Prerequisite: A basic familiarity with Marx's critique of capitalism (and of classical political economy) is recommended.

Description

In this seminar we will examine influential and foundational Marxian approaches to such topics as ideology and class consciousness, class and identity formation, capitalism and settler colonialism, the role of the state and capital in globalization, capitalism and sexuality, and the relationship between capitalism and nature. The seminar aims to provide you with a general familiarity with the field of “western Marxism” and modern Marxist theory, and also to give you specific theoretical tools that will be useful in your thesis and dissertation work.

Course Requirements

- **Attend all seminar meetings, being prepared to discuss the reading for that week.** This is a reading-intensive seminar taught at an advanced level; thoughtfully completing the assigned reading on time is an absolute requirement. (In some weeks we will be reading entire books; if this is too much, the seminar is probably not for you.) Always bring the texts, and your notes on the text(s), to the meeting.

- **Response papers and seminar presentations*:**
  Three times during the semester, you will prepare a short seminar paper on the readings for that week. Please distribute copies of your paper to the seminar via email by 5pm on the Sunday prior to the seminar meeting.

  On two of those occasions, you will draw from your paper (and other background reading as necessary) to make a presentation (15-20 minutes) to the seminar on the week’s text(s).

  (* exact number and format of presentations, etc. may vary depending on seminar enrolment.)

  A seminar paper is a well-written set of thoughtful reflections that demonstrates a rich understanding of the reading material. It is NOT a “book report” – merely a broad summary or overview of the text(s) – nor is it a term paper. It may be focussed narrowly on a particular theoretical point, or it may be an exploratory paper that applies the theory to a subject that interests you. Papers must engage with required texts and at least one of the “suggested” texts for the week (your choice). A paper of 5 single-spaced pages is generally fine; 3pp. is too short, and 10pp. is too long.

- **Read through and consider your peers’ papers before the seminar meets. Come to seminar with at least 2 prepared questions for each presenter every week.**

Assessment: Your grade for the seminar will be based on the level and quality of your participation (50%, including both presentations and weekly participation), and the quality of your seminar papers (50%). Revisions to seminar papers are allowed until the end of the seminar (but please staple your rewrites to the original).
Work in this seminar will be graded according to the following scheme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>Outstanding work – clearly presented and demonstrating an excellent grasp of the material. Have you considered publishing on the subject?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Excellent, highly insightful work; engagement with the text(s) consistently meets all expectations, and in many instances exceeds them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>The work is generally quite strong, and you would clearly be able to hold your own in a discussion about the material—but it may be uneven in places, or it may require further editing. Careful, close readings, or greater attention to analysis (rather than summary), may help.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>Some good insights; ability to understand and engage with the text(s) is apparent, although the work may be uneven, unsustained, or there may be a significant oversight.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>Level of engagement with the material and overall quality of work falls below expectations. It is given when a piece of work reflects a poor grasp of theory, an inability to develop a basic argument, and/or poor writing skills.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grades will be averaged at the end of the term using the 12-point system.

Late work will not be accepted, and presentations cannot be rescheduled after the second week of the seminar.

Paper standards: Seminar papers should be typed, proofread, and written in a standard font. They should also be consistent in their use of a citation method. (Proper in-text or footnoted citations of the texts are important, and are required. A bibliography is not.)

Academic honesty: Please see the end of the course outline for the University’s policies about plagiarism. Note that academic honesty is crucial in the environment of a small graduate seminar, and I take it very seriously, without consideration of extraneous circumstances.

Cell phones: Cell phones should be off for the duration of the seminar. Transgressing cell phones will be impounded and have their ringtones replaced by Laibach’s “Capital” or Justin Bieber’s greatest hits, whichever you find more aurally offensive.

Computers: Laptop computers should not be used in seminar except with documentation from the PMC that a computer is required for note-taking. Access to the internet should be disabled. Seminar participants are expected to give attention to each other and to their note-taking, not to transcribing nor to any of the variety of distractions available from the internet.

Questions: Questions about the course material that don't come up in seminar are best handled with each other, on a CULearn discussion board, or with me in office hours, rather than over email. If it is impractical or impossible to schedule an office hour appointment, then you are encouraged to email my your question and I will get back to you as soon as possible.

Email turnaround time: I check my email at least once a day, but I am not perpetually connected to mobile devices nor to the Internet. Every effort will be made to respond within 24 hours to requests to schedule a meeting. Other emailed questions may take longer, depending on their content and complexity.

If you are unable to meet with me, please don't hesitate to meet with each other. The course material provides lots to chew on and work through collectively—over coffee, tea, a pint, or a meal.
Academic Regulations and Accommodations

University rules regarding registration, withdrawal, appealing marks, and most anything else you might need to know can be found on the university’s website. But here are a few required tidbits:

Requests for Academic Accommodations

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). The deadline for contacting the Paul Menton Centre regarding accommodation for final exams for the Fall 2018 (December) exam period is November 9, 2018.

For pregnancy:

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

For religious obligations:

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website: www.carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

For survivors of sexual violence:

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: www.carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a very serious academic offence, and academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated in this seminar.

What are the Penalties for Plagiarism?
A student found to have plagiarized an assignment may be subject to one of several penalties including: expulsion; suspension from all studies at Carleton; suspension from full-time studies; and/or a reprimand; a refusal of permission to continue or to register in a specific degree program; academic probation; award of an FNS, Fail, or an ABS.

What are the Procedures?
All suspicions of plagiarism are reported to the Dean of FASS. Documentation is prepared by instructors and/or departmental chairs. The Dean writes to the student and the University Ombudsperson about the alleged plagiarism. The Dean reviews the allegation. If it is not resolved at this level then it is referred to a tribunal appointed by the Senate. **Plagiarism and cheating at the graduate level are viewed as being particularly serious and the sanctions imposed are accordingly severe.** For more details of what constitutes plagiarism, the potential penalties and the procedures, please refer to the section on Instructional Offences in the Graduate Calendar.

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Other Important Information

- Student or professor materials created for this seminar (including presentations, posted notes, assignments, etc.) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal, academic use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

- Students must always retain a hard copy of all work that is submitted.
- All final grades are subject to the Dean’s approval.
- Carleton University is committed to protecting the privacy of those who study or work here (currently and formerly). To that end, Carleton’s Privacy Office seeks to encourage the implementation of the privacy provisions of Ontario’s Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) within the university. In accordance with FIPPA, please ensure all email communication with staff and faculty is via your Carleton email account.

- **Important Dates:**
  
  October 22-26 is Reading Week (no classes).
  December 7, though a Friday, will behave like a Monday, and seminar will be held accordingly.

Required Texts

By the end of the course, you will have become familiar with the traditions of thought often lumped together under the name "Western Marxism": Georg Lukács, Antonio Gramsci, the Frankfurt School, and the Birmingham School. We will also be highlighting the work of Rosa Luxemburg, Glen Coulthard, and Rosemary Hennessy.

But this leaves a number of openings for additional theoretical traditions (as well as which texts to read from each). The seminar will collectively decide on a final reading list at the first meeting of the seminar; last year’s reading list will be a starting point, but as some texts experience surges of interest in some years, and fall flat in others, I will be gauging your interest in particular topics and texts before the seminar begins.

Expect to read 5-6 books and 25-30 articles or chapters in this seminar.

Books (will be available at Octopus Books on 3rd Street (at Bank)):

Antonio Gramsci, *The Modern Prince and Other Writings* (Int'l Publishers)
Herbert Marcuse, *One Dimensional Man* (Beacon Press)
Rosemary Hennessy, *Profit and Pleasure: Sexual Identities in Late Capitalism*
  (Routledge – 2nd ed.)
Glen Coulthard, *Red Skin, White Masks* (Minnesota)
Andreas Malm, *The Progress of this Storm: Nature and Society in a Warming World* (Verso)

Articles and book chapters (there will be many!) will be available from the library or from the professor.

Volume I of Marx’s *Capital* is an important reference, if you don’t already own it; several copies are in stock at Octopus Books.
Seminar meetings and PRELIMINARY schedule of topics
(most of these were the topics and assignments from last year's cohort, and some may change based on your interests.)

SEPTEMBER 10: Introductions and intellectual biographies. Discuss schedule of readings.
Schedule presentations.

SEPTEMBER 17: Marx
Karl Marx, Capital ch. 1 [1867] – use the Fowkes translation (Penguin or Vintage)
Karl Marx, selections from The German Ideology (Int'l Publishers – any edition [1845])

Highly suggested: Ernest Mandel, “Introduction” to volume 1 of Capital
Suggested: chapters 4, 7, 10, and 26 of Capital
David Harvey, podcast lectures on Capital at davidharvey.org, esp. lecture 2 (chapter 1)

SEPTEMBER 24: Luxemburg
Rosa Luxemburg, “Reform or Revolution” [1900] (avail. at marxists.org)
Rosa Luxemburg, “The National Question” [1908-09] (avail. at marxists.org)

Suggested: Rosa Luxemburg, “The Junius Pamphlet” (avail. at marxists.org)
V. I. Lenin, “Theses on the National Question” (avail. at marxists.org)
V. I. Lenin, “The Right of Nations to Self Determination” (avail. at marxists.org)

OCTOBER 1: Lukács

Suggested: Georg Lukács, “Class Consciousness,” in History and Class Consciousness
Georg Lukács, A Defense of History and Class Consciousness [1920s] (Verso, 2002)

OCTOBER 15: The Frankfurt School (Adorno & Horkheimer)

Suggested: Theodor Adorno, “Culture Industry Reconsidered” and “Culture and Administration,” in The Culture Industry: Selected Essays
Douglas Kellner, Critical Theory, Marxism, & Modernity
Julian Stallabrass, Gargantua: Manufactured Mass Culture
Stuart Hall, “The Supply of Demand” [1960]

OCTOBER 29: The Frankfurt School (Marcuse)
Herbert Marcuse, “A Note on Dialectic” [1960] (preface to Reason and Revolution or incl. in The Essential Frankfurt School Reader, ed. Arato & Gebhardt (Continuum, 1982))
Herbert Marcuse, One-Dimensional Man [1964] (Beacon)

Herbert Marcuse, Counterrevolution and Revolt [1972] (the follow-up text to ODM)
Herbert Marcuse, any selections from Negations [1930s-1960s]
Herbert Marcuse, “Some Social Implications of Modern Technology” [1941]
Douglas Kellner, Critical Theory, Marxism, & Modernity
NOVEMBER 5:  Antonio Gramsci

Antonio Gramsci, *The Modern Prince and Other Writings*, parts II and III [1920s] (Int'l Publishers)

Ralph Miliband, “Counter-hegemonic Struggles” (Socialist Register 1990)

NOVEMBER 12: The Birmingham School and Stuart Hall

Stuart Hall, ”The Life and Times of the First New Left” (*New Left Review* 61)

Suggested: Graeme Turner, ”Marxism and Ideology,” in *British Cultural Studies: An Introduction*
Stuart Hall et al, *Policing the Crisis* (esp. recommended for those in crim!)
Carolyn Steedman, *Landscape for a Good Woman*

NOVEMBER 19: Capitalism and sexual identity


Nancy Fraser, “Feminism, Capitalism, and the Cuning of History” (2009)
-or- Nancy Fraser, “From Redistribution to Recognition” (1995)
-or- any number of the recent rejoinders to Fraser (e.g. in *Socialist Register* 2012; or Meg Luxton’s critique of Fraser’s *Fortunes of Feminism*, and the ensuing responses to Luxton, in *Studies in Political Economy*)
Ellen Wood, ”Capitalism and Human Emancipation: Race, Gender, and Democracy” (1987)

NOVEMBER 26: Marxist social reproduction theory


Any of the selections from *Viewpoint* magazine issue #5

DECEMBER 3:  Marxism, ecological crisis, and climate change

Greg Albo, ”The Limits of Eco-Localism: Scale, Strategy, Socialism” *(Socialist Register* 2007)
Andreas Malm, *The Progress of This Storm: Nature and Society in a Warming World* (Verso, 2018)

Bernstein & Woodhouse, “Africa: Ecopopulist Utopias and Microcapitalist Realities” *(Socialist Register* 2007)

DECEMBER 7 (or thereabouts):  Decolonizing Marx

→ POTLUCK SEMINAR AND END-OF-YEAR PARTY AT PROFESSOR PAULSON’S HOUSE

Kevin Anderson, selections from *Marx at the Margins* (2010)
Glen Sean Coulthard, *Red Skin, White Masks* (Minnesota, 2014)