

Phil 132: Marx and Marxism
Spring 2017
Lectures: Mondays and Wednesdays 10-11
Emerson Hall 210
Graduate section: Mondays 11-12
Undergraduate sections: To be arranged
Teaching Fellow: Sanford Diehl, sdiehl@fas.harvard.edu

Prof. Tommie Shelby
Office Hours: Mondays 2-4pm
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Course description:

This course introduces the political philosophy and social theory of Karl Marx. Through primary texts we will study his materialist theory of history, his account of human self-alienation, his theory of ideology, his argument that capitalism is inherently exploitative, his class-based theory of political conflict, his critique of liberalism, his conception of freedom, and his relationship to the broader socialist tradition. We will also consider some contemporary writings in the Anglo-American (or “analytical”) Marxist tradition.

Prerequisites:

There are no formal prerequisites. However, those without some background in either moral and political philosophy or social theory will likely find the material challenging.

Course requirements:

- Class participation (15%). This entails making informed and thoughtful contributions to class discussion and section, which of course requires that you do the assigned reading in advance of its corresponding lecture and regularly attend both class and section.
- A 2000-word (5-6 page) essay on some aspect of Marx’s early writings. Paper topics will be provided. **Due by Friday, February 24th at 5:00 pm** (25%).
- A 2000-word (5-6 page) essay on some aspect of Marx’s *Capital*. Paper topics will be provided. **Due by Friday, March 24th at 5:00 pm** (25%).
- A 2700-word (8-9 page) essay on a question or problem in contemporary Marxist theory. Paper topics will be provided. **Due by Friday, May 5th at 5:00 pm** (35%).

Departmental Writing Fellow: Richard Sanchez (rsanchez@fas.harvard.edu) is the Philosophy Department writing tutor. His job is to help undergraduates taking philosophy courses with their writing. During the term he’s available to meet with students about their assignments. More information about his services, as well as other useful resources, can be found here: <http://projects.iq.harvard.edu/phil-dwf>

Collaboration Policy: Discussion and the exchange of ideas are essential to academic work and to philosophy in particular. For writing assignments in this course, you are encouraged to consult with your classmates on the choice of paper topics, to discuss readings, and to share sources. You may find it useful to discuss your chosen topic with your peers, particularly if you are working on the same topic as a classmate. *However, you should ensure that any written work you submit for evaluation is the result of your own research and writing and that it reflects your own ideas and approach to the topic.* You must also adhere to standard citation practices and properly cite any books, articles, websites, lectures, etc. that have helped you with your work. If you received any help with your writing (feedback on drafts, etc.), you must also acknowledge this assistance.

Electronic Device Policy: The use of laptops and tablets in lecture is permitted provided your use is course related (e.g., taking notes, searching for a passage, looking up a date, etc.). However, please refrain from using email and social media and reading non-course related materials (e.g., blogs, magazines, newspapers, etc.) during class. If you use a laptop/tablet, please do not sit in front of or next to someone who is not using a laptop/tablet. The use of mobile phones in class is not allowed. Non-compliance with this policy will negatively affect your participation grade and may lead to other penalties.

Late Paper/Extension Policy: Late papers will lose one grade “step” for every 24 hours the assignments is late (e.g. a paper that would have merited an “A-“ will received a “B+” if submitted within 24 hours after the due date, a “B” if submitted within 48 hours after the due date, and so on). Students may request an extension for one paper during the course of the semester, for any reason. An extension of one week will be granted at that time. Any further requests for extensions will not be granted.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: Students needing academic adjustments or accommodations because of a documented disability must present their Faculty Letter from the [Accessible Education Office](#) (AEO) and speak with me (the instructor) by the end of the second week of the term (*Friday, February 3*). Failure to do so may result in the Course Head's inability to respond in a timely manner. All discussions will remain confidential, although faculty are invited to contact AEO to discuss appropriate implementation.

Required Texts:

The Marx-Engels Reader, ed. Robert Tucker (Norton, 1978).

Karl Marx, *Capital*, volume I (Penguin Classics, 1992).

Various essays and book chapters, available on the course website.

Reading Assignments:

Monday, Jan. 23. Introduction (no readings)

Wednesday, Jan. 25. Marx, "On the Jewish Question," *Marx-Engels Reader*, pp. 26-52.

Monday, Jan. 30. Marx, "A Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's 'Philosophy of Right': Introduction," *Marx-Engels Reader*, pp. 53-65.

Wednesday, Feb. 1. Marx, "Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844," *Marx-Engels Reader*, pp. 66-81.

Monday, Feb. 6. Marx, "Theses on Feuerbach," *Marx-Engels Reader*, pp. 143-145; Marx and Engels, "The German Ideology," *Marx-Engels Reader*, pp. 146-175.

Wednesday, Feb. 8. Marx and Engels, "The German Ideology," *Marx-Engels Reader*, pp. 176-200.

Monday, Feb. 13. Marx and Engels, "Manifesto of the Communist Party," *Marx-Engels Reader*, pp. 473-483.

Wednesday, Feb. 15. Marx and Engels, "Manifesto of the Communist Party," *Marx-Engels Reader*, pp. 483-500.

Monday, Feb. 20. (University Holiday)

Wednesday, Feb. 22. Marx, *Capital*, Preface to the first edition, ch. 1, secs. 1, 3, and 4.

Monday, Feb. 27. Marx, *Capital*, ch. 4; ch. 5, pp. 266-269 [take note of footnote 24]; ch. 6.

Wednesday, March 1. Marx, *Capital*, ch. 7; ch. 8, pp. 316-319; ch. 9, sec. 1; ch.10, secs. 1,2, and 7; ch. 11, pp. 424-426.

Monday, March 6. Marx, *Capital*, ch. 13, pp. 449-454; ch. 23; ch. 24, sec. 1; ch. 25, secs. 1, 3, and 4.

Wednesday, March 8. Marx, *Capital*, chs. 26-28; chs. 32-33.

Spring Break (March 13-17)

Monday, March 20. Marx, "Critique of the Gotha Program," *Marx-Engels Reader*, pp. 525-541.

Wednesday, March 22. G.A. Cohen, "Forces and Relations of Production," in *Analytical Marxism*, ed. John Roemer, (Cambridge, 1986), pp. 11-22.

Monday, March 27. G.A. Cohen, "The Labor Theory of Value and the Concept of Exploitation," *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 8 (1979).

Wednesday, March 29. G.A. Cohen, "The Structure of Proletarian Unfreedom," *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 12 (1983).

Monday, April 3. Allen Wood, *Karl Marx* (Routledge, 2004), chs. 9-10; G.A. Cohen, "Review of *Karl Marx* by Allen Wood," *Mind* (July 1983).

Wednesday, April 5. Steven Lukes, *Marxism and Morality* (Oxford, 1987), chs. 1 and 3.

Monday, April 10. Allen Buchanan, "Revolutionary Motivation and Rationality," *Philosophy & Public Affairs* 9 (1979): 59-82.

Wednesday, April 12. Erik Olin Wright, "What Is 'Middle' about the Middle Class?" in *Analytical Marxism*, ed. John Roemer (Cambridge, 1986), pp. 114-140.

Monday, April 17. Colin Farrelly, "Patriarchy and Historical Materialism," *Hypatia* 26 (2011): 1-21.

Wednesday, April 19. Nancy Holmstrom, "'Women's Work,' the Family, and Capitalism," *Science & Society* 45 (1981): 186-211.

Monday, April 24. Charles W. Mills, "European Specters," in *From Class to Race* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2003), pp. 147-172.

Wednesday, April 26. Tommie Shelby, "Ideology, Racism, and Critical Social Theory," *Philosophical Forum* 34 (2003): 153-188.