



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO
POLITICAL SCIENCE 114B
MARXIST POLITICAL THOUGHT
WINTER 2019
Section 959377
DR. GERMAINE A. HOSTON

Class Meetings: M 5:00 p.m. - 7:50 p.m.
Warren Lecture Hall (WLH) 2207
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TA: Ms. Yin YUAN
Group Discussion Website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/marxistpt2019>
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Marxism was the single most influential strain of radical Western thought in the 19th and 20th centuries, and its influence continues to be felt in East and West today. In this course, we will analyze major themes in Marxist political thought, from its roots in Western Europe in the work of John Locke, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, and G. W. F. Hegel to its elaboration by twentieth-century thinker-activists in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Emphasis will be placed on the position of Marx's and Engels's conception of politics as an outgrowth of the tradition of "modern" Western political thought. We will examine Marxism as it emerged in response to the changing socio-economic setting of Western Europe and conclude with an assessment of how effectively non-European theorists adapted Marxism to their own national contexts. We will conclude by assessing the continued relevance of the Marxian paradigm of development and revolutionary change in the post-industrial world of the 21st century. Students enrolled in the course are not expected to have a background in the subject matter, although those who have studied political theory and/or world history will find that experience helpful.

As all required readings are available on reserve at Geisel Library. In addition to the books ordered for the course, there is a reader for the course. The reader is available for purchase online by going to <http://www.universityreaders.com> and clicking on the "STUDENTS BUY HERE" button). Since the reader is not inexpensive (because some of the readings were not available in book form), copies of the reader will also be available on reserve. Note: All readings from the Reader are indicated with (R) on the syllabus.

In addition, the following books have been ordered for purchase at the University Bookstore.

Eduard Bernstein, *Evolutionary Socialism* (New York: Prism Key Press, 2011) (ISBN 9781466322615)

Régis Debray, *Revolution in the Revolution? Armed Struggle and Political Struggle in Latin America* (London and Brooklyn: Verso, 2017) (ISBN 9781786634030)

Frantz Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth* (Grove Press, 2005), paper (ISBN 780802141323)

Antonio Gramsci, *Selections from the Prison Notebooks* (International Publishers), paper, 0-7178-0397-X

Germaine A. Hoston, *The State, Identity, and the National Question in China and Japan* (Princeton University Press), paper, 0-691-02334-4

Robert C. Tucker, ed., *The Lenin Anthology* (W. W. Norton), 2nd ed. 0-393-09236-X
Robert C. Tucker, ed., *The Marx-Engels Reader* (W. W. Norton), 2nd ed. 0-393-09040-X
Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The First and Second Discourses* (St. Martin's Press), paper 0-312-69440-7
Georges Sorel, *Reflections on Violence* (Cambridge University Press), paper 0-521-55910-3

SCHEDULE OF LECTURES AND READINGS:

Week 1: Jan 7 Course Introduction: Legitimacy and Revolution in Western Political Thought
Readings: Recommended: Rousseau, *The First Discourse*
Required: Rousseau, *The Second Discourse*, and
In Tucker, ed., *Marx-Engels Reader*:
· "Preface to a Critique of Political Economy," pp. 3-6
· "For a Ruthless Criticism of Everything Existing," pp. 12-15

[January 14, 2019: University holiday -- no class]

Week 2: Jan 14 Hegel's *Philosophy of Right* and Marx as a Neo-Hegelian
Readings: In Tucker, ed., *Marx-Engels Reader*:
· "Preface" to A Critique of Hegel's *Philosophy of Right*", pp. 16-25
· "Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's *Philosophy of Right*:
Introduction," pp. 53-65
· "On the Jewish Question," pp. 26-52
· "Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts," pp. 66-125
· "Theses on Feuerbach," pp. 143-145
· "The German Ideology," pp. 146-200
· "Wage Labour and Capital," pp. 203-217
· "The Grundrisse," pp. 221-293
· "Working Class Manchester," pp. 579-585

E-mail assignment due by 11:59 p.m., Friday, January 18, 2019: send e-mail to sign up for the Yahoo! group to marxistpt2019-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Week 3: Jan 21 The Critique of Capitalist Society
Readings: In Tucker, ed., *Marx-Engels Reader*:
· "Excerpts from *Capital*," pp. 294-442
· "The Communist Manifesto," pp. 469-500
· "Critique of the Gotha Program," pp. 525-541

Week 4: Jan 28 German Social Democracy and the Rise of the Mass Movement in 19th-Century Germany
Eduard Bernstein, *Evolutionary Socialism* (R)

Week 5: Feb 4 Sorel's Reradicalization of Marxism
Readings: Georges Sorel, *Reflections on Violence*

Week 6: Feb 11 The Adaptation of Marxism to Russia
Readings: In Tucker, ed., *The Lenin Anthology*:
· "What Is To Be Done?" pp. 12-114
· "Two Tactics of Social Democracy," pp. 120-147
· "The State and Revolution," pp. 311-398

MIDTERM PAPER DUE BY E-MAIL ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18

[February 18, 2019: University holiday -- no class]

Week 7: Feb 18 The Theory of Imperialism and the Revolution in the East
Readings: Lenin, "Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism," in Tucker, ed., *Lenin Anthology*, pp. 204-274
In the Reader, by Mao:
· "On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People"
· "On New Democracy"
Marx, "On British Imperialism in India," pp. 653-664, in Tucker, ed., *Marx-Engels Reader*
Hoston, *The State, Identity, and the National Question in China and Japan*, chaps. 1, 3 and 5

Week 8: Feb 25 Ideology, Hegemony, and Cultural Revolution
Readings: Antonio Gramsci, *Prison Notebooks*, pp. 5-23, 206-276 (Recom'd: 123-205)
Lu Xun, "Diary of a Madman" (R)
Mao, "On New Democracy," pp. 198-208 (R)
Mao, "On the Correct Handling of Contradictions Among the People," *Selected Works of Mao Tse-Tung* (R)
Walter Adamson, *Hegemony and Revolution*, chap. 7, "The Autonomy of Politics" (R)
Hoston, *The State, Identity, and the National Question in China and Japan*, chaps. 6, 7, and 8

Week 9: Mar 4 Marxism and the Problem of Colonialism: Latin America
Readings: Fidel Castro, "History Will Absolve Me (October 16, 1953), in *Revolutionary Struggle, 1947-1958* (MIT Press, 1972), pp. 164-221
Régis Debray, *Revolution in the Revolution? Armed Struggle and Political Struggle in Latin America* (Monthly Review Press, 1967), pp. 7-18, 19-91, 95-116, 117-123 (Both in reader)

Week 10: Mar 11 Marxism and the Problem of Colonialism: Africa
Readings: Amilcar Cabral, selections from Cabral, *Return to the Source* (https://www.sahistory.org.za/sites/default/files/file%20uploads%20/amilcar_cabral_return_to_the_source_selected_spbook4me.org_copy.pdf)

Frantz Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Class Meetings

Lectures and discussions will be held each Monday from 5:00 p.m. to 7:50 p.m. Readings must be completed **before** class, so that discussions can be wide-ranging and productive.

Learning Objectives:

After taking this course you should be able to:

1. Identify the origins of Marx's thought in the history of Western philosophy, including Christianity in general and the ideas in social contract theory (Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau) and philosophical idealism.
2. Explain what historical materialism is (as opposed to idealism and other strains of thought).
3. Describe how Marxian philosophy was transformed as it travelled from Western Europe to Russia, to East Asia (China and Japan), to Latin America, and then to Africa.
4. Describe the challenges involved in each transformation and how they were resolved from the leading thinker-activists in each new national and sociocultural context.

Initial Assignment

Each student must sign up for the Yahoo! group by Friday, January 18, 2019 at 11:59 p.m. by sending a message from your preferred e-mail address (not necessarily your @ucsd.edu address) to: <mailto:marxistpt2019-subscribe@yahoogroups.com>.

Written Assignments

- **Midterm Written Assignment.** Each student shall write a midterm paper 5-7 double-spaced pages in length, which shall be submitted by e-mail no later than 5:15 p.m. **on Monday, February 18, 2019.** The prompt for the paper will be distributed one to two weeks before the paper is due.
- **Final Paper.** A final paper based on the entire quarter's work will be distributed on or before **Monday, February 25** and shall be due **between 7:00 and 10:00 p.m. on Monday, March 18, 2019 via e-mail as specified on the final paper prompt.**

Grading

Class participation	25%	(NOTE: All students are required to attend all class meetings. ¹ This portion of the grade includes online contributions as well as "live" participation in discussions in the classroom). Students who are shy talking in front of others can take advantage of opportunities to contribute to the Yahoo! Group discussions. You can ask questions, answer questions posed by others, help plan review and other study sessions, etc. The point is that <i>active</i> , as opposed to passive, engagement with the material is much more conducive to learning and understanding any material.)
Midterm Paper	35%	
Final Paper	40%	

¹ The exception to this rule is in case of illness. If you are sick, please **do not** come to class and expose others to your illness. When you have recovered and return to class, bring a note from your doctor, and your absence will be excused.