

Karl Marx (1818-1883)

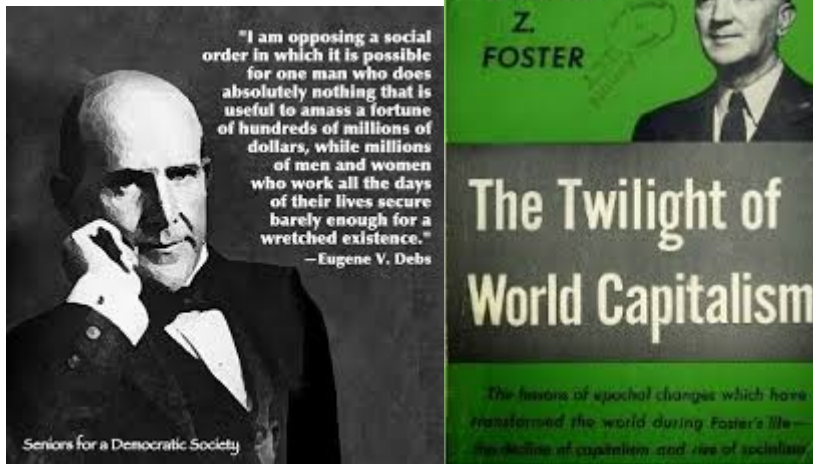
Main contribution
to sociology:

Analysis of class inequality
– the economic basis
of poverty



“The strongest bond of human sympathy, outside of the family relation, should be one of uniting all working people of all nations, tongues and kindreds.”

– ABRAHAM LINCOLN



Professor Markowitz History506:361
Office Hours: 6-7 PM Van Dyck Hall, 007B
email.markowit@history.rutgers.edu Office Phone 848-9328536

Books to Be Bought

Eaton, Political Economy
Selsam and Martel, Reader in Marxist Philosophy
Hobsbawm, Age of Empire
Hobsbawm, Age of Extremes
Tim Wheeler, News From Raintree County
Sommerville, Philosophy of Marxism(optional)

Course Work

The course will deal, in the first segment, with the roots and foundations of Marxist theory and the development of the movements for socialism and communism in Europe and the United States in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

In the second segment, the course will focus on the struggles to establish socialism and communism on the world scene,, concentrating on the Russian Revolution, its world impact, the backlash to it, the effects of World War II, the Chinese Revolution, and the cold war on the varieties of and movements for socialism and communism.

Students will be required to do a take-home midterm, and a take-home final examination. Class attendance and participation will be counted toward the final grade. Reading assignments vary, in that those in the first segment are light,

although difficult since they deal with philosophy and political economy, and those in the second segment (biographies, historical monographs) are very heavy. Try to keep up with the reading, and be prepared to participate in class discussions drawn from the reading.

The course aims, through diverse primary and secondary sources, to help students develop a framework for understanding socialist/communist ideology and the influence and contributions of the movements for socialism and communism to modern U.S. and world history

Course Outline

Jan 17-Introduction -course themes and background

Week-January 24-- Marxism, Socialism, Communism-Definitions Eaton, Economy, chap.1. Selsam,Reader, pp.17-41 Video: The International

Week 31 Historical Materialism and History - Readings Selsam, Reader, pp.45-65. 78-93

Week 3- Feb 7-Historical background to Capitalism--Eaton, Economy, chaps. 3, Selsam, Reader,pp. 94-114 Video--Winstanley

Week4- Feb 14-Early Marxism to 1848-- Eaton, Economy, chaps.2, 4, 5, Selsam,Reader,pp. 182-206

Week 5- Feb 21 The Communist Manifesto and the European Revolutions. Eaton, Economy, chap.8 Selsam, Reader, pp. 207-233 Video--Burn

Week 6-February 28 Mature Marxism: the First International to the Paris Commune Eaton, Economy, chap.9, Selsam, Marx, pp. 248-274 Selsam,Reader, pp. 240-274 Hobsbawm, Empire, chaps 1-2

Week 7-March 7 Capitalist Imperialism and the Rise of the Second International--Hobsbawm,Empire chaps 3-7, 12-13, Video-The Organizer

Week 8-March 21- Imperialist World War and the Prelude to Socialist Revolution--Hobsbawm, Extremes, chaps 1-2
Take-home midterm given out

Week 9-March 28-The Russian Empire Socialist Revolution and the Communist New Left--Hobsbawm, Extremes, chap 3

Take-home midterm due Video-Strike

Week 10-April 4 The Socialist-Communist Schism and the World Economic Crisis --Hobsbawm, Extremes, chap 4-5

Week 11-April 11-The Socialist and Communist Movements and the Struggle against Fascism: Strategies and Tactics --Hobsbawm, Extremes, chap 6-7

Video-The Good Fight

Week 12- April 18 The Second World War as a World Revolutionary War Hobsbawm, Extremes, chaps 8-10

Video-1900, Begin Reading Wheeler, Raintree County

Week 13-April 28 The Chinese Revolution, the Restructuring of World Capitalism, and the Struggle for the "Third World"--Hobsbawm, Extremes, chaps 11-14 Continue Reading Wheeler, Raintree County

Video-Small Happiness

Week 14-May 1-Conclusion: The "end of the Cold War" and the crises of Capitalism and Socialism Hobsbawm, Extremes, chaps 15-16 Complete Reading Wheeler, Raintree County. Takehome final given out/ due date announced