

## Marx and Marxism

### Course Description

This course is a philosophically oriented introduction to Marx, focusing on the methodological, conceptual, and logical analysis of Marx's thought rather than on the intellectual and political movement of Marxism after Marx. Topics include Marx's critiques of Hegel and Feuerbach; his theory of revolutionary practice and critique of philosophy; his "philosophical anthropology" or developmental theory of human nature; his critique of politics and the state; his materialistic theory of history; his analysis of class and class struggle; his theory of alienation and ideal of freedom; his critique of bourgeois economic theories; his analysis of capitalism; his critique of utopian socialism; and his conception of humanity under post-revolutionary communism.

### Texts

Required: *The Marx-Engels Reader*, 2nd edition, ed. by Robert Tucker (NY: Norton, 1978) and Allen Wood, *Karl Marx*, 2nd edition (Oxford: Routledge, 2004).

Recommended: Shlomo Avineri, *The Social and Political Thought of Karl Marx* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1968) and Bertell Ollman, *Alienation*, 2nd edition (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1976).

Handouts will be posted on the Sakai site for this course.

### Course Prerequisites

Two prior courses in philosophy are required; one should be in social and political philosophy (e.g., Philosophy 342). This course is not open to first-year students.

### Course Requirements

Two papers, each 10 pp. long, each worth 50% of the course grade (extensive guidelines will be provided). **Students are expected to attend all classes; there will be a sign-in sheet at every class. If you miss a class, you are required to use the University absence reporting website at <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra> to indicate the date and reason for your absence.** (An e-mail is sent to me automatically, so you do *not* need to notify me.) **If you miss more than two classes during the semester without proper documentation, your course grade will be reduced.** Always bring the text to class. Do not repeatedly come late to class, leave early, or talk to each other during class. Turn all cell phones and beepers off. No text messaging is allowed. No web surfing is allowed. No solid food is allowed.

### Office Hours

On Tuesdays and Fridays from 8:30-9 a.m. or by appointment on Tuesdays after 1:55 p.m., in the student center cafeteria on Douglass. You are encouraged to speak with me about this course in particular or any philosophical matter in general. My e-mail address is [mcolby@rutgers.edu](mailto:mcolby@rutgers.edu). Jean Urteil is the philosophy department's undergraduate secretary; her e-mail address is [jurteil@philosophy.rutgers.edu](mailto:jurteil@philosophy.rutgers.edu) and her phone number is 848-932-6800.

## **Date, Topic, and Reading Assignment**

- 1/24 Introduction: overview of the course; the Hegelian background
- 1/31 Tucker, Introduction and Preface; “Marx on the History of his Opinions,” “For a Ruthless Criticism of Everything Existing,” and “Contribution to the Critique of Hegel’s *Philosophy of Right*”; Wood, Biographical Sketch, Introduction, Preface to the Second Edition, and Chs. 11, 12, and 13
- 2/7 “On the Jewish Question”; “Contribution to the Critique of Hegel’s *Philosophy of Right*: Introduction,” pp. 53-65; Wood, Ch. 14.1, 14.2
- 2/14 “Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844,” pp. 66-105; Wood, Chs. 1 and 2
- 2/21 “Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844,” pp. 106-25; Wood, Chs. 3 and 4
- 2/28 “Critical Marginal Notes,” “Alienation and Social Classes,” “Society and Economy in History,” and “Theses on Feuerbach”
- 3/7 “The German Ideology,” pp. 146-86; Wood, Chs. 5 and 6
- 3/14 “The German Ideology,” pp. 186-200; Wood, Chs. 7 and 8; *first paper due*
- 3/28 “Wage Labor and Capital,” “The Coming Upheaval,” and “Class Struggle and Mode of Production”; Wood, Chs. 9 and 10
- 4/4 *Capital*, Vol. One, pp. 294-376; Wood, Ch. 14.3
- 4/11 *Capital*, Vol. One, pp. 376-438; Wood, Chs. 15 and 16
- 4/18 *Capital*, Vol. Three and “Crisis Theory”
- 4/25 “Manifesto of the Communist Party”
- 5/2 “The Possibility of Non-Violent Revolution,” “Critique of the Gotha Program,” and “After the Revolution”