New York University
Department of Media, Culture, and Communication

Special Topics in Critical Theory:
Marx

Course number MCC-GE 3013

SPRING 2018

Prof. Alexander R. Galloway
galloway@nyu.edu

Time: Wednesdays 2:00-4:50pm
Location: East Building, Room 741
Office hrs: Tue 2-4pm; Thu 9-10:30am

Course Description
Much of critical theory finds its origin in the work of Karl Marx. This doctoral seminar will focus on reading (most of) Marx's *Capital, vol. 1*. Then, during the final three weeks of the semester, students will pursue individual/group inquiry into a Marxist text of their own choosing. Overall the course will emphasize Marxism as a political and economic theory, but will also address Marxism as a critical methodology applicable to disciplines beyond political and economic theory. Themes include the commodity, alienation and reification, surplus-value, labor, machines, ideology, and community.

Required Book
PART 1 -- CAPITAL

January 24 -- course introduction

January 31 -- Introduction, Prefaces, and Postfaces
Marx, Capital, 11-120.

February 7 -- The Commodity
Marx, Capital, 125-244.

February 14 -- Capital; Absolute Surplus-Value
Marx, Capital, 247-339.

February 21 -- The Working Day
Marx, Capital, 340-416.
Paper topics announced

February 28 -- Relative Surplus-Value; Manufacture
Marx, Capital, 417-491.

March 7 -- Machinery
Marx, Capital, 492-553.
First paper due

March 14 -- spring break

March 21 -- Machinery (cont.)
Marx, Capital, 553-639.

March 28 -- Absolute and Relative Surplus-Value; Wages; Accumulation
Marx, Capital, 643-746.

April 4 -- Accumulation (cont.); Primitive Accumulation
Marx, Capital, 762-802, 873-940.

April 11 -- no class
PART 2 -- INDIVIDUAL/GROUP INQUIRY

April 18, April 25, and May 2
Each student will select one of the following books and pursue individual or group inquiry as necessary. Students will report each week on their reading progress, allowing for group discussion of problems and questions, as well as for planning the final paper.


Friday, May 11, 5pm -- Final paper due.
Course Assignments

*Reading* -- Students are expected to read the assigned text in advance of class.

*Discussion Leaders* -- Students are required to act as a discussion leader for two different weeks during the semester.

*Writing* -- Each student will write a midterm and final paper, each approximately ten pages long. Suggested paper topics will be provided. Papers should adhere to standard format (12 point font, double spaced, one inch margins, no spaces between paragraphs, etc.) and follow the *Chicago Manual of Style*. All writing should demonstrate a close reading of the required materials and exhibit a method of critical analysis.

Grade Formula

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Papers</td>
<td>80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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Laptop Policy

I discourage the use of laptops, tablets, and phones in class and consider them to be detrimental to the social and pedagogical climate of the classroom. Exceptions can be made for readings that have been distributed in electronic format, and for students with special learning needs.