

Dear Marx on-line course participant,

On Your Marx, Get Set, Get Ready...

here's all you need to know for our first meeting of the on-line seminar, "Introduction to Karl Marx" that will meet this coming Tuesday February 24th either from 7pm-8:30pm EST or 8:30pm-10pm EST (that's either 6pm-7:30pm CST, or 5pm-6:30 MST, or 4pm-5:30pm PST; other session is 7:30-9pm CST, 6:30pm-8pm MST or 5:30pm – 7pm PST).

1. SO FIRST THING EVERYONE MUST DO IS E-MAIL JSCHW@TEMPLE.EDU BACK AND LET HIM KNOW WHETHER YOU COULD PARTICIPATE IN BOTH SESSIONS OR JUST ONE. OBVIOUSLY WE WILL ASSIGN YOU ONLY TO ONE SESSION, BUT WE NEED TO GIVE PRIORITY TO THE SECOND SESSION TO FOLKS WHO HAVE WORK, PARENTING OR SCHOOL CONFLICTS, PARTICULARLY OUT WEST.

So e-mail me back and let me know if both sessions work or just the 7pm EST start time or the 8:30pm EST. Do so asap as it will save me further e-mails and calls tracking you down and will allow Jared and myself to assign the groups several days in advance. Any questions, e-mail me back or call me at 607-592-8255.

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2. We will be using Adobe Connect as our video conferencing program. Anthony Schmitt of our Madison local will send you an e-mail well in advance inviting you to the conference and introducing you to how to use the technology. It works quite well if you have a decent mike, audio connections, and a halfway decent web came. If you don't have said technology it may be possible to patch in via a conference call number that Tony will distribute in advance. But hopefully everyone can get to a computer with relatively up-to-date software and browser and use Adobe Connect.

Anthony's e-mail is:

3. The readings for this Tuesday are found here:

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)

*****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).

Readings are also available (with same pagination) at:

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

To help guide you through the readings I am attaching a PDF which contains (the other PDF is the syllabus for the course):

- a. key reading questions to help you focus your reading. We'll focus some of the discussion on these questions
- b. an outline of Marx's key points in the Manifesto, with the Tucker, ed., page #s written in by hand...(other edition #s are crossed out)
- c. an essay by Joe S. on how to read the Manifesto (written in 1992 so some of the topical references are bit dated, but Marx's text hasn't changed!)
- d. a chart outlining Marx's concept of a mode of production (forces vs. relations of production) (You may have to flip the chart around)
- e. my bare-bones lecture outlines on the texts will be reading over the 4 sessions (with the Manifesto as first text)

OK...we're on our Marx...now please rsvp now re: which sessions you can make (and if you can make both, please tell us because we want to distribute folks as equitably as possible by age, gender, time in the organization, etc.

Below is rest of the course info..

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.

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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.