

History 4000: Marx and Marxist History
Office hours: Tu-Th, 8:45-9:15 AM and by appointment
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This is a reading and research course on Marx and Marxist history. The readings, most from Marx and Engels, cover four issues: political revolutions, the transition from feudalism to capitalism, the contours of industrial capital, and the role of women in pre-capitalist and capitalist societies.

Although the instructor will lecture the first week and give mini-lectures to introduce materials, this is not a lecture course. We will spend class time discussing texts. For this reason, attendance is mandatory; you have two absences after add-drop before your grade is docked; all absences, except dire health problems with a doctor's excuse, count against those two. There are two requirements for the course: participation in discussions (each student will turn in a log of their participation after each class) and a 10-15 (2,500 to 4,000 word) page term paper for undergraduates or a 15-20 page paper for graduate students (4,000 to 6,000 words).

The paper will test a proposition or idea found in the readings. You can choose any area or time period from the medieval era to the present. With permission of both instructors, you may combine research/area/topic with a paper from another course, included History 4990. But each paper, in that case, must be independently written. The paper can take one of two forms: reading and analysis of a small set of secondary sources (e.g. E. P. Thompson and his critics on the English working class; the fate of Marxist interpretations of the French Revolution) or a testing of such a proposition using a small body of primary sources (e.g. Was Marx right about the American Civil War?)

Books for Course:

Marx Karl, *Precapitalist Economic Formations*. Eric J. Hobsbawm, ed. (1965) ISBN 0-7178-0165-9
Karl Marx, *Capital: A Critique of Political Economy*, vol. 1 (Penguin Classics) Ernest Mandel (Introduction), Ben Fowkes (Translator) ISBN: 0140445684.
Barbara Ehrenreich, *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*. 0805063897
All other assignments either at online library sites, class handouts, or on a course Web-CT site.

Why Should We Care About Marx and Marxist History?

Jan 10 Who was Marx and why should we pay attention to him?
Jan 12 Marxist language and terms. Begin reading next week's assignments
Jan 17 Structure and structural determination: Marx, *Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Napoleon*, chap. 1, <http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1852/18th-brumaire/ch01.htm>; E. P. Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class*, 9-13; Paul David, "Clio and the Economics of QUERTY," <http://f.staff.umkc.edu/fkfc8/QUERTY.html>

Marx the Revolutionary and Marx on Political Revolutions

Jan 19 Marx, *Communist Manifesto*, parts 1-2, **Topic paragraph, 150 words due.**
<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/index.htm>
Jan 24 Marx, *Manifesto*, parts 3-4 and introductions to 1882 Russian and 1888 English editions
<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/index.htm>
Jan 26 **One-two page (400 word) precis of term paper, with attached sources due. No regular class. Student conferences on term papers throughout that day.**
Jan 31 Paris Commune of 1870-1871: Marx, *Civil War In France*, chaps 3-5
<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1871/civil-war-france/ch03.htm>,
chap04html, and chap05html
Feb 2 Newer interpretations: Thomas, R., "Enigmatic Writings: Karl Marx's the Civil War in France and the Paris Commune of 1871," *History of Political Thought* 1997 18(3): 483-511 (at Ingenta database).

Marx and Engels as historians

- Feb 7 German Peasants' War. Engels, *Peasant War in Germany*, 12 articles of the peasants: <http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1850/peasant-war-germany/ch0e.htm> and ch. 3, <http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1850/peasant-war-germany/ch03.htm>;
- Feb 9 Martin Luther on the Peasant War: selections from *An Admonition to Peace: A Reply to the Twelve Articles of the Peasants in Swabia*; *An Open Letter on the Harsh Book Against the Peasants*; and *Against the Robbing and Murdering Hordes of Peasants*.
- Feb 14 Engels, *Peasant War in Germany*, chaps 1-2
- Feb 16 Engels, *Peasant War in Germany*, chaps. 5-7

Transition from Feudalism to Capitalism

- Feb 21 Marx, *Precapitalist Economic Formations*, 9-38 (Hobsbawn introduction) and 67-99 (part I)
- Feb 23 Marx, *Precapitalist Economic Formations*, pp. 100-20 and 39-66 (in introduction)
- Feb 28 Marx, *Capital*, vol. 1: chaps 26-28.
- March 2 Marx, *Capital*, vol. 1: chaps. 29-32
- March 7 E. P. Thompson, "The Moral Economy of the English Crowd in the Eighteenth Century," *Past & Present* 1971 50: 76-136 (JSTOR).
- March 9 Marx, *Capital*, vol. 1: chap. 33; Winifred B. Rothenberg, "The Market and Massachusetts Farmers, 1750-1855," *Journal of Economic History* 41(1981): 283-314 (JSTOR).
- March 21 Michael Merrill, "Putting 'Capitalism' in its Place: A Review of Recent Literature," *William and Mary Quarterly* 1995 52(2): 315-326, and Richard Lyman Bushman, "Markets and Composite Farms in Early America," *ibid* 1998 55(3): 351-374, both at JSTOR

Industrial Capitalism

- March 23 Marx, *Capital*, 1: chap. 10
- March 28 E. P. Thompson, "Time, Work-Discipline, and Industrial Capitalism," *Past & Present* 1967 (38): 56-97 (JSTOR).
- March 30 ***No class meetings; individual meetings with students on papers.***
- April 4 Marx, *Capital*, 1: chap. 14
- April 6 Marx, *Capital*, 1: chap. 15, parts 1-4
- April 11 Marx, *Capital*, 1: chap. 15, parts 5-8
- April 13 Herbert G. Gutman, "Work, Culture, and Society in Industrializing America, 1815-1919," *American Historical Review*, 78 (1973): 531-88, JSTOR. ***Rough Draft of Essays Due.***

Engels on Women and the State

- April 18 Engels, *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*, chaps.1-4 at <http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1884/origin-family/index.htm>.
- April 20 Engels, *Origin of the Family* chaps. 5-9 at above.
- April 25 Short presentations of term papers
- April 27 Ehrenreich, *Nickel and Dimed*