

Lecture Notes 0 : Course Overview

Content

This course introduces students to the philosophy and economics of Karl Marx. It provides students with the skills to critically evaluate Marx's political and economic thought, to connect these arguments with contemporary political theories, and to apply these theories to pervasive social problems.

Course objectives

By the end of the course, students should be able to define and elaborate on core concepts in Marx's philosophical anthropology (the theory of human flourishing, the idea of species being), his theory of history (historical materialism), and his economics (especially the critique of political economy). They should also be able to critically assess economic phenomena such as exploitation, surplus value, overproduction, and the so-called dialectic (of forces and relations of production) in light of these theories.

Proceedings

This part of the History of Philosophy course consists of four lectures, an essay proposal (up to 500 words), and a 1200-word essay.

Session	Date	Topic	Location
1	15 April	The Philosophical Background	(lecture posted online)
2	20 April	Politics and Human Flourishing	(lecture posted online)
3	22 April	Historical Materialism	(lecture posted online)
	Monday, 27 April, 23:59	Essay Proposal due	
4	28-29 April	<i>Proposal feedback</i>	(via email or Skype)
5	29 April	The Critique of Political Economy	(lecture posted online)
	Monday, 4 May, 23:59	Essay due	

Table 1: Course programme

Readings per session

The best collection of Marx's writings in English is David McLellan (ed). *Karl Marx*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000). The primary texts we'll be using are part of *Marx and Engels Collected Works (MECW)*. If you cannot find the MECW texts, then you can use www.marxists.org (as a last resort).

1. Avineri, S. *Karl Marx: Social and Political Thought*, ch. 1
Marx, K. *Wage-Labour and Capital* (MECW 9)

Cohen, G.A. *Karl Marx's Theory of History: A Defence*, ch. 1
 Miller, R. *Analyzing Marx*, ch. 5

2. Marx, K. 'Comments on James Mill', 1844 (MECW 3).
 Marx, K. *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts*, 1844 (MECW 3).
 Wood, A. *Karl Marx*, ch. 1-3.
 Avineri, S. *Karl Marx: Social and Political Thought*, ch. 2-3
 Kain, P. *Marx and Ethics*, ch. 2-3
3. Marx and Engels. *The Communist Manifesto*, 1848 (MECW 6).
 Marx. 'Preface' to *A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy*, 1859 (MECW 16).
 Cohen, G.A. *History Labour and Freedom*, ch. 1
 Wood, A *Karl Marx*, ch. 5, 7
4. *Proposal feedback*
5. Marx, *Capital* Vol. I, 1867 (MECW 35). ch. 1, 4-6, 24-25.
 Roemer, J. *Free to Lose*, ch. 1, 2, 4, 5

Assessment

- Submit a proposal (up to 500 words), including an outline of the argument and a list of proposed references to vrousalis@esphil.eur.nl, by the due date. Failure to submit a proposal by that date entails forfeiture of the right to feedback.
- Feedback on your proposal will be provided via email or Skype.
- Grading for this part of the course consists of your performance in the 1200-word essay. Essays must critically address some debate touched upon in the lectures, juxtaposed with relevant secondary literature. Essays must be submitted online through the designated link on Canvas.

Essay-writing

- Jim Pryor's guide
- Niko Kolodny's guide
- George Orwell's essay on English writing

Office Hours

By appointment.

Academic Integrity

Please consult the rules and regulations pertaining to academic standards, including notes on plagiarism, on: <https://www.eur.nl/en/about-eur/vision/cheating-and-plagiarism>

References

- Avineri, S Karl Marx: Social and Political Thought. Cambridge 1968.
- Brewer, A A Guide to Marx's Capital. Cambridge, 1984.
- Brudney, D Marx's Attempt to Leave Philosophy. Harvard, 1998.
- Cohen, G A Karl Marx's Theory of History: A Defence. Princeton, 2000
- Cohen, G A History Labour and Freedom. Oxford, 1988
- Elster, J Making Sense of Marx. Cambridge, 1985.
- Foley, D Understanding Capital. Harvard, 1986.
- Heinrich, M An Introduction to the three volumes of Marx's Capital. Monthly Review, 2004.
- Kain, P Marx and Ethics, Oxford, 1991.
- Leopold, D The Young Karl Marx, Cambridge, 2007.
- McNally, D Against the Market. Verso, 1993.
- Miller, R Analyzing Marx. Princeton, 1984.
- Schweickart, D After Capitalism 2nd edition. Rowman and Littlefield.
- Roemer, J A General Theory of Exploitation and Class. Cambridge, 1982.
- Roemer, J Free to Lose. Harvard, 1988.
- Rubin, I I Essays on Marx's Theory of Value. Verso, 1998.
- Weeks, J Capital and Exploitation. Arnold, 1981.
- Wolff, R P Understanding Marx. Princeton, 1984.
- Wood, A Karl Marx. Routledge, 2004.