

Philosophy of Marxism
53994: PHP 4788
University of South Florida, Summer 2007

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T/Th 12:30 – 4:00 PM
CPR 256
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Course Objective: To provide the student with the philosophical principles underlying Marxist theory and some exposure to the different variations of Marxisms. Topics to be studied include the Hegelian influence on Marx, the early theory of alienation, dialectical materialism, Marx's critique of 19th century political economy and the critique of capitalism, and Marx's theory of revolution.

Required Texts:

1. Tucker, *The Marx-Engels Reader* 2nd ed. (Norton, 1978), ISBN: 039303040X
2. Schweickart, *After Capitalism* (Rowman & Littlefield 2002), ISBN: 0742513009

Recommended Texts:

for beginning students:

Lee, Wendy Lynn. *On Marx* (Wadsworth, 2002). ISBN: 0717807401

for advanced students:

Carver, Terrell (ed.) *Cambridge Companion to Marx* (Cambridge, 1991)
ISBN: 0521366941

Course Schedule:

All dates and content scheduled is tentative and subject to change by the Instructor!

[E] = reading is available on my website, <http://brommage.freeshell.org>

3 July: Why Marx?

Biographical and Intellectual History Lecture
How to Read Marx

5 July: From Hegel to Marx

Kojeve, selections from *Introduction to the Reading of Hegel* [E]
Introduction in Tucker
Early Marx p. 1-65

10 July: Capitalism and Alienation [R0]

Economic & Philosophical Manuscripts in Tucker, p. 66-125
"Theses on Feuerbach" in Tucker, p. 143-5

- 12 July: Capitalism and Ideology
German Ideology in Tucker p. 146-200
- 17 July: Class-Consciousness and Marxist Feminism [R1]
Lukasz, "Class Consciousness" [E]
Engels, "The Origin of the Family" in Tucker p. 734-59
Hartsock, "The Feminist Standpoint" [E]
- 19 July: Wage Labor and Capital
"Wage Labor and Capital" in Tucker p. 203-17
Capital p. 294-442
- 24 July: Capital [R2]
Capital (continued)
- 26 July: Surplus Value
Schweikart, *After Capitalism*
- 31 July: Contemporary Marxist Theory [R3]
Schweikart (continued)
- 2 August: TBA
- 7 August: TBA [R4]
- 9 August: Revolution
"The Communist Manifesto" in Tucker p. 469-500
"Eighteenth Brumaire" in Tucker p. 594-617
"Speech at Marx's Gravesite" in Tucker p. 681-3

Note on the Indeterminacy of Time: Rarely is there enough time in the semester to cover everything an ideal course in philosophy should cover. Some of the later assignments may need to be cut based on lack of time. I reserve the right to change the syllabus to correspond to the pace of the class.

Evaluation: The main point of evaluation for this course will be 4 short response papers (3-4 pages in length) each due at *the beginning of class* on each Tuesday that we meet. (To put it a bit differently: a paper is due every Tuesday). The first paper [R0] will not be graded. *Late response papers will receive a full letter grade deduction per day late.* Please note that two copies of the paper are always required: one hard copy in class, the other uploaded to Blackboard (<http://my.usf.edu>) under "assignments." Your grade will be reduced for failing to deliver both copies by the due date.

In addition to the short papers, your attendance and participation is required and a grade will be given based on this. Since we meet a little over ten times this summer, each class you miss will effectively reduce your attendance score about one full letter grade per day.

The following weighting will be used to calculate your grade:

Short response Papers (3-4 pp.)	15% (each)
x 4 =	60 %
Attendance and Participation	40 %

Please be aware that this is a senior level “exit requirement” course which meets on an accelerated summer schedule. Thus you must prepare for extensive reading, thinking and writing required outside of class, as well as active participation and engagement of the reading in class in order to do well in this course. As this course fulfills the “Gordon Rule” 6A Communication requirement, the University requires that students who do not complete all the written work for this class **will not receive a passing grade** for this class. Please complete all required written work.

Note on Academic Dishonesty: Plagiarism is the ultimate mortal sin of academia. Please, cite properly and document accordingly anything that may appear in your written work for this class. If you are unclear about how to properly document a paper, simply ask me. But err on the side of caution: clear-cut cases of plagiarism (deemed so by myself) will result in the possibility of up to and including a “FF” for this class, and possible disciplinary action taken. Don't try me, I will catch you.

The University of South Florida has an account with an automated plagiarism detection service which allows instructors to submit student assignments to be checked for plagiarism. I reserve the right to 1) request that assignments be submitted to me as electronic files and 2) electronically submit assignments to Blackboard (<http://my.usf.edu>). Assignments are compared automatically with a huge database of journal articles, web articles, and previously submitted papers. The instructor receives a report showing exactly how a student's paper was plagiarized. For more information on Academic Dishonesty, consult the 2005/6 USF Undergraduate Catalog, pp. 45-6 or <http://www.ugs.usf.edu/catalogs/0607/adadap.htm>

If you are unsure of what plagiarism constitutes, I highly recommend you view the tutorial at the following link: <http://www.cte.usf.edu/plagiarism/index.html>. Ignorance of the law, as they say, is no excuse.

Expectations, Suggestions and Mandates for an efficient class:

1. Please arrive to class on time and expect to stay the entire duration of the class. If this is an impossibility, please make every attempt to notify me in advance of tardiness or absence.
2. Especially true in philosophy more than most other areas of academic study, diligence is important. Some of the reading will be difficult, since these are some of the most profound texts in the history of the world. The difficulty of the subject is indirectly proportional to the amount of work put into the course. Expect to have up to ten hours per week of reading and thinking in order to get an "A" for the course. Additionally, for these reasons, attendance is of vital importance.
3. Please come to class prepared (i.e., any reading assigned read, any questions

concerning readings or lectures prepared, etc.)

4. Please be respectful of each other in the class. There will be times when students disagree about a topic discussed in class. This is a didactic process, not a combative one.
5. Due to the great excess of material and limited time in which we must over ground, please do not create a disruption for those people who are attempting to learn. Disruptions include blurting out answers, name calling, chiding each other, snoring, etc. Laughing at the Instructor's jokes is obviously exempted from this policy. In addition, personal audio devices (except those in use to record lectures) and loud crunching snack foods are prohibited from the classroom. ***Please turn OFF your cellphones in class.***
6. Please feel free to make mistakes. We all will from time to time, even your omniscient instructor.
7. Please feel free to make use of my office hours. Waiting until the last moment in the semester to catch up is not advisable. I am excellent at fixing small problems, but horrendous at fixing large ones. The only difference between small and large problems is time.
8. Have fun! The material is only as dry as you make it out to be. Sharpening one's mind can be an exhilarating process.