

Course Syllabus

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German C25 /L&S C60

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Spring 2020

Office: Dwinelle Hall 5325, tel. 642-2973

some exceptions

Office hrs: Tuesdays 10am-noon, with

Revolutionary Thinkers:

Marx, Nietzsche & Freud

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Course Description:

Marx, Nietzsche and Freud revolutionized how western readers view truth, history and power. They each suggest, in very different ways, that reality is not what we take it to be. For Marx, ideology covers over how human beings and their history are determined by material factors and class dynamics, with the result that we do not even know the extent to which we are alienated from true human freedom. For Nietzsche, morality is a ruse, most effectively concocted by religion, to domesticate our own desires for power and strength. Freud proposes a model of the human mind that depends on the psychic domestication of unconscious drives; he also suggests that religion is a product of this psychic dynamic, and that the history of religion reflects this. Considering these themes, we will investigate in this course how these authors place under suspicion key concepts of Enlightenment, including truth, history, morality, religion and power. We will examine the implications of their arguments and the argumentative mechanisms that they use.

GSI (will provide own info for discussion sections and office hrs):

Kyra Sutton is GSI for this course; her email address is kyra_sutton@berkeley.edu

mailto:kyra_sutton@berkeley.edu. Kyra will teach discussion sections and grade your work. Please note that while Karen Feldman is available to discuss paper-writing and your grade in the course, Kyra is the person who will do the grading, and thus in many cases it makes most sense to discuss your assignments with her.

Note about course content

We will be reading material that treats topics including Judaism, Christianity, sex and morality, and these themes are treated by our authors in controversial, disparaging, and likely offensive ways. Our goal is to do the intellectual work required to understand what our authors argue, and how their arguments belong to a historical

context, even where we might find what they argue problematic or even hateful. If you feel you would have difficulty with these tasks in the face of offensive material, please consider taking another class instead of this one.

The course reader is available at Instant Copying and Laser Printing at 2138 University Ave.

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Grading

Grades for the course will be determined on the basis of two papers (19% and 23%); a midterm exam (13%); a final exam (25%); and discussion section assignments and participation (20%). These percentages may be adjusted slightly if the evolution of the course dictates a change in the type or weight of assignments.

Please note that attendance is required and students who miss more than three sessions of lecture or two sessions of discussion may receive a reduced final grade for the course. Students who miss more than six sessions of both combined may fail the course.

Announcements made in class and on bCourses supersede what is printed on this syllabus.

Students are expected to do the reading *in advance* of the week for which it is assigned, and then also to reread the text in advance of each session for the week; frequent review of the reading will make preparation for exams and papers much easier. Pop quizzes may be given; these would each consist of one very short question that should be easy to answer for students who have done the reading in a concentrated fashion.

class=WordSection2>

P/NP grading

All assignments must be completed, in good faith and in a timely fashion, for the student to earn a P in this course.

Academic honesty

Plagiarism, to put it broadly, is the presentation of another's words and/or ideas as one's own, including material taken from the internet. It is grounds not only for immediate failure of this course, but also for disciplinary action at the university's administrative level. The same holds true for other forms of academic dishonesty. Please see the university's websites for student conduct and student judicial affairs for more information (e.g.

<http://students.berkeley.edu/uga/conductiii-vii.asp#V>, [_\(http://students.berkeley.edu/uga/conductiii-vii.asp#V\)_](http://students.berkeley.edu/uga/conductiii-vii.asp#V),
<http://students.berkeley.edu/osl/sja.asp?id=1143&rcol=1201>), [_\(http://students.berkeley.edu/osl/sja.asp?id=1143&rcol=1201\)_](http://students.berkeley.edu/osl/sja.asp?id=1143&rcol=1201)

Please also note that for this class 'academic honesty' also includes the assumption that all written student work for this course will be new work produced expressly for this course. This means that you may not submit papers for this course that contain material that has been, or will be, submitted for other courses at any institution. Likewise you are not permitted to submit work for this course to another instructor for another course, unless that and instructor and I both give explicit our explicit consent for that arrangement.

Non-Discrimination Statement

The University of California, in accordance with applicable federal and state law and university policy, prohibits discrimination, including harassment, on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, physical or mental disability, medical condition (cancer-related or genetic characteristics), ancestry, marital status, age, sexual orientation, citizenship, or status as a covered veteran (special disabled veteran, Vietnam-era veteran or any other veteran who served on active duty during a war or in a campaign or expedition for which a campaign badge has been authorized). This nondiscrimination policy covers admission, access and treatment in university programs and activities.

DSP accommodations

If you are entitled to disability-related accommodations in this class, if you have emergency medical information you wish to share with me, or if you need special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please inform me and your GSI. Please see us privately after class or in our offices.

Please note that mental health conditions, including depression, anxiety, eating disorders and other conditions, may render you eligible for disability accommodations. If you suspect you might benefit from this, now is the time to visit DSP to see if you qualify for an accommodation, if you have not done so already. For reasons of equity, and because I am not a mental health professional, I am not qualified to provide accommodations such as deadline extensions to

students on the basis of self-reported mental health issues. Please, if you are having a mental health issue, go to DSP right away to request an appropriate accommodation.

Readings

Issues and the corresponding readings are tentatively scheduled to be covered in ***approximately*** the order listed. The exact schedule of readings and written assignments is based on the evolution of the course and is ***subject to change***. It is the student's responsibility to have prepared for each session accordingly.

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Schedule of Readings

Dates	Readings and assignments
Jan 22 - 24	FIRST WEEK OF CLASS
Introduction to the course; Hegel and human needs	Introduction to the course; Hegel, "The System of Needs," short excerpts
Part I: Power and freedom under suspicion: Marx	
Jan 27 - 31	Marx, "On Money"
Money, private property, labor and exchange	Marx, "On James Mill"
Feb 3 – Feb 7	Marx, "The German Ideology," preface and excerpts
Ideology, history, religion	Marx, "Contribution to a Critique of Hegel's <i>Philosophy of Right</i> , Introduction," excerpt
Feb 10 – Feb 14	Freud, "The Question of a Weltanschauung," excerpt
Religion and emancipation	
Mon, Feb 17	ACADEMIC HOLIDAY
Feb 19 - 21	Marx, "On the Jewish Question," Part I
Religion and emancipation, continued	
Mon, Feb 24	Midterm exam: Bring unmarked blue books, SID only, no names please

Part II. Morality, error and truth: Nietzsche

Feb 26 – 28

Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, First Essay

Resentment, religion and morality

Mar 2 – Mar 6

Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil* §52 and §195

Nietzsche, *The Anti-Christ*, excerpts

Depravity and Christianity

Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, “Second Essay”

Mar 9 – Mar 13

Nietzsche, *On the Genealogy of Morals*, “Second Essay,” continued

Guilt and punishment

Sunday, Mar 15, noon

First paper due on bCourses

Mar 16 – Mar 20

Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil* §21

Our errors

Nietzsche, *Twilight of the Idols*, excerpt (“The four great errors”)

Mar 23 – Mar 29

SPRING BREAK

Part III. Self-knowledge and history: Freud

Mar 30 – April 3

Freud, “Two principles in mental functioning”

Freud, *The Ego and the Id*, chapter 1



Pleasure vs. reality


Apr 6 – 10

Freud, *The Ego and the Id*, chapters 2-3

Defining the psyche	Freud, "Leonardo da Vinci and a memory from his childhood," excerpt
Apr 13 – 17	Freud, <i>Future of an Illusion</i> , chapters 1-3
Religion and history	Freud, <i>Future of an Illusion</i> , chapters 6-10 [note that we are skipping chapters 4-5]
Apr 20 – 24	Freud, <i>Civilization and its Discontents</i> , chapters 2-4
Diagnosing society	
	LAST WEEK OF CLASS
Apr 27 – May 1	
Diagnosing society	Theodor Adorno, "This side of the pleasure-principle," in <i>Minima Moralia: Reflections from a Damaged Life</i>
Sun, May 3, 9pm	Second paper due on bCourses
May 4 - 8	RRR WEEK
	FINAL EXAM: Bring unmarked blue books, SID only, no names please
	Please do not register for this course if you are unable to make this exam time!

Course Summary:

Date	Details	
Mon Feb 24, 2020	 Midterm Exam (https://bcourses.berkeley.edu/courses/1489259/assignments/8064717)	due by 11am
Sun Mar 1, 2020	 Paper 1 introduction (https://bcourses.berkeley.edu/courses/1489259/assignments/8075822)	due by 6pm

Date	Details
Sun Mar 15, 2020	 Paper 1: Assignment instructions (https://bcourses.berkeley.edu/courses/1489259/assignments/8064777) due by 6pm