

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Department of History

History HITO 111/HIGR 211: Marxian Theory

Winter 2006

Professor Michael A. Bernstein
3410 Literature [Warren Campus]
534-6270/534-1070
<mbernstein@ucsd.edu>
historyweb.ucsd.edu/bernstein/

A survey and examination of some of the most important writings of Marx concerning economic and social theory and historical analysis. Emphasis on the theory of value, production, technical change, reproduction, and accumulation. Some consideration will also be made of certain neo-Marxist contributions and critiques.

Required and Recommended Texts:

- +Karl Marx, Capital (3 volumes).
 - +Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, The German Ideology.
 - +Karl Marx, The Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844.
 - +Karl Marx, Grundrisse.
 - +Karl Marx, Pre-capitalist Economic Formations.
 - +Paul Sweezy, The Theory of Capitalist Development.
 - E. von Böhm-Bawerk, Karl Marx and the Close of His System.
 - N. Bukharin, The Economic Theory of the Leisure Class.
 - M. Dobb, Political Economy and Capitalism.
 - I. Rubin, Essays on Marx's Theory of Value.
 - J. Robinson, An Essay on Marxian Economics.
 - R. Meek, Studies in the Labor Theory of Value.
 - D. Horowitz, Marx and Modern Economics.
 - M. Dobb, Studies in the Development of Capitalism.
 - M. Blaug, Economic Theory in Retrospect.
 - W. Williams, The Great Evasion: An Essay on the Contemporary Relevance of Karl Marx and on the Wisdom of Admitting the Heretic into the Dialogue About America's Future
- + -- Ordered at the University Bookstore in the Price Center.

Course Requirements: There will be one class meeting per week. Student participation in class discussion is encouraged and expected. Those readings starred (*) on the reading list are especially important. Optional readings are left to the student's discretion. A formal writing assignment, the dimensions of which will be discussed in class early in the quarter, will be expected of all students.

Graduate students should meet with the instructor during the first few weeks of term to establish the exact writing requirements appropriate for their course of study. All students must complete all formal course requirements, and consistently attend class meetings, in order to receive course credit. Students should note that all course requirements are subject to revision at the instructor's discretion.

Course Outline and Reading List:

Background Reading:

Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, The German Ideology.
Karl Marx, Grundrisse.
Karl Marx, The Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844.

1. The Theory of Value [One Week]

*K. Marx, Capital, vol. I, part I.
*P. Sweezy, The Theory of Capitalist Development, pp. 23-40.
I. Rubin, Essays on Marx's Theory of Value.
E. von Böhm-Bawerk, Karl Marx and the Close of His System.
O. Lange, "Marxian Economics and Modern Economic Theory," Review of Economic Studies (June, 1935); reprinted in Horowitz.
A. Medio, "Profits and Surplus-Value: Appearance and Reality in Capitalist Production," in A Critique of Economic Theory (E. Hunt, J. Schwartz; eds.).
M. Dobb, Political Economy and Capitalism, chs. 1-3.
R. Meek, Studies in the Labor Theory of Value, chs. 4-

5.

N. Bukharin, The Economic Theory of the Leisure Class.

2. The Concept of Capital [Two Weeks]

*K. Marx, Capital, vol. I, part II; vol. I, chs. VII-IX; vol. III, chs. 24, 48.
*P. Sweezy, The Theory of Capitalist Development, pp. 56-66.
I. Fisher, "What is Capital?," Economic Journal (1896).
M. Dobb, Studies in the Development of Capitalism, ch.

1.

A. Bhaduri, "On the Significance of Recent Controversies in Capital Theory,"

Economic Journal (1969).

G.S.L. Tucker, "The Concept of the Rate of Profit, 1800-1850," in his Progress and Profits

- in British Economic Thought.
 T. Veblen, The Place of Science in Modern Civilization, pp. 324-387.
3. Technical Progress [Two Weeks]
- *K. Marx, Capital, vol. I, part IV.
 P. Sweezy, "Karl Marx and the Industrial Revolution," in Modern Capitalism and Other Essays (P. Sweezy, ed.).
 M. Dobb, Studies in the Development of Capitalism, ch. 7.
 N. Rosenberg, "The Direction of Technical Change," Economic Development and Cultural Change (1969).
 A. Smith, The Wealth of Nations, chs. 1-3.
 M. Blaug, "Survey of the Theory of Process Innovation," Economica (1963).
 A. Young, "Increasing Returns and Economic Progress," Economic Journal (1928).
4. Economic and Social Reproduction [One Week]
- *K. Marx, Capital, vol. I, chs. 23-24; vol. II, part III.
 *P. Sweezy, The Theory of Capitalist Development, pp. 75-79.
 R. Luxemburg, The Accumulation of Capital, chs. I-III.
 D. Harris, "On Marx's Scheme of Reproduction and Accumulation," Journal of Political Economy (1972).
 P. Sraffa, The Production of Commodities By Means of Commodities, chs. I-III.
 M. Bernstein, "Problems in the Theory of Production and Exchange: An Essay in Classical and Marxian Themes," Australian Economic Papers (1980).
5. Prices and Profits [One Week]
- *K. Marx, Capital, vol. III, parts I-II.
 *P. Sweezy, The Theory of Capitalist Development, pp. 109-130.
 L. von Borkiewicz, "Value and Price in the Marxian System," International Economic Papers (1952).
 F. Seton, "The Transformation Problem," Review of Economic Studies (1957).
 M. Blaug, Economic Theory in Retrospect, ch. 7.
 J. Robinson, "The Theory of Value Reconsidered," Australian Economic Papers (1969).

M. Kalecki, Selected Essays on the Dynamics of the Capitalist Economy, chs. 5-10.

6. The Accumulation of Capital [Two Weeks]

III, part III.
*K. Marx, Capital, vol. I, ch. 25; vol.

*P. Sweezy, The Theory of Capitalist Development, pp. 75-108; pp. 133-236.

J. Robinson, An Essay on Marxian Economics.

D. Levine, "The Theory of the Growth of the Capitalist Economy," Economic Development and Cultural Change (1975).

B. Shoul, "Karl Marx and Say's Law," Quarterly Journal of Economics (1957).

J. Steindl, "Karl Marx and the Accumulation of Capital," in Marx and Modern Economics (D. ed.).

Horowitz,

R. Luxemburg, "The Accumulation of Capital: An Anti-Critique" and N. Bukharin, "Imperialism and the Accumulation of Capital," in The Capital (K. Tarbuck, ed.).

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Accumulation of

7. Original Accumulation [One Week]

*K. Marx, Capital, vol. I, part VIII.

*K. Marx, Pre-capitalist Economic Formations.

E. Hobsbawm, "The Crisis of the Seventeenth Century," in Crisis in Europe: 1560-1600 (T. Aston, ed.).

M. Weber, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism.

M. Dobb, Studies in the Development of Capitalism.

P. Sweezy, "A Critique," Science and Society (1950).

M. Dobb, "A Reply," Science and Society (1950).

H. Takahashi, "A Contribution to the Discussion," Science and Society (1952).

(1953).
M. Dobb, "A Further Comment," Science and Society

P. Sweezy, "A Rejoinder," Science and Society (1953).

R. Hilton, "Comment," Science and Society (1953).

C. Hill, "Comment," Science and Society (1953).