

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

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Species-Beings: Young Marx in the Post-Anthropocene

Description:

This course gives a broad view of Marxism, but from a very specific starting point, that of the discussion of alienation and species-being in his *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts* of 1844, concepts that then appear to vanish from his later work. Written at the start of Marx's revolutionary career, the *Manuscripts* were unpublished until the 1930s. Subsequently, "alienation" and "species-being" have had a tumultuous history: embraced by Lukacs and the Frankfurt School, dismissed by Althusser, both implied and rejected in Deleuze and Guattari, they are now again being revised in the light of climate catastrophe, artificial intelligence, and other current capitalist cataclysms. 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, biopower, black lives, feminisms, accelerationism and de-accelerationism, animal rights, and the so-called Anthropocene. Or, perhaps better, post-Anthropocene; for as Donna Haraway remarks, the *Manuscripts* show Marx "both at his most humanist and at the edge of something else" This, then, is a course on Marx from beginning to end, in at least three senses: it is 'all Marx, all the time'; it runs 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%

requirements may be adjusted depending on the number of seminar participants

Schedule:

Week 1 Problematic: Species-Being & Alienation

Week 2 Sources: Hegel and Feuerbach

Week 3 1844: The Young Marx

Week 4 Metamorphosis: Grundrisse & Capital

Week 5 Rediscovery: Lukacs & the Frankfurt School

Week 5 The Break: Althusser

Week 7 Becomings: Deleuze & Guattari

Week 8 Metabolisms: Eco-Marxisms

Week 9 Architects & Bees: Animals

Week 10 Feminist Appropriations

Week 11 Inhuman Power: Machines

Week 12 Posthuman? Accelerate, Decelerate, Swerve

Week 13 Conclusions

Readings:

Readings will be drawn from some of the following sources:

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

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

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

Brassier, Ray (2018) "Concrete-in-Thought, Concrete-in-Act: Marx, Materialism and the Exchange Abstraction" *Crisis & Critique* 5:1 <https://crisiscritique.org/2018h/brassier.pdf>

Brassier, Ray (2019) "Strange sameness: Hegel, Marx and the logic of estrangement" *Angelaki* 24 (1):98-105, <https://philpapers.org/rec/BRASS-7>

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

Butler, Judith. 2019. 'The Inorganic Body in the Early Marx. A Limit-Concept of Anthropocentrism'. *Radical Philosophy* 2.06. www.radicalphilosophy.com, 5 February 2020.

Chitty, Andrew. 2009. 'Species-Being and Capital', in A. Chitty and M. McIvor (eds.), *Karl Marx and Contemporary Philosophy*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2009.

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

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

Feuerbach, Ludwig (1881) *The Essence of Christianity*
<https://libcom.org/files/The%20Essence%20of%20Christianity.pdf>

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

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

Hegel Georg Wilhelm Friedrich (1977) *Phenomenology of Spirit*,
http://www.faculty.umb.edu/gary_zabel/Courses/Marxist_Philosophy/Hegel_and_Feuerbach_files/Hegel-Phenomenology-of-Spirit.pdf

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.

Kolozova, Katerina (2015) *Toward a Radical Metaphysics of Socialism: Marx and Laruelle*. Punctum Books.

Laboria Cuboniks (2014) *Xenofeminism: A Politics for Alienation*
<https://www.versobooks.com/books/2887-the-xenofeminist-manifesto>

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,

Negarestani, Reza (2014) "The Labor of the Inhuman, Part I: Human" e-flux #52
<https://www.e-flux.com/journal/52/59920/the-labor-of-the-inhuman-part-i-human/>

Negarestani, Reza (2014) "The Labor of the Inhuman, Part I:The Inhuman" e-flux #52
<https://www.e-flux.com/journal/53/59893/the-labor-of-the-inhuman-part-ii-the-inhuman/>

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

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.

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

Spivak, Gayatri 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

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

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