

POSC 250: Marxism & Anarchism: Then & Now//Spring of 2011

Faramarz Farbod

Office: Zinzendorf 102

Office Hours: M: 11-12: T/R: 1-2

(O) 610-861-1570

email: mefnf01@moravian.edu

Or by appointment

Students will learn to examine critically selected writings of Marx and Engels concerning a host of key concepts and ideas such as religion, ideology, historical materialism, exploitation, value and surplus value, labor, alienation, money and credit, liberalism, emancipation, class, class struggle and class consciousness, capital and capital accumulation, communism, human nature, etc. In addition, the students will develop critical consciousness concerning the experiences of Communist States by analyzing the histories of these states as well as ascertaining them in the light of Marx's own writings and expectations. Moreover, the students will be challenged to see whether and which aspects of Marx's ideas are relevant to 21st century struggles for social justice around the world. Furthermore, the students will learn to examine the history and practice of the other radical tradition of thought and action known as anarchism with its critiques of the state, authority, hierarchy, and its strong advocacy of individualism, and social revolution. Finally, the students will learn to assess the points of convergence and divergence between the proponents of Marxism and Anarchism with special attention given to historical movements that have combined elements of each of these radical traditions to form more humane and durable movements for change.

- **BOOKS:**

The Marx-Engels Reader, Tucker; **The Idea of Communism**, Ali; **Demanding the Impossible**, Marshall; **Wobblies & Zapatistas**, Lynd & Grubacic

- **REQUIREMENTS:**

a. **Class Participation:**

- 1) Attend classes faithfully, keep up with the assigned readings and participate actively. Your effort and presence WILL make a difference in the final course evaluation (even beyond the weight assigned to CP).
- 2) Bring relevant course materials (readings and notebooks) to each class.
- 3) For each reading come to class with answers to at least 2 questions written down in your notebook and be ready to share with the class: (1) What you found to be the most interesting and thought provoking idea(s) (and why)?; and (2) what you found to be the most puzzling and in further need of explanation, elaboration, and so on?

b. **Term Paper:** In the spirit of cooperation so celebrated by both Marxism and Anarchism, students will pair in groups of two and combine their talents, efforts and insights to produce a research paper critically examining an aspect of Marxist and/or Anarchist thought/practice then or now. *Mechanics of the research paper:* Write 14-16 double-spaced typewritten pages. Due date: Mid-April.

c. **Presentation:** Pairs of students will have 15 minutes each to present their research to the class during the last 2-3 class sessions of the semester.

d. **Four Quizzes and a Final Exam**

- **COURSE EVALUATION:**

Class Participation	15%
Quizzes	20%
Term Paper	25%
Presentation	10%
Final Exam	30%

- **CLASS READINGS** will be assigned on a class-by-class basis.

Academic Honesty Policy: In cases of cheating or plagiarizing in any way, I will follow the appropriate procedures as they appear in the College Student Handbook.

- "Students who wish to request accommodations in this class for a disability should contact Mr. Joe Kempfer, Assistant Director of Learning Services for Disability Support, 1307 Main Street (extension 1510). Accommodations cannot be provided until authorization is received from the office of Learning Services."
- It is within my purview to apply qualitative judgment in the determination of any and all grades.