

MARX & PHILOSOPHY

PHIL 29200/300

University of Chicago, Winter 2019

Place: Harper 130

Time: Tue/Thu 2:00-3:20PM

INSTRUCTOR Lawrence Dallman
dallman@uchicago.edu
Office Hours: TBD
Office Location: TBD

COURSE DESCRIPTION Karl Marx counts among the most influential and controversial thinkers in human history. He made important contributions to philosophy, but he was also a scathing critic of the whole enterprise of philosophy. In this tutorial, we will trace the development of Marx's thinking through his early career, focusing on his critique of philosophy. We will develop an understanding of Marx's philosophical background, his own first-order philosophical commitments, and the basic character of his critique of philosophy. We will do all this with an eye to the implications such a critique may have for philosophy as it exists today.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS This is an intensive-track tutorial in philosophy. Each meeting will be split between a short lecture and seminar-style discussion. Students will be expected to **complete assigned readings** prior to each meeting, and do their best to **contribute to an interesting discussion** with peers.

Additionally, students will be expected to **complete two reading reflections**. These will be short (4-5 pages, double-spaced), written reflections on assigned readings. You will choose which meetings you would like to submit reflections for; however, one must be during the first half of the quarter (meetings 2-10), and one must be during the second half of the quarter (meetings 11-18). In these reflections, you will focus on one or two important themes or arguments from your chosen meeting's assigned readings, especially as these relate to the broader aims of the course. You will provide a clear reconstruction of the argument of the text, and offer evaluative commentary, or relate themes and arguments to previous readings as appropriate. Reading reflections should be emailed to the instructor (dallman@uchicago.edu) by 11:59PM the night prior to the meeting in which the readings will be discussed.

**COURSE
EXPECTATIONS
(CONT.)**

At the end of the quarter, each student will be expected to **write a final paper**. This will be a longer (10-15 pages, double-spaced) philosophical engagement with some of the readings assigned in class. No topic prompts will be provided. You will have significant freedom in choosing your topic—though the paper must pertain to the materials covered in the course, and comparative papers discussing philosophers not discussed in class will likely not be approved. Each student will be expected to **meet with the instructor** prior to the end of 8th week (March 1st) to discuss a paper topic. We will discuss possible approaches to the final paper in class, around mid-quarter, distinguishing between *reconstructive*, *exegetical*, and *historical* approaches to engaging philosophically with historical thinkers. (If you miss this discussion, be sure to come by office hours. It will be important for framing your topic proposal).

**** The final paper is due by 11:59PM on Saturday, March 16th. ****

**GRADING
POLICY**

Participation:	20%
Reading reflections:	30% (15% each)
Final paper (due 03.16.19):	50%

Late papers will be penalized. Plagiarism will not be tolerated.

**COURSE
MATERIALS**

The following required texts will all be available for purchase at the Seminary CO-OP:

1. **MER** Robert C. Tucker (Ed.), *The Marx-Engels Reader*, 2nd edition. (New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 1978).
2. **GI** Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels, *The German Ideology*. (Amherst, NY: Prometheus Books, 1998).
3. **RH** G. W. F. Hegel, *Reading Hegel: The Introductions*, eds. Aakash Singh & Rimina Mohapatra. (Melbourne: re.press, 2008).
4. **FB** Ludwig Feuerbach, *The Fiery Brook: Selected Writings*, trans. Zawar Hanfi (London: Verso, 2013).

Our Hegel text is available (legally) for free online: http://www.re-press.org/book-files/OA_Version-9780980544015-Reading_Hegel.pdf

All other assigned materials will be made available on Canvas.

Reading Schedule

(All supplementary readings are optional!)

– FIRST WEEK: INTRODUCTION TO MARX –

Meeting 1 (Tuesday, January 8th)

- Berlin, “Introduction” from *Karl Marx: His Life and Environment* (Canvas)

Meeting 2 (Thursday, January 10th)

- Marx, “For a Ruthless Criticism of Everything Existing,” 12-15 (MER)
- Marx, “Contribution to the Critique of Hegel’s Philosophy of Right: Introduction,” 53-65 (MER)

Supplementary:

- Suchting, “Philosophical Communist” from *Marx: An Introduction* (Canvas)

– SECOND WEEK: THE INFLUENCE OF HEGEL –

Meeting 3 (Tuesday, January 15th)

- Marx, “Discovering Hegel (Marx to his father),” 7-8 (MER)
- Hegel, “Introduction to *The Philosophy of History*,” 111-154 (RH)

Supplementary:

- Beiser, “Philosophy of History” from *Hegel* (Canvas)

Meeting 4 (Thursday, January 17th)

- Marx, “Excerpts from the Dissertation” (Canvas)
- Hegel, “Introduction to *The Phenomenology of Spirit*,” 21-52 (RH)

Supplementary:

- Forster, Excerpt from “Curing Modern Culture: The Pedagogical Tasks” from *Hegel’s Idea of a Phenomenology of Spirit* (Canvas)

– THIRD WEEK: THE INFLUENCE OF FEUERBACH –

Meeting 5 (Tuesday, January 22nd)

- Marx, “Letter to Feuerbach” (Canvas)
- Feuerbach, “Towards a Critique of Hegel’s Philosophy,” 53-96 (FB)

Supplementary:

- Wartofsky, “The Critique of Hegelian Philosophy, Part II” from *Feuerbach* (Canvas)

Meeting 6 (Thursday, January 24th)

- Feuerbach, “Introduction to *The Essence of Christianity*,” 97-134 (FB)

Supplementary:

- Gregory, “Ludwig Feuerbach: Father of German Materialism” from *Scientific Materialism in Nineteenth Century Germany* (Canvas)

– FOURTH WEEK: THE EARLY HUMANISM –

Meeting 7 (Tuesday, January 29th)

- Feuerbach, “Principles of the Philosophy of the Future,” 175-246 (FB)

Supplementary:

- Wartofsky, “The Critique of Philosophy and the Development of a Materialist Humanism, Part I” from *Feuerbach* (Canvas)

Meeting 8 (Thursday, January 31st)

- Marx, “Contribution to the Critique of Hegel’s Philosophy of Right,” 16-25 (MER)
- Marx, “On the Jewish Question,” 26-52 (MER)

Supplementary:

- Amato, “Marx’s Science and the ‘First Critique’ of Hegel” (Canvas)

– FIFTH WEEK: MOVING BEYOND FEUERBACH –

Meeting 9 (Tuesday, February 5th)

- Marx, “Preface to the Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844,” 67-70 (MER)
- Marx, “Estranged Labour,” 70-81 (MER)
- Marx, “Private Property and Communism,” 81-93 (MER)

Supplementary:

- Cloeren, “Analytic Aspects in Marx’ Attitude towards Religion” from *Language and Thought: German Approaches to Analytic Philosophy in the 18th and 19th Centuries* (Canvas)

Meeting 10 (Thursday, February 7th)

- Marx, “Critique of the Hegelian Dialectic and Philosophy as a Whole,” 106-125 (MER)

Supplementary:

- Murray, “The Paris Manuscripts: Political Economy and the Critique of Hegel’s Absolute Idealism” from *Marx’s Theory of Scientific Knowledge* (Canvas)

– SIXTH WEEK: MATERIALISM AND IDEOLOGY –

Meeting 11 (Tuesday, February 12th)

- Marx, “Theses on Feuerbach,” 143-45 (MER)
- Marx & Engels, “Excerpts on Materialism from the *Holy Family*,” 124-34 (Canvas)
- Marx & Engels, *The German Ideology*, 29-71 (GI)

Supplementary:

- Suchting, “Excerpts from Marx: ‘Critique,’ ‘Science,’ ‘Ideology’” (Canvas)

Meeting 12 (Thursday, February 14th)

- Marx, “Society and Economy in History (Marx to P. V. Annenkov),” 136-142 (MER)
- Marx & Engels, *The German Ideology*, 71-102 (GI)

Supplementary:

- Little, “Historical Materialism and Capital” from *The Scientific Marx* (Canvas)

– SEVENTH WEEK: AGAINST CRITICAL THEORY –

Meeting 13 (Tuesday, February 19th)

- Marx & Engels, “Excerpts on Bauer from the *Holy Family*,” 136-43 & 190-93 (Canvas)
- Marx & Engels, *The German Ideology*, 106-27 (GI)

Supplementary:

- Rosen, “The Polemic between Marx and Bauer” from *Bruno Bauer and Karl Marx: The Influence of Bruno Bauer on Marx’s Thought* (Canvas)

Meeting 14 (Thursday, February 21st)

- Marx & Engels, *The German Ideology*, 259-282 & 288-316 (GI)
- Stirner, “Excerpts from *The Unique and Its Property*” (Canvas)

Supplementary:

- Thomas, “Karl Marx and Max Stirner” (Canvas)

– EIGHTH WEEK: PIOUS WISHES AND THE PHILOSOPHER’S STONE –

Meeting 15 (Tuesday, February 26th)

- Marx & Engels, *The German Ideology*, 431-38, 441-52, 463-65 (GI)

Supplementary:

- Leiter, “Why Marxism Still Does Not Need Normative Theory” (Canvas)

Meeting 16 (Thursday, February 28th)

- Marx & Engels, *The German Ideology*, 470-76 (GI)
- Sellars, “Excerpts from Empiricism and the Philosophy of Mind” (Canvas)

Supplementary:

- Fromm, “Empiricism, Science, and Philosophy in the German Ideology” (Canvas)

– NINTH WEEK: MATURE DEVELOPMENTS –

Meeting 17 (Tuesday, March 5th)

- Marx, “Introduction to the *Grundrisse*,” 222-44 (MER)

Supplementary:

- Cohen, “Karl Marx and the Withering Away of Social Science” (Canvas)

Meeting 18 (Thursday, March 7th)

- Marx, “Prefaces to *Capital*,” 294-302 (MER)
- Marx, “On the History of His Opinions,” 3-6 (MER)

Supplementary:

- Sheehan, “The Founders: Engels, Marx, and the Dialectics of Nature” (Canvas)

– TENTH WEEK: CONCLUSION –

Meeting 19 (Tuesday, March 12th)

- Marx, “Theses on Feuerbach,” 143-45 (MER)

Supplementary:

- Suchting, “Marx’s Theses on Feuerbach: Notes Towards a Commentary” (Canvas)