PHI 517: *Topics in Contemporary Analytic Marxism*
Princeton University, Spring 2024

Thursday 1:30-4:20pm
Laura Wooten Hall 201

Instructor:
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Course Description
This course will familiarize students with a range of recent work in (analytic) Marxist philosophy, and debates grounded in Marxist thought. The course will look at a range of topics foundational to Marxism, such as whether there are promising ways to understand some of Marxism's primary condemnations of Capitalist society; whether particular “Marxist methodologies” are valid, and whether Marxism is viable as a framework for understanding class and issues affecting other social identities. In particular, we will look at debates about: exploitation, alienation, unfreedom (domination); immanent critique, and functional explanation; class, Patriarchy, racism, and imperialism; as well as some other topics of particular importance in recent Marxist thought.

Required Texts:
PDFs of the readings will be available on the course Canvas site.

Course Requirements:
- One final (15–20 page, double-spaced) paper.
  - Due Dean’s Date: Tuesday, May 7th. Email to instructor.

Accessibility Policy:
If you require any accommodation for a disability, please contact and register with Disability Services. Note that you can contact them directly by phone at (609) 258-8840 or by email at ods@princeton.edu. And please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Class Schedule

**The Classic ‘Bads’ of Capitalism**
Thursday, February 1st, Exploitation:
Supplementary and Background Readings:
G. A. Cohen, “The Labour Theory of Value and the Concept of Exploitation”

**Thursday, February 8th, Domination and Freedom:**
Pascal Brixel, “Freedom, Desire, and Necessity”
Jan Kandiyali “Should Socialists Be Republicans?”

**Thursday, February 15th, Alienation [BRIXEL CLASS VISIT]:**
Pascal Brixel, “The Unity of Marx’s Concept of Alienated Labor”

*Supplementary and Background Readings:*
Jan Kandiyali, “The Importance of Others: Marx on Unalienated Production”

**Marxist Methods**

**Thursday, February 22nd, Functional Explanation:**
G.A. Cohen, “Marxism and Functional Explanation”
Jon Elster, “Marxism, Functionalism and Game Theory”

**Thursday, February 29th, Immanent Critique:**
Sanford Diehl, “Why Immanent Critique?”
Rachel Fraser, “The Limits of Immanent Critique”

*Supplementary and Background Readings:*
Robin Celikates, “Karl Marx: Critique as Emancipatory Practice”

**Class and Beyond**

**Thursday, March 7th, Class:**
Erik Olin Wright, *Classes*

*Thursday, March 14th, NO CLASS, SPRING BREAK*

**Thursday, March 21st, Patriarchy:**
Angela Davis, “Approaching Obsolescence of Housework”
Nancy Holmstrom, “Women’s Work,’ the Family, and Capitalism,”
Colin Farrelly, “Patriarchy and Historical Materialism”

*Supplementary and Background Readings:*
Friedrich Engels, *The Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*

**Thursday, March 28th, Race 1 MILLS’ ATTACK:**
Charles Mills, “Under Class Under standings,” *From Class to Race* pp. 123-146
Charles Mills, “European Specters,” *From Class to Race* pp. 147-172

**Thursday, April 4th, Race 2 MARXIST DEFENSE [WILLS CLASS VISIT]:**
Vanessa Wills, “The ’White Privilege’ Concept in Marxism and in Critical Race Theory”
Vanessa Wills, “What Could It Mean to Say, ”Capitalism Causes Sexism and Racism?”

**Work**

**Thursday, April 11th, Work – UBI [GOUREVITCH CLASS VISIT]:**
Jan Kandiyali “Marx, Communism, and Basic Income”
Alex Gourevitch & Lucas Stanzyck, “The Basic Income Illusion”
Alex Gourevitch, “On Necessary Labor: A critique of current thinking about work, freedom and income”

**Thursday, April 18th, Work – PRODUCTIVE JUSTICE:**
Lucas Stanzyck, *From Each*

**Imperialism**

**Thursday, April 25th, Imperialism**
Lidal Dror, “Ignorance and Indifference of the Deaths of (Select) Others” *ms*