

# MARX & MARXISM TUTORIALS

## 8 TUTES ON MARX'S THOUGHT

### Tutorial Arrangements

The purpose of these tutorials is to sharpen students' understanding of core concepts in the marxist tradition, and to encourage them to discuss relevant issues of historical or philosophical import.

Essays up to 2,000 words in length are to be submitted electronically to [nicholas.vrousalis@lmh.ox.ac.uk](mailto:nicholas.vrousalis@lmh.ox.ac.uk) at least 24 hours prior to the tutorial.

The weekly essay should discuss one question from the week's reading list, and answer *that question alone*.

The reading list is available on the website of the Department of Politics website [http://www.politics.ox.ac.uk/teaching/ug/reading\\_lists/217/217\\_0809.pdf](http://www.politics.ox.ac.uk/teaching/ug/reading_lists/217/217_0809.pdf). Neither the former list, nor the one that follows, are exhaustive of relevant material students can look at.

All tutorials are held in teaching rooms at Lady Margaret Hall.

### Some background readings:

McLellan, D. (2000), *Karl Marx: Selected Writings*, Oxford

One of the best collections of Marx's writings, recommended purchase if you don't want to buy individual works. Henceforth *SW*.

Cohen, G.A. (2000), *Karl Marx's Theory of History: A Defence*, Oxford and Princeton

A very influential defence of 'technologism' ('technologism' is a subset of 'economism'), this is the text that kick-started the Anglo-Saxon 'analytical marxist' debate, and which set the standard of rigour for most discussions since. Henceforth *KMTH*.

Lichtheim, G. (1982), *Marxism: An Historical and Critical Study*, Columbia

Excellent discussion of marxian and marxist thought set in historical context, henceforth *MHCS*.

### Individual Topics<sup>1</sup>

#### Week 1: Historical Materialism

*SW*, *German Ideology* (extracts), 'Letter to Annenkov', *Grundrisse* (extracts), *Preface to a Critique of Political Economy*.\*

*KMTH*, chapters VI, VII and X.\*

*MHCS*, part IV, chapter 2.

Roemer, J. (1982) *A General Theory of Exploitation and Class*, Cambridge, esp. chapter 9.

#### Week 2: Marx's Economics I

*SW*, *Wage-Labour and Capital*, *Capital* vol. I (extracts), *Results* (extracts).\*

*MHCS*, Part IV, chapters 4, 5.\*

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<sup>1</sup> \* signifies necessary readings

Robinson, J. (1942), *An Essay on Marxian Economics*, Macmillan, sections 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11.

Harvey, D. (2007), *The Limits to Capital*, Verso

### **Week 3: Marx's Economics II**

*SW*, *Capital* vol. III (extracts).\*

Sweezy, P. (1942), *Theory of Capitalist Development*, Oxford, esp. chapters 9 and 12.\*

Roemer, J. (1988), *Free to Lose*, Harvard, chapter 9.\*

Cohen, G.A. (1988), *History, Labour and Freedom*, Oxford, chapter 11.

Chapter 1 of Callinicos' *Anti-Capitalist Manifesto* is also interesting (but less scholarly) in this connection.

### **Week 4: Ideology**

*SW*, *Towards a Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right: Introduction, German Ideology* (extracts), *Capital* vol I, chapter 1, part 4.\*

Rosen, M. (1996) *On Voluntary Servitude: False Consciousness and the Theory of Ideology*, Polity Press, chapters 2, 6.\*

Parekh, B. (1982), *Marx's Theory of Ideology*, JHU Press, chapters 6, 7.

### **Week 5: Class**

*SW*, *Communist Manifesto*, *The Class Struggles in France*, *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*, *The Civil War in France*.\*

*KMTH*, chapter VII, part 7.\*

Elster, J. (1985), *Making Sense of Marx*, Oxford, chapter 6.\*

Wright, E.O. (1985), *Classes*, Verso.

### **Week 6: The State**

*SW*, *The Class Struggles in France*, *The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte*, articles for the *Neue Rheinische Zeitung*.\*

Elster, J. (1985), *Making Sense of Marx*, Oxford, chapter 7.\*

Miliband, R. (1969), *The State in Capitalist Society*, Weidenfeld and Nicholson.

### **Week 7: Utopian Socialism**

*SW*, *Communist Manifesto*, part III, *Critique of the Gotha Programme*.\*

Cohen, G.A. (2000), *If You're an Egalitarian, How Come You're So Rich?*, Harvard, chapter 3.\*

Leopold, D. (2005) The Structure of Marx and Engels Considered Account of Utopian Socialism, *History of Political Thought*, volume XXVI no.3, pp.443-66.\*

Draper, H. (1990), *Karl Marx's Theory of Revolution* vol. 4: Critique of Other Socialisms, New York, chapter 1.

## **Week 8 (Optional Topic 1): Revolution**

*SW, Inaugural Address to the First International*, 'Letter to Vera Zasulich', 'Preface to the Russian Edition of the *Communist Manifesto*'.\*

*MHCS*, part III, chapters 5, 6.\*

Luxemburg, R. (1900), *Social Reform or Revolution?*, Merlin Press.

Cohan, A.S. (1976), *Theories of Revolution*, Thomas Nelson & Sons, chapter 5.

Buchanan, A. (1982) *Marx and Justice*, Rowman and Littlefield, chapter 5.

## **Week 8 (Optional Topic 2): Marxism and Morality**

*SW, Critique of the Gotha Programme, Capital* (selections).\*

Geras, N (1985), 'The Controversy about Marx and Justice', *Literature Of Revolution*, Verso, chapter 1.\*

Elster, J. (1985), *Making Sense of Marx*, Oxford, chapter 4.\*

Cohen, G.A. (1983), 'Review of Allen Wood, *Karl Marx*', *Mind* 92.