Instructor
Callum MacRae

E-mail
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Office Hours
TBA/by appointment (Mon and Wed A.M.)

Classroom and Meeting Time
Mondays and Wednesdays 9:30 - 10:45
NAC 5/123

Grading Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Response Pieces</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper Proposal</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE</td>
<td>TOPIC</td>
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<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 27 Jan</td>
<td>Introduction to Marx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 3 Feb</td>
<td>Hegel to Marx, via Feuerbach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 5 Feb</td>
<td>The critique of rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 10 Feb</td>
<td>The critique of rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 12 Feb</td>
<td>NO CLASS – COLLEGE CLOSED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 17 Feb</td>
<td>CLASS CANCELLED (make-up class to be scheduled)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 26 Feb</td>
<td>Alienation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 2 Mar</td>
<td>Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W 4 Mar</td>
<td>Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>W 18 Mar</td>
<td>Historical Materialism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 23 Mar</td>
<td>Ideology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M 30 Mar</td>
<td>The critique of Utopian Socialism</td>
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I have left four weeks free at the end of the semester for us to study four topics of your choosing. My suggested shortlist of topics is: the Dialectic and Marx’s Method; Class; Exploitation; the State; Fetishism; Revolution; the Manifesto and Modernism; Bernstein and Luxemburg; Luxemburg, Lenin, and Civil Liberties; Gramsci; Marxism and Feminism; Marxism and Critical Race Theory. Suggestions for alternative topics are welcome. We will discuss these options more in class closer to the time.

Please note, **readings and assignments are listed on the dates they are due** – so if a reading is listed for Wednesday 17th of April you must do the reading before class that day; if an assignment is listed for a particular date you must submit your assignment on that day.

Readings in non-italicized text are mandatory; italicized readings are optional, but strongly recommended.
READINGS

All readings will be made available online, through blackboard and the course website. There are some books we will be using a lot, and you may want to get copies of them if you so wish. These are McLellan’s *Karl Marx: Selected Writings* (2nd Edition, 2000), Wolff’s *Why Read Marx Today* (2002), Wood’s *Karl Marx* (2nd Edition, 2004), and Cohen’s *Karl Marx’s Theory of History: A Defence* (Expanded Edition, 2000).

GRADING BREAKDOWN

RESPONSE PIECES (15%)

You will each be assigned a group, A, B, or C. Each week a different group will be due to submit a response to the readings. These should be 1-2 pages long (double spaced), and consist of an objection, a question, a clarificatory point, or something similar.

PAPER PROPOSAL (10%)

Just after the spring break I’ll be collecting in proposals from each of you for your final papers. These should be 2-3 pages (again double-spaced), and contain a clear thesis statement, a summary of your argument and the structure of your paper, and a bibliographical review. (We’ll discuss this in class closer to the time.)

FINAL PAPER (75%)

Most of your final grade will be made up by your performance on the final paper. This should be 4000-5000 words.

COURSE WEBSITE

The course website is available here. On our website you can access the syllabus, the readings, extra resources and homework sheets. For issues about internet access see the section on ‘Accommodations’ below.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the semester:

- You will have basic competence with the core ideas in Marx's thought.
- You will have been introduced to some of the main philosophical literature on Marx, both exegetical and evaluative.
- You will be able to use this knowledge to expound and provide your own assessment of Marx’s ideas.
HOW TO DO WELL IN THIS CLASS

1. Attend

Reading Marx is very tough, and the best way to get your head round the ideas is to talk about them, and to listen to others talking about them. So come along to class, and get involved in the discussions we’ll have.

2. Do the reading – well

If you are to get anything out of this class, you must read the assigned material – and read it well. That means taking notes, asking questions of the text while you read, and preferably reading excerpts more than once. Quite apart from the extra value of getting used to philosophical writing, there will be material that will be on the exams that we won’t cover explicitly in class – there is no substitute for doing the readings.

3. Complete and submit all homework assignments on time

The response assignments count for 15% of your grade. No submission, no grades – and in the absence of sufficient reason delivered to me in good time, late submission will count as no submission. (See below for details of late submissions policy.)

4. Prepare for the final paper

The final paper is 75% of your final grade, so much is riding on it. Prepare for it accordingly. Start thinking hard about what you want to write on as early as you can and try to get most of your planning done by the end of Spring break. Work hard on your proposal. Come talk to me in office hours or drop me an email to discuss your ideas in advance.

5. Use your resources well – including me

Use the resources at your disposal. There is a lot of material on the topics we will cover online. Explore this wealth of resources, but always be aware that not all sources are reliable. A list of trustworthy sites that come with my recommendation can be found on our course website.

Sometimes even I can be a useful resource, so don’t hesitate to email me with queries or discussion points and come see me during my office hours. I’m very much interested in this stuff, and especially in what you have to say about it – if you want to think through some of these problems aloud, come have a chat.
CLASSROOM ATMOSPHERE

It’s important for all of us that we work together to create a classroom atmosphere that is conducive to each of you philosophising as best you can. That means basic things like turning up on time and paying attention, but also things like being sensitive in discussion and taking care to listen and respond respectfully to other people’s points.

Don’t interrupt other people or talk over them. Try not to eat in class. (Though see ‘Accommodations’ and ‘Accessibility’ sections below.)

If you’re having difficulties with participation, or if you feel that something about the classroom atmosphere is making you uncomfortable or unable to fully engage, please come see me or drop me an email. In line with CCNY policy, discrimination of any sort will not be tolerated. If you experience or witness some form of discrimination in class please let me know – or alternately you can contact the Office of Affirmative Action, Compliance and Diversity.

CONTACTING ME

Please feel free to drop me an e-mail at any time if you have questions – I will do my best to answer them. Please note that it may take me up to 48 hours to respond to emails; don’t email at 4am the night before a deadline expecting an immediate reply.

GRADE DISCUSSION AND CHALLENGING POLICY

If you don’t understand why you got a certain grade, please drop me an email or come see me. Under no circumstances will this result in your grade being lowered.

TECHNOLOGY

Laptops are permitted in class; phones are not. If you need your phone out for an emergency, please notify me before class.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence, and it will be treated as such in line with CUNY policy. The details of this policy, and other academic integrity policies, can be found here.

LATE SUBMISSIONS POLICY

The deadlines in this class are hard deadlines. That means if you miss a deadline without a good reason (with official documentation) delivered in good time, you’ll receive a zero for that assignment.
LATES AND ABSENCES

Turning up on time is a basic expectation of this class. Missing class unexcused on a day with an in-class quiz or homework deadline will result in a 0 on that assignment. Missed in-class assignments and exams may be made up only if there is an official, documented reason for missing class (including but not limited to illness or religious practices).

Please be aware of the NY State Education Law, which provides that:

i) Any student in an institution of higher education who is unable, because of their religious beliefs, to attend classes on a particular day or days shall, because of such absence on the particular day or days, be excused from any examination or any study or work requirements.

ii) It shall be the responsibility of the faculty to make available to each student who is absent from school, because of religious beliefs, an equivalent opportunity to make up any examination, study or work requirements which they may have missed because of such absence on any particular day or days.

iii) Any student who is aggrieved by the alleged failure of any faculty or administrative officials to comply in good faith shall be entitled to maintain an action or proceeding in the supreme court of the county in which such institution of higher education is located for the enforcement of their rights.

If you cannot attend a class or exam due to religious beliefs, please let me know well in advance, and I will make alternative arrangements. Your grades will never be affected by such alternative arrangements, provided that advanced notice is given.

ACCESSIBILITY

The AccessAbility Center/Student Disability Services ensures equal access and full participation to all of City College’s programs, services and activities by coordinating and implementing appropriate accommodations. If you require their resources, please sign up with them either online or at their offices in NAC 1/218 (or by phone at 212-650-5913). Once registered, please let me know of your accessibility needs and we can discuss how best to proceed. If you need help with any part of this process, just get in touch.

ACCOMMODATIONS

We’re all coming from different places. Some of you might be familiar with some of the material we cover, whilst to others it might be completely new. Many of us have extra strains on our time - perhaps other classes, work, or domestic responsibilities (or all three). Some of us might have poor access to printing facilities; some might have limited internet access; some might need to work only with printed out materials; some might not have time to make it to my office hours, and so on.
It’s important to remember that through all these differences, you all belong here, you all deserve to be here, and you all deserve the best possible access to the course materials and resources. It is my job to do justice to this by attempting as best I can to minimise the impact of any such differences in situation on your learning experience.

So if there’s anything that is acting as an obstacle to your fully engaging with the course – if you’re struggling with the readings, struggling to access online materials, struggling to find good learning environments outside class, struggling to make it to office hours, or whatever – come talk to me or drop me an email, and we can discuss alternative arrangements to make sure you’re getting the most you can out of this class.