

Match Your Theory with your Practice in a DSA On-Line Course...

A Basic Introduction to the Thought of Karl Marx: A Four Session Course

Fourth Tuesday of each month: February 24, March 24, April 28, May 26

Register at: http://www.dsausa.org/introduction_to_marxism

(strongly recommended for DSA and YDS activists who want to have a stronger command of Marx.)

Depending on demand/availability of participants there will be either one or two sessions for each set of readings, which will take place sometime between 7-10pm est (6-9cst, 5-8mt, 4-7pst). Exact details of call times will be sent to participants as soon as possible, mid-February at the latest.

Co-facilitators:

Jared Abbott: DSA National Political Committee member; key activist over the past six years in the New York, Philadelphia and Boston locals; and PhD candidate in comparative politics and political theory at Harvard. Jared chairs DSA's Strategy Committee, which is organizing our strategy discussions.

Joseph Schwartz: Professor of Political Science at Temple University; DSA Vice-Chair; winner of three university teaching awards; author of *The Permanence of the Political* (on Rousseau, Marx, and Lenin) and *The Future of Democratic Equality* (2011 winner of Political Science Assoc award for best book in political theory).

Technology requirements:

We will use video conferencing technology. Ideally, participants will have a computer with audio, microphone and camera, but calling-in conference call participation will also be possible.

This four-week mini-course is aimed at helping socialists linking theory to their day to day activism and analysis. This will be a close reading of Marx on his own terms, while comparing his ideas to historical realities that may suggest the need for some revisions or qualifications.

This virtual reading group is designed to give participants a basic introduction to Marx's economic and political thought. It is not intended for DSAers with extensive previous knowledge of Marx's thought. If you're not sure whether this group is right for you, feel free to email us with any questions you might have.

Outline of Sessions:

All pages are from Robert W. Tucker, ed, *The Marx-Engels Reader*, 2nd edition. Participants can get a used copy of the reader for about \$15 from any reputable on-line bookseller or check it out from most good public or university libraries or access it free on-line (see below).

Session I, Feb. 24: Marx's Critique of Capitalism

Readings: "The Communist Manifesto" (parts I, II, and IV), pp 469-91; 499-500; "The Introduction to the Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy," (pp. 3-7)

Session II, March 24: Marx's Concept of Alienated labor and His Critique of Liberal Democracy

Readings: "The Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts" (parts on alienated labor), pp. 70-81; and Part I of On the Jewish Question (pp. 26-46)

Session III, April 28: Marx's Concept of Ideology (and, if time, Marx's critique of wage-labor)

Selections from "The German Ideology" (pp 146-166; 172-175; and 190-200); "Wage, Labor and Capital," pp. 203-219.

Session IV, May 26: Marx's Vision of Socialism and Communism

Selections from "The Civil War in France," pp. 619-648 and from "The Critique of the Gotha Programme," pp. 528-532 and pp. 537-541.

. To help you with the texts, we will have ample reading questions and study guides, so if you're willing to put in the time you'll get a lot out of each session.

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Readings are available at: <https://leftygazette.files.wordpress.com/2012/01/karl-marx-friedrich-engels-the-marx-engels-reader.pdf>