PS 433 Marxism and Radical Thought

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Winter 2020 · T/Th 4:00-5:20pm

Office Hours
T/Th 2-3pm in 833 PLC

Description

This class explores key thinkers, debates, and movements within Marxism, anarchism, and radical thought. We will cover the textual foundations of Marxist thought, the historical origins of (and key differences between) the Marxist and anarchist traditions, and explore some of the intellectual legacies of these traditions (e.g. critical theory and critical geography). The course will also consider intersections of race, gender, and colonialism within radical thought and analyze a diverse sample of radical movements from around the world. Central themes of the course include capitalism, the state, revolution, and power.

Learning Objectives/Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

- Improve their ability to analyze, synthesize, and compare political texts
- Gain a basic understanding of the foundations of Marxism and anarchism
- Become familiar with some of the intellectual legacies of radical thought
- Learn some of the ways in which radical thought has intersected with questions of race, gender, and colonialism
- Learn some of the ways in which radical thought has catalyzed a variety of political movements around the world
- Improve their ability to write clearly and professionally
- Improve their ability to relate historical political texts to contemporary politics

Course Materials

A course packet will be available at the bookstore that includes most of the assigned readings. The rest will be uploaded to the course Canvas page.

Course Requirements

5% -- Attendance
20% -- Weekly reading responses
20% -- Paper 1 (due Feb. 2)
25% -- Paper 2 (due Feb. 22)
30% -- Final Paper (due March 18)

Policies/Expectations

Academic Misconduct: The presentation of someone else's words or ideas as your own is plagiarism and is a serious offense. The University of Oregon takes a very hard line in questions of academic misconduct. It is never tolerable to present someone else’s work as your own. The failure to provide proper acknowledgment of your use of outside sources constitutes plagiarism. You must name all sources you are paraphrasing or quoting. Please consult with me if you are confused about how to make a proper citation. Plagiarism will result in a failing grade in the class and possible reporting to the Office of Student Conduct. Also: in this class we will very seldom use secondary sources. Nevertheless, if you ever consult a secondary source you must cite it.

Electronics: Cell phone use is not allowed in class. You may use laptops ONLY for taking notes during lecture. Please bring your course packet or printed articles to class rather than relying on electronic versions of the text.

Late Assignments: I will not accept late assignments/papers except in extreme circumstances. I reserve the right to decide what constitutes an extreme circumstance.

Student Resources

Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability (physical, learning or psychological) that you think may affect your performance in this class, please see me during the first week of the term so that we can discuss whatever accommodation(s) may be necessary. Please request that a counselor at Disability Services send a letter verifying the disability. Disability Services is located in Oregon Hall 164; email: disab srv@uoregon.edu

Academic Support: The University Teaching and Learning Center provides numerous resources to help University of Oregon students succeed. Programs, workshops, courses, tutors, and mentors are among the many resources they provide to help with educational pursuits at the University of Oregon. For the services offered by the center see http://tlc.uoregon.edu/index.html

Student Life: If you need help and are not sure where to go, check out the Office of Student Life, located at Oregon Hall 164; email: stl@uoregon.edu. The Office of Student Life staff is available to help you find solutions and resources to most issues and concerns on a drop-in basis Monday-Friday, 8am-noon and 1pm-5pm. In emergencies after hours, contact the Department of Public Safety at (541) 346-5444 and have an on-duty staff member paged.

Title IX: I am a student-directed employee. For information about my reporting obligations as an employee, please see Employee Reporting Obligations. Students experiencing any form of prohibited discrimination or harassment, including sex or gender based violence, may seek information on safe.uoregon.edu, respect.uoregon.edu, titleix.uoregon.edu, or aaeo.uoregon.edu or contact the non-confidential Title IX office (541-346-8136), AAEO office (541-346-3123), or
Dean of Students offices (541-346-3216), or call the 24-7 hotline 541-346-SAFE for help. I am also a mandatory reporter of child abuse. Please find more information at Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect.

University of Oregon Crisis Center: A student-funded organization that provides students with confidential telephone crisis intervention 24/7 at (541) 346-4488.

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Course Schedule

WEEK 1 – INTRODUCTION AND MARX

Tuesday Jan. 7
- Introduction to key concepts (no assigned readings)

Thursday Jan 9
- Marx, “On the Jewish Question” in The Marx-Engels Reader (pp. 26-52)

WEEK 2 – MARX CONTINUED

Tuesday Jan. 14
- Marx, “Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844” (pp. 70-86)
- Marx, “Marx on the Origins of History of his Opinions” (pp. 3-6)
- Marx, “The German Ideology” (pp. 148-163, 172-174)

Thursday Jan 16
- Marx, “Wage Labour and Capital” (p. 203-217)
- Marx, “Capital, Volume I” (pp. 302-312, 319-329)

WEEK 3 – MARX AND INTRO TO ANARCHISM

Tuesday Jan. 21
- Marx, “Manifesto of the Communist Party” (pp. 469-500)
- Marx, “Critique of the Gotha Program” (pp. 528-532)

Thursday Jan 23
- Kropotkin, (1910) “Anarchism” in Encyclopedia Britannica
- Bakunin, “Revolutionary Catechism” in Bakunin on Anarchy (pp. 76-97)
- Kropotkin “Mutual Aid” in Dogmas and Dreams: A Reader in Modern Political Ideologies (pp. 379-390)
WEEK 4 – EARLY ANARCHISM

Tuesday Jan. 28

- Bakunin, “Critique of the Marxist Theory of the State” in *Bakunin on Anarchy* (pp. 325-333)
- Marx, “Marx Debates Bakunin” in *The Marx-Engels Reader* (pp. 542-548)
- Engels, “Versus the Anarchists” in *The Marx-Engels Reader* (p. 728-729)

Thursday Jan 30

  - Goldman “What I Believe” (pp. 48-60)
  - Goldman, “Syndicalism: Its Theory and Practice” (pp. 61-77)

>>> Paper 1 due Sunday February 2 at midnight <<<

WEEK 5 – FRANKFURT SCHOOL CRITICAL THEORY

Tuesday Feb 4


Thursday Feb 6


WEEK 6 – INTERSECTIONS

Tuesday Feb 11

- Combahee River Collective Statement (1978)

Thursday Feb 13


WEEK 7 – CRITICAL GEOGRAPHY
Tuesday Feb 18

- Harvey, (2013) “The Art of Rent” in Rebel Cities (pp. 89-114)

Thursday Feb 20


>>> Paper 2 due Sunday February 22 at midnight <<<

WEEK 8 – CONTEMPORARY ANARCHISM

Tuesday Feb 24

- Gordon (2008) Anarchy Alive (pp. 1-26)
- Graeber (2009) “Direct Action, Anarchism, Direct Democracy” in Direct Action: An Ethnography (pp. 201-222)

Thursday Feb 26

- Graeber (2004) Fragments of an Anarchist Anthropology (pp. 1-12, 38-45)

WEEK 9 – RADICAL MOVEMENTS

Tuesday March 3 – The Black Panthers

- The Black Panther Party (2003) “What We Want, What We Believe” in The Radical Reader (pp. 397-399)
- “Introduction to the Black Panther Party Survival Programs” (2008) in The Black Panther Party: Services to the People Programs (pp. 3-4)
  - In addition, pick two of the survival program sections to read

Thursday March 5 – Zapatistas

- Marcos (2001) “Second Declaration of La Realidad for Humanity and Against Neoliberalism” in Our Weapon (pp. 124-127)
- We will watch A Place Called Chiapas, a documentary on the Zapatista movement
WEEK 10 – RADICAL MOVEMENTS

Tuesday March 10 – Rojava

❖ Öcalan (2017) “Democratic Confederalism” in The Political Thought of Abdullah Öcalan (pp. 30-56)
❖ Knapp et al., (2016) Revolution in Rojava (pp. xxiii-xxvii, 1-9, 36-46, 192-210)

Thursday March 12 – May ‘68

❖ We will watch Confrontation: Paris, 1968 – a documentary on the May 1968 uprising in France – and discuss radical student movements

FINALS WEEK

>>> Final Paper due Wednesday March 18 at midnight <<<