve)

Fred Block in *Socialist Revolution* #33 (xerox on Reserve)

Boris Frankel, "The State of the State" (xerox on Reserve)

Santiago Carrillo, *Eurocommunism and the State* (on Reserve)

G. William Domhoff, *The Power Elite and the State* (on Reserve)

Sherman, *Reinventing Marxism*, Chapter 9 &10

The Capitalist System, Chapter 5 (On Reserve)

Section night/potluck Week of July 23: Contradictions discussion section.

Required Readings:

Sherman, *Reinventing Marxism*, Chapter 15

"Waste and Irrationality" (in Reader)

Recommended Readings:

Mike Rotkin, "A Three-Part Strategy for Democratic Socialism"(in Reader)

"From Capitalism to Socialism" (in Reader)

The Capitalist System, Chapter 10 (on Reserve)

Socialist Visions, edited by Sholom (on Reserve)

"The World After Communism" (xerox on Reserve)
"The Future of Socialism" (xerox on Reserve)
Andre Gorz, selections from *Critique of Economic Reason* (Xerox on Reserve)
James O'Connor, "Preservation First! Toward a Political Economy of a Good Society." (xerox on Reserve)
Andre Gorz, *Paths to Paradise, The Liberation from Work*, Pluto Press, 1985 (xerox on Reserve)
An Anthology of Western Marxism edited by Gottlieb (on Reserve)
Marxism Essential Writings edited by McLellan (on Reserve)
Socialist Review, Vol. 95/3&4 "Explorations in Post Modern Marxism" (on Reserve)
James O'Connor, *Natural Causes: Essays in Ecological Marxism*, Guilford Press 1998 (Xerox on Reserve)

Friday, July 27: Final work due or Exam Day (in lieu of writing a paper or doing a project); Film: [Salt of the Earth](#); Evaluation of the course and the Instructor.

General Information about the Readings:

The above reading list is tentative. We will probably make changes during the quarter and hope that you will suggest appropriate changes as well. Even if you do not have a particular reading to recommend but have a topic-passion-concern-interest that you want to have discussed, mention it and maybe someone else in the class can suggest a good reading.

Some of the topics, particularly toward the end of the quarter, have a lot of recommended reading *that is in the Reader*. This is so the students facilitating the discussions may select alternative or additional readings for their sections and have them easily accessible to all class members. Remember that starting with the section on Alienation, student facilitators will often need to *select*, from among a variety of readings, *which* ones will actually be read by everyone and discussed in class. Your section facilitators (and/or Mike Rotkin) will help guide you in this process, but *choices* must be made! If you assign too much reading and don't focus, there is always the danger that students in your section will be discouraged and tend to read nothing. Think about creative ways to bring insights from the recommended readings into class discussion as well.

BRING THE SYLLABUS AND THE READINGS SCHEDULED FOR THE FOLLOWING MEETING TO CLASS EACH TIME!

The last 10 to 15 minutes of each class meeting will be devoted to criticism/self-criticism. We will have a longer evaluation session at the last class, but please do not wait until the end of the quarter to give each other and the instructor/facilitators constructive criticism and support. The course will be better if that can be shared regularly.

This course will not work if you approach it passively. The readings are difficult and require energy and a critical approach. The discussions will not be carried by the discussion leaders alone and will work best when people bring in their thoughts and experiences. Small study groups to go over the readings before class are highly encouraged (if not necessary!).

Other Relevant Films Available at the McHenry Library Media Center for viewing as your time permits:

The Corporation -- DVD 2301 (130 minutes)
Life and Debt -- VT 8417 (87 minutes)
Walmart -- DVD 2943 (97 minutes)
Koyaanisqatsi DVD 1282 (87 minutes)
Controlling Interest VT 1918 (45 minutes)
Global Assembly Line VT 1111 (56 minutes)
Panama Deception DVD 5739 (91 minutes)
Sicko DVD 5694 (123 minutes)
Wall Street VT 2822 (126 minutes)
Red Nightmare VT 2135 (30 minutes)

Or ask to borrow:

Hacking Democracy (60 minutes)
The Persuaders (90 minutes)
This is Free Trade (60 minutes)