

Marx, Nietzsche, Freud

Fall 2016, Rutgers University
German 16:470:672:01 / Comparative
Literature 16:195:516:01
Wed. 4:30-7:15pm, AB 4050 (15 Seminary
Place, CAC)

Prof. Nicholas Rennie
O. hrs. Mo 3:00pm, & by appointment
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Exploration of the work of three German writers who revolutionized modern philosophy, theology, psychology, aesthetics, social and political science, gender studies, historiography, literature and the arts. We will be reading and discussing a selection of key writings by Karl Marx, Friedrich Nietzsche and Sigmund Freud. Along with these we'll examine a sampling of texts that were important for their work, and writings that later both reflected their influence and drew their ideas in new directions. *In English. No prerequisites.*

Course site

All students registered for the course automatically have access. Go to <https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal> and search for the site "2016-09 Marx, Nietzsche, Freud 16-470-672 / 16-195-516."

Requirements:

- 1) Weekly attendance and active participation in class discussion.
- 2) One 20-minute presentation, which may be the basis for one of the papers.
- 3) Three short papers totaling 16 pp. (see due dates below), or one 16-page paper (due Friday 12/16/16). Students who wish to write a single 16-page paper need to receive approval from me *before the end of September*. Please get in touch in the first week or two of the semester to set up an appointment.
- 4) Graduate students in German (and others who are in a position to do so) are encouraged to read German-language editions of the German texts, and cite these editions in their papers. Online German-language editions are available under each author's name on the Sakai Resources page. (You may wish to download individual texts as PDFs and read them on a tablet computer.)

Grade:

Class presentation	10%
Paper(s)	90%

(Auditors: One 20-minute presentation, and weekly attendance.)

Readings

1) Required Texts

Ordered through the Rutgers University Store. These texts are indicated by (abbreviated) title within the list of weekly readings. Other titles are available online as pdf files at the *Resources* page of the course Sakai website.

1. Freud, Sigmund. *Moses and Monotheism* [ISBN: 9780394700144].

2. --. *The **Basic Writings of Sigmund Freud** (Psychopathology of Everyday Life, the Interpretation of Dreams, and Three Contributions to the Theory of Sex)* [ISBN: 9780679601661]
3. Marx, Karl, Friedrich Engels. *The **Marx-Engels Reader*** [ISBN: 9780393090406]
4. Nietzsche, Friedrich. *The **Nietzsche Reader*** [ISBN: 9780631226543]

2) Note on buying texts published in German-speaking Europe

A number of these are available at Alexander Library on graduate reserve and listed on the course Sakai site under "Library eReserves." If on the other hand you wish to buy any texts published in German-speaking Europe, a good way to do so is, in the U.S., through the International Book Import Service (www.IBIService.com). Occasionally, IBIS may have in stock the books you need, in which case they can get them to you within a few days; otherwise you may need to wait a few weeks. Alternatively, you may wish to order directly from another online service such as buchhandel.de or amazon.de – compare prices and shipping times. Please think ahead about what texts you may wish to concentrate on in your work and allow time for the necessary books to be delivered by the library or store.

3) Readings available online

Other than the texts required for purchase, all readings are available online at the course Sakai website under the Resources tab. Note that you will need to read these texts by the assigned date and bring them to class for discussion, whether on an electronic device or printed out on paper. Please download available texts sooner rather than later – don't wait until the evening before a class to find that internet problems prevent your accessing an assignment.

4) Graduate Reserves – materials in hard copy at library

Additional print materials are available at the Alexander Library Graduate Reserves desk. See "Library Reserves" link in left margin of course Sakai site for a full listing, and to check availability.

Presentations

Each presentation should focus on an aspect of the day's theory reading, and should focus on the terms and structure of the text itself. It should present a clear thesis and cite specific passages from the assigned reading as evidence. You can best help the rest of the class if you succinctly articulate what you take to be *one particularly important dimension of the reading* (even just its main thesis), and then discuss any potential problems that you see with this thesis and that remain unresolved within the text itself. Presentations that list aspects of a text without organizing these under a main organizing principle tend to be less effective in helping others find their way into discussion of the text. Presenters should integrate some discussion of the week's "optional" reading (pick one, if more than one is listed) in their comments (see "optional readings" above). Presentations should last 20 minutes, followed by discussion.

Please do *not* read your presentation from a script. Comparative references to other relevant texts are welcome, as long as the assigned text remains the focus of the presentation.

Papers

If, at the beginning of the semester, you find that you are already comfortable with readings of the kind we will be discussing, you are welcome to talk to me (before the end of September, please) about getting permission to submit a single 16-page paper, due December 15th. Otherwise, I ask that you submit three shorter papers (two of five pages, one of six pages) by the deadlines indicated in the syllabus below.

Papers should examine a theoretical concern at issue in one or more of the readings assigned since the previous paper assignment. Like your presentation, your paper should introduce a clear thesis, and should normally do so within the opening paragraph (especially in the case of the 5 and 6-pp. papers). The subsequent argument should demonstrate this thesis with the help of judicious quotations (always include page and/or line numbers) from the text under consideration. Strong papers seek to account for, rather than simply ignore, those features of the text that might seem to contradict the paper's main thesis. Please pay close attention to the form of your presentation: incomplete and run-on sentences, typos and misspellings, and sloppy and obscure formulations will lower your grade. You are encouraged to contact me in advance to discuss the topic and structure of your paper. Papers may be written in English or German (French or Italian fine too).

Graduate students in German (and others who are in a position to do so) are encouraged to read German-language editions of the German texts, and cite these editions in their papers.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is a matter of core importance to all teaching and research at any level, but there can be confusion about what practices are or are not appropriate. Please take some time to read the University's Interim Academic Integrity Policy at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>. This may be useful not only as you go about presenting your own ideas and sources, but also as you teach your students how to treat the materials that they will be using in their own work. Please note that I approach all material that is given me as reflecting the thoughts of the person(s) listed as its author. Even if at some point you give me a rough draft, say, be absolutely sure both to put quotation marks around any other people's words, and to cite your sources fully and in such a way that I could track them down if I wanted to learn more about the material you're quoting. You want to be careful to avoid creating even the impression that you might be handling your sources sloppily, and you want to make it easy for others to follow your bibliographic leads and learn more about your topic.

Weekly assignments

(Texts must be read in advance and brought to class on the dates assigned.)

KARL MARX (1818-1883)

Sept. 7

- **Introduction**
- Hegel, Georg Wilhelm Friedrich. *Reason in History: A General Introduction to the Philosophy of History*. Trans. Robert S. Hartman. New York: Liberal Arts Press, 1953 [pdf].

Sept. 14

- Hegel, *Reason in History*, 3-71 [pdf].*
- *Marx-Engels Reader*, "Marx on the History of His Opinions," 3-8.

- *Marx-Engels Reader*, "Theses on Feuerbach," 143-145.
- *Marx-Engels Reader, The German Ideology: Part I*, 146-200.

Sept. 21

- *Marx-Engels Reader, Capital*, Vol. 1 & 3, 294-438.
- Althusser, Louis. Preface to *Capital*, in: *Lenin and Philosophy, and Other Essays*. New York: Monthly Review Press, 1971, 45-66 [pdf; the file includes more than just these pages, for those who are interested].

Sept. 28

- *Marx-Engels Reader, Capital*, Vol. 1 & 3, 294-438.
- *Marx-Engels Reader, Manifesto of the Communist Party*, 469-500.
- *Marx-Engels Reader*, "The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte," 594-617.

FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE (1844-1900)

Oct. 5

- *Nietzsche Reader*, "The Greek State," 88-94.
- *Nietzsche Reader, The Birth of Tragedy from the Spirit of Music*, 42-87.
- Nietzsche, *The Birth of Tragedy* (Ian Johnston tr.), excerpt from Chapter 9 [pdf].
- Sloterdijk, Peter. "Centauric Literature," in: *Thinker on Stage: Nietzsche's Materialism*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1989, 3-14 [pdf].

*Friday 10/7: Submit 5-page paper no later than today, as a PDF file via the [Assignments](#) link at the course Sakai site.**

Oct. 12

- *Nietzsche Reader*, "On the Utility and Liability of History for Life," 124-141.
- *Nietzsche Reader*, "On Truth and Lies in a Nonmoral Sense," 114-123.
- Foucault, Michel. "The Discourse on Language," in: Adams, Hazard, and Leroy Searle. *Critical Theory since 1965*. Tallahassee: Florida State University Press, 1986, 148-162 [pdf].

Oct. 19

- *Nietzsche Reader, The Gay Science*, 207-237.
- Horkheimer, Max, Theodor W. Adorno. Preface (1944 and 1947) and "The

Concept of Enlightenment," *Dialectic of Enlightenment: Philosophical Fragments*. Stanford, Calif: Stanford University Press, 2002, xiv-34 [pdf].

Oct. 26

- Hofmannsthal, Hugo von. "A Letter. (Letter from Lord Chandos to Francis Bacon)," in: Hofmannsthal, Hugo von. *Selected Prose*. Translated by Mary Hottinger, Tania Stern, and James Stern (New York: Pantheon Books, 1952), 129-141 [pdf].
- *Nietzsche Reader, Beyond Good and Evil: Prelude to a Philosophy of the Future*, 311-361.

Nov. 2

- *Nietzsche Reader, Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, 254-292.
- *Nietzsche Reader, On the Genealogy of Morality*, 390-436.

SIGMUND FREUD (1856-1939)

Nov. 9

- *Basic Writings of Sigmund Freud, Interpretation of Dreams*, 151-205, 287-336.

*Friday 11/11: Submit 5-page paper no later than today, as a PDF file via the [Assignments](#) link at the course Sakai site.**

Nov. 16

- *Basic Writings of Sigmund Freud, Interpretation of Dreams*, 436-465, 515 [bottom paragraph] -517.
- *Basic Writings of Sigmund Freud, The Psychopathology of Everyday Life*, 3-54.
- Ricoeur, Paul. "Interpretation as Exercise of Suspicion," in: Ricoeur, Paul. *Freud and Philosophy: An Essay on Interpretation*. Trans. Denis Savage. New Haven: Yale University Press,

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your paper is indeed posted as an attachment at this site. If you have uploaded it properly, Sakai will send you an automated e-mail to confirm receipt.

1970, 3-36 (with particular attention to 32-36) [pdf].

Nov. 30

- *Basic Writings of Sigmund Freud, Totem and Taboo*, 775-898.
- Deleuze, Gilles, Felix Guattari, from *Anti-Oedipus: Capitalism and Psychoanalysis*, in: Adams, Hazard, and Leroy Searle. *Critical Theory since 1965*, 283-307 [pdf].

Dec. 7

- Freud, "The Moses of Michelangelo," in: Freud, Sigmund. *Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud*. Ed. James Strachey and Anna Freud. London: Hogarth

Press, 1953-1974. Vol. 13, 211-238 [pdf].

- *Moses and Monotheism*, 3-133.

Dec. 14

- Horkheimer and Adorno. "Excursus II: Juliette or Enlightenment and Morality," *Dialectic of Enlightenment*, 63-93 [pdf].
- Butler, Judith. *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. New York: Routledge, 1990, 1-34 [pdf].

Wednesday, 12/21/15, final paper (third of three short papers, or single longer paper) due no later than today, as a PDF file via the [Assignments](#) link at the course Sakai site. (Short papers: 6pp.; long papers: 16pp.)

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your paper is indeed posted as an attachment at this site. If you have uploaded it properly, Sakai will send you an automated e-mail to confirm receipt.