GER 275: Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud

This is an introductory course to the thought of Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche, and Sigmund Freud and their pioneering contributions to the understanding of the individual and society in modernity. Readings include selections from writings of the early Marx, the Communist Manifesto, and Capital, Nietzsche’s critique of culture, academe, and nationalism, and Freud's theory of culture, his views on the psychopathology of everyday life, on the meaning of dreams, symptoms, the return of the repressed, and what it might mean to live in a free society.

Texts:
Karl Marx, Selected Writings (Hackett, 1994). ISBN: 978-0872202184
Friedrich Nietzsche, On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life, Hackett, ISBN 0915144948

All books are available at The Bob Miller Book Room, 180 Bloor Street West, Lower Concourse, phone: (416) 922-3557

All other texts are posted on the course website on Blackboard.

8 Jan Introduction

15 Jan Marx, the concept of critique and critique of political economy

22 Jan Marx, Critique of Capitalism
29 Jan   Marx, “Wage Labour and Capital” (Tucker 203-217)

5 Feb    Nietzsche, Language, Metaphor, and Truth
         Nietzsche, „On Truth and Lie in an Extra-Moral Sense“, Gay Science §§110-112 ff. and §125

12 Feb   Nietzsche, On History
         Nietzsche, „On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History“
         → First Exam due 18 February!

Reading Week

26 Feb   Nietzsche, Genealogy of Morality
         Nietzsche, On the Genealogy of Morality, read up to part II §12

5 Mar    Nietzsche, On the Genealogy of Morality, finish book

12 Mar   Freud, The Talking Cure
         Freud, Five Lectures on Psychoanalysis (1909 Clarke University Lectures)

19 Mar   Freud, from Introductory Lectures to Psychoanalysis: Dreams, Displacement, Dream Work, Symptoms, Resistance and Repression, Transference, and “Note on the Magic Writing Pad”
         → Second Exam due 22 March!

26 Mar   Freud on Culture and Society
         Freud, Civilization and its Discontents

2 Apr    Review and Final Discussion

Marking Scheme:
Attendance and participation 10%
2 Take-Home Exams 45%
Final Examination 45%

Papers due by electronic submission:
You must submit the exams by uploading the files as Word file via the assignments link on the course Blackboard site, with your name as the name of the file attached, and your e-mail address (together with your name and student number) on the first page of the paper by noon on the day they are due.
Late submission policy for papers:
5% penalty for the first 24 hours after the deadline, and then for each additional day 3% up to a max. of 5 days.

Logging in to your Blackboard Course Website
To access the class website, or any other Blackboard-based course website, go to the UofT portal login page at http://portal.utoronto.ca and log in using your UTORid and password. Once you have logged in to the portal using your UTORid and password, look for the My Courses module, where you’ll find the link to the course website along with the link to all your other Blackboard-based courses.

Activating your UTORid and Password
If you need information on how to activate your UTORid and set your password for the first time, please go to www.utorid.utoronto.ca. Under the “First Time Users” area, click on “activate your UTORid” (if you are new to the university) or “create your UTORid” (if you are a returning student), then follow the instructions. New students who use the link to “activate your UTORid” will find reference to a “Secret Activation Key”. This was originally issued to you when you picked up your Tcard at the library. If you have lost your Secret Activation Key you can call 416-978-HELP or visit the Help Desk at the Information Commons on the ground floor of Robarts Library to be issued a new one. The course instructor will not be able to help you with this. 416-978-HELP and the Help Desk at the Information Commons can also answer any other questions you may have about your UTORid and password.

Email Communication with the Course Instructor
At times, the course Instructor may decide to send out important course information by email. To that end, all UofT students are required to have a valid UofT email address. You are responsible for ensuring that your UofT email address is set up AND properly entered in the ROSI system. You can do that by using the following instructions:
To submit the information to activate your UTORid and password (see above), you will need to click the “Validate” button. Follow the instructions on the subsequent screens to receive your utoronto.ca address. Once you have your UofT email address, go to the ROSI system (www.rosi.utoronto.ca), log in and update the system with your new UofT email address.

Accessibility Needs:
The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible:
disability.services@utoronto.ca or http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility