

## English-Political Science 391: Marxism in Politics and Literature

Fall 2011  
Monday, Wednesday 3:30-4:45  
Quigley 123

Professor Laura Quinn  
Department of English  
Oddfellows 233  
☎x4337

e-mail: lquinn@allegheny.edu  
Fall 2011 office hours  
(in Oddfellows 233 except  
where noted):  
--M, W 2:30-3:30 (Quigley 112)  
--Th, 1:30-4:30  
--F, 12:30-1:30, 2:30-3:30  
--and by appointment

Professor Sharon Wesoky  
Department of Political Science  
Quigley 112  
☎x3343

e-mail: swesoky@allegheny.edu  
Fall 2011 office hours  
(all in Quigley  
112):  
--M, W 2:30-3:30  
--T, 2:15-4:15  
--Th, 1:30-3:30  
--and by appointment

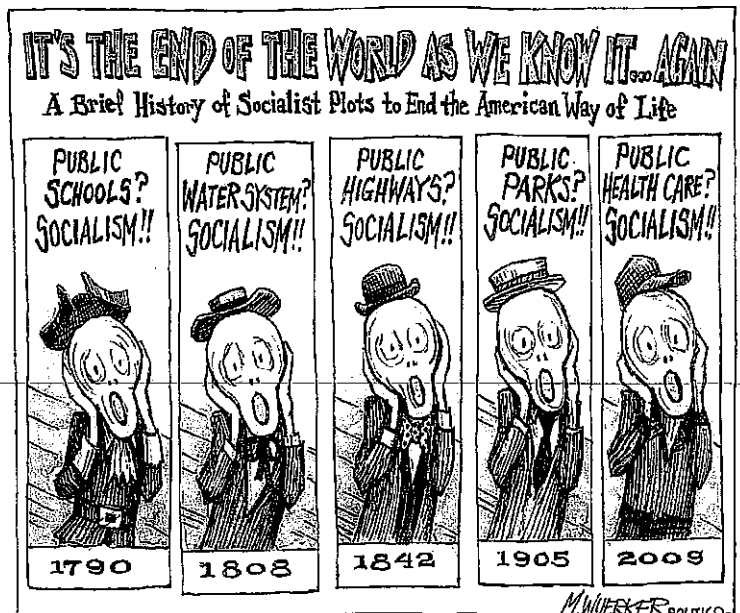
This course looks at the intersection of politics and literature through the prism of Marxism, past and present. We will examine Marxism as a political theory from its origins and as it has developed over time, and we will read a variety of types of literature that either spring from Marxist politics or invite a Marxist analysis. Our topics will include Marxism's historical development as a political theory, its relevance to the American working class, its manifestations in the revolutions of developing countries such as China, and its contemporary significance in an era of globalization.

### **Required texts** (all available in the bookstore)

Peter Singer, *Marx: A Very Short Introduction*  
Marx and Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*  
Clifford Odets, *Waiting for Lefty and Other Plays*

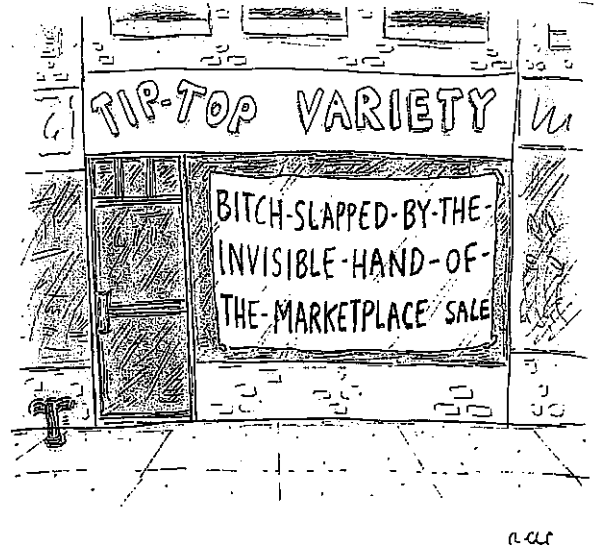
André Malraux, *Man's Fate*  
Jonathan Franzen, *The Corrections*

There will be additional readings as handouts or posted online to our course's Sakai page.



### Course requirements

- Quiz on Marxism 10%
- Paper #1 20%
- Paper #2 20%
- Take home final 20%
- Group presentation 15%
- Class participation 15%



There will be a few short lectures, but the primary format of the course will be discussion in the form of active engagement with our texts. It is important to keep up with the assigned reading; you will be graded on your participation in the discussion. Attendance is required and excessive absences will affect your class participation grade.

Any late assignments will have five points deducted from their grade for each day they are late.

In order to receive a passing grade for this course, you must complete all assignments.

We will have two joint office hours, on Tuesday from 2-4 p.m. in Quigley 112. You are also free to come see us in our separate office hours.

Please *turn off and put away* all cell phones, laptop computers, and other electronic devices during class.

**JUDY PEACHES**  
THIRD GRADE TEACHER  
-TASKED WITH NURTURING THE  
INTELLECTS AND TALENTS  
OF OUR BEST SHOT AT  
KEEPING AMERICA  
GREAT  
PAY: \$34,782  
BONUS: HUGS



**JOSEPH P. SHERK**  
WALL ST. CEO  
-VERY NEARLY DROVE THE  
ECONOMY OFF A CLIFF,  
DECIMATING PUBLIC PENSION  
PLANS IN THE PROCESS  
PAY: \$5,950,000  
BONUS: \$24,700,000+



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JOE

GUESS WHO  
GETS  
TO MAKE  
"SHARED  
SACRIFICES"

## SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup>---introductory class

Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>---read Singer, *Marx: A Very Short Introduction*, Chs. 1-6

Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>---read Singer, Chs. 7-10

Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>---discussion of Singer; read Eagleton, "In Praise of Marx" (handout)

Monday, September 19<sup>th</sup>---read *Communist Manifesto*, pp. vii-xxviii and 49-65

Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>---read *Communist Manifesto*, pp. 65-91

Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>---review for Marxism quiz; read poems (handout); first paper assigned

Wednesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>---quiz on Marxism; read poems (handout)

Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>---group presentation on Engels and Luxemburg

Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>---group presentation on Leninism, Stalinism, and Trotskyism

Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>--- read Odets, "Waiting for Lefty" (pp. 5-31 in Odets)

Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>--- read Odets, "Awake and Sing" (pp. 37-101 in Odets)

Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>---Fall Break

Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>---Maoism and Chinese Communism (reading TBA); read Malraux, *Man's Fate*, Part One (pp. 1-75)

Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup>---read Malraux, *Man's Fate*, Parts Two and Three (pp. 77-164); **paper #1 due today**

Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>---read Malraux, *Man's Fate*, Part Four (pp. 165-246)

Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>---read Malraux, *Man's Fate*, Parts Five, Six, and Seven (pp. 247-356)

Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>---group presentation on Lukács and Gramsci; second paper assigned



Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>---group presentation on Frankfurt School  
Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>---read short stories (readings on sakai)

Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>---group presentation on Althusser and Williams  
Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>---group presentation on Habermas, **paper #2 due today**

Monday, November 21<sup>st</sup>---Marxism and globalization (reading on sakai TBA)  
Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>---Thanksgiving Break

Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>---read Franzen, *The Corrections*, pp. 1-134  
Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>---read Franzen, *The Corrections*, pp. 135-235

Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>---read Franzen, *The Corrections*, pp. 237-336  
Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>---read Franzen, *The Corrections*, pp. 337-455

Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>---read Franzen, *The Corrections*, pp. 457-566  
Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>---Black and Feminist Marxism (readings on sakai)

**Take-home final exam due on Wednesday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 p.m.**

# KARL MARX FOR DUMMIES

A NEW MANIFESTO FOR A 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY GLOBAL ECONOMY

## 1. THESIS



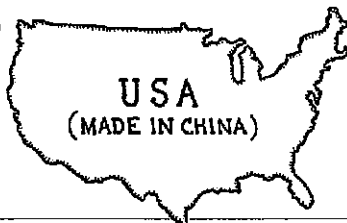
CAPITALISTS CONTROL THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION

## 2. ANTITHESIS

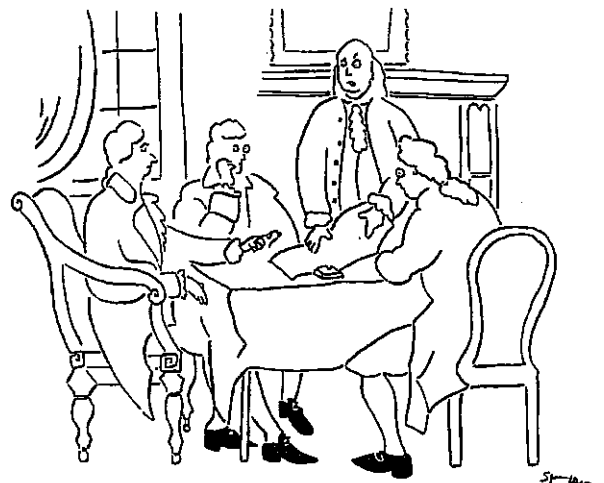


COMMUNISTS CONTROL THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION

## 3. SYNTHESIS



COMMUNISTS BUY THE ASSETS OF CAPITALISTS WHO SPEND BEYOND THEIR MEANS AS CONSUMERS OF PRODUCTION



"Can't we put in something about rich white guys don't have to pay taxes?"