

Course Proposal for the Center for the Study of Theory and Criticism

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Marx from Beginning to End: The 1844 Manuscripts Today

Description:

This course gives a broad view of Marxism, but from a specific starting point, that of his *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts* of 1844. Written at the start of Marx's political career, these notebooks were unpublished until the 1930s, and subsequently had a tumultuous history: embraced by the Frankfurt School, rejected by Althusser, implied in Deleuze and Guattari, enjoying a minor revival in recent decades. As Donna Haraway remarks, the *Manuscripts* show Marx "both at his most humanist and at the edge of something else". They include discussion of concepts such as the wage, alienation, money, species-being, inhuman power and free association that are both radically enlarged and revised in his later work, or vanish from it almost entirely. We will take these categories as keys to Marx and Marxism, examining both how they are transmuted in Marx's major works, such as *Grundrisse* and *Capital*, and revived by critical theorists staging a twenty first century encounter between Marxism and ecology, feminism, precarity, biopower, computers, animals and the so-called Anthropocene. The course title, *Marx from Beginning to End*, can thus be taken in at least three senses: 'all Marx, all the time'; from the young Marx to the Marx who dies writing *Capital*; and from the start of Marxism as a nineteenth century revolutionary project to a moment when its canonical forms end, starting something new.

Requirements:

1 in class presentation plus written summary (5-10pp): 25%

1 major research paper (20-30pp): 60%

Seminar participation: 15%

Schedule:

Week 1 Introduction

Week 2 A History of the Manuscripts

Week 3 Proletariat

Week 4 Absent Slaves

Week 4 Alienation

Week 5 Sex

Week 7 Religion

Week 8 Money

Week 9 Species-Being 1

Week 10 Species-Being 2

Week 11 Inhuman Power

Week 12 Free Association

Week 13 Conclusion

Readings:

Readings will be drawn from some of the following sources:

Althusser, Louis (2003) *The Humanist Controversy and Other Writings*. London: Verso.

Althusser, Louis (1969) *For Marx*, London: New Left Books.

Anderson, Kevin J. (2010) *Marx at the Margins: On Nationalism, Ethnicity, and Non-Western Societies*. Chicago; University of Chicago Press.

Arthur, Chris (1986) *Dialectics of Labour*. Basil Blackwell, Oxford.

Basso, Luca (2012) *Marx and Singularity: From the Early Works to the Grundrisse*. Leiden: Brill.

Berardi Franco "Bifo" (2009) *The Soul at Work: From Alienation to Autonomy*. New York: MIT Press

Buck-Morss, Susan (2009) *Hegel, Haiti and Universal History*. University of Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh.

Deleuze, Gilles, and Guattari, Félix (1983) *Anti-Oedipus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia*. New York: Viking.

Dillon, Michael and Lobo-Guerrero, Luis (2009) 'The Biopolitical Imaginary of Species-being', *Theory, Culture & Society* 26(1): 1–23

Doubt, Keith (2000) 'Feminism and Rape as a Transgression of Species-Being', in *Sociology After Bosnia and Kosovo*, Oxford: Rowan and Littlefield.

Dyer-Witheford, Nick (2004) '1844/2004/2044: The Return of Species Being', *Historical Materialism* 12.4 3-25.

Dyer-Witheford, Nick (2015) *Cyber-Proletariat: Global Labour in the Digital Vortex*. London: Pluto.

Fernández-Armesto, Felipe (2004) *So You Think You're Human? A Brief History of Humankind*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Grant, Judith (2005) 'Gender and Marx's radical humanism in *the economic and philosophic manuscripts of 1844*', *Rethinking Marxism* 17:1, 59-77.

Harari, Yuval N. (2016) *Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow*. London: McLelland & Stewart.

Harvey, David (2000) *Spaces of Hope*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Hudson, Laura (2008) 'The Political Animal: Species-Being and Bare Life', *Mediations* 23:2 89-116.

Klotz, Marcia (2006) 'Alienation, Labor, and Sexuality in Marx's 1844 Manuscripts', *Rethinking Marxism* 18:3, 405-413.

Lukács, Georgy (1978) *Toward the Ontology of Social Being: Marx's Basic Ontological Principles*. London: Merlin Press.

Marcuse, Herbert (1972) 'The Foundation of Historical Materialism', in his *Studies in Critical Philosophy*. Boston: Beacon Press.

Marx, Karl (1964) *The Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844*. Ed. Dirk Struk. Trans. Martin Milligan, New York: International Publishers.

Marx, Karl (1973) *Grundrisse. Foundations of the Critique of Political Economy*, translated by Martin Nicolaus, New York: Vintage Books.

Marx, Karl (1977) *Capital: A Critique of Political Economy, Volume I*, translated by Ben Fowkes. New York: Vintage.

Moore, Jason (ed.) (2016) *Anthropocene or Capitalocene: Nature, History, and the Crisis of Capitalism*. New York: PM Press.

Mulhall, Stephen (1993) 'Species-Being, Teleology and Individuality. Part 1. Marx on Species-Being', *Angelaki: A New Journal in Philosophy Literature and the Social Sciences*, 3, 1: 9–21.

Musto, Marcello (2015) 'The 'Young Marx' Myth in Interpretations of the Economic–Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844', *Critique* 43:2, 233-260,

Ollman, Bertell (1971) *Alienation: Marx's Concept of Man in Capitalist Society*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Pettman, Dominic (2011) *Human Error: Species-Being and Media Machines*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Read, Jason (2003) *The Micro-Politics of Capital: Marx and the Prehistory of the Present*, New York: State University of New York Press.

Read, Jason (2015) *The Politics of Transindividuality*. Leiden: Brill

Rectenwald, Michael (2013) 'The Singularity and Socialism' *Insurgent Notes: Journal of Communist Theory and Practice*. October 5, 2013

Rikowski, Glenn (2003), 'Alien Life: Marx and the Future of the Human', *Historical Materialism*, 11, 2: 121–64.

Roelvink, Gerda (2013) 'Rethinking Species-Being in the Anthropocene', *Rethinking Marxism* 25:1.

Roth, Karl Heinz, and van der Linden, Marcel (2014) *Beyond Marx: Theorising the Global Labour Relations of the Twenty-First Century*. Leiden: Brill.

Sayers, Sean (2011) *Marx and Alienation: Essays on Hegelian Themes*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Spivak, Gyatri C. (1999) *A Critique of Postcolonial Reason: Toward a History of the Vanishing Present*.

Tedman, G. (2004) 'Marx's 1844 Manuscripts as a Work of Art: A Hypertextual Reinterpretation', *Rethinking Marxism* 16, 4427-441

Therborn, Goran (2016) 'An Age of Progress?', *New Left Review* 99 27-37

Thacker, E. (2005) *The Global Genome: Biotechnology, Politics, and Culture*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Tsing, Anna. (2009) 'Supply Chains and the Human Condition', *Rethinking Marxism*, 12(2): 148-176.

Virno, Paolo (2004) *A Grammar of the Multitude: For an Analysis of Contemporary Forms*. New York: Semiotext(e).

Wark, McKenzie (2103) *Molecular Red: Theory for the Anthropocene*. London: Verso.

Wendling Amy E. (2011) *Karl Marx on Technology and Alienation*. London: Palgrave.