Philosophy 3110: Social and Political Philosophy
Gabriel Soldatenko, Asst. Prof. of Philosophy
TR 11:00-12:15, Room: SO 2030, Spring 2014

Office Hours: Monday 11:00-12:00, Tuesday 1:00-3:00, and by appointment.
Social Science #4091

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Course Description: This course is organized around a series of close readings of some of
the major figures, and traditions, of critical social thought in the West. As a result, the
course has two definite limits; in the first place, it is confined to continental philosophy after
the mid-nineteenth century. And secondly, it only looks at those authors who are critical,
and by “critical” we mean those philosophers and traditions that begin from the premise that
a better world is possible, and that such an end is desirable. As a result, this class is not a
survey course where we start from the ancients and end at the present. Rather, this course
will take our present social arrangement as its point of departure, and look at some
influential authors who have provided some important tools for how to think critically about
the modern world. Thus, the class is meant to provide students with both a solid
understanding of what social political philosophy is; and second, provide a philosophical
ground for students to develop their own critical judgment on our current social
arrangement.

Texts: All course materials will be provided through Georgia View. Note that the cost you
save in not having to buy books may be incurred through printing and photocopying.

Course Requirements: Over the course of the semester students
• will bring the days reading to class according to the schedule on the syllabus and/or
  the professor’s instructions;
• will actively engage the course material and participate in the class discussion; and
• will attend class regularly, even if attendance is not taken.

Student Learning Outcomes: By the end of the term students will have gained
• a general sense of the history of Western social political philosophy since 1848;
• an overall grasp of the work of Karl Marx, the Frankfurt School, the Anarchist
  tradition, and Michel Foucault;
• a firm understanding of some of the basic approaches and important concepts that
  social political philosophy relies on in the present; and
• a critical sensibility of their own position in society

Evaluation: There will be three short papers, which will account for 50% of the final grade.
In addition, there will be weekly homework assignments that will account for an additional
40%, and class participation in the form of group work will account for the final 10%.
**Attendance Policy:** There are no excused absences in college. Students are responsible for making up class by conferring with classmates (i.e. getting notes and discussing the main topics of conversation). Students are responsible for all material covered: readings, lectures, and documentary presentations. I will allow make-up exams only if I'm contacted at least two days prior to the exam date.

**Academic Integrity Statement:** Every KSU student is responsible for upholding the provisions of the Student Code of Conduct. Section II of the Student Code of Conduct addresses the University’s policy on academic honesty, including but not limited to provisions regarding plagiarism and cheating, and misrepresentation/falsification of University records or academic work. Incidents of alleged academic misconduct will be handled through the established procedures of the University Judiciary Program.

**ADA Statement:** Any student who, because of a disabling condition, may require some special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to arrange the necessary accommodations. Students should present appropriate verification from KSU disAbled Student Support Services. No requirement exists that accommodations be made prior to completion of this approved University process. Accommodations are arranged on an individualized, as-needed basis after the needs and circumstances have been evaluated. The following individuals have been designated by the President of the University to provide assistance and ensure compliance with the ADA. Should you require assistance or have further questions about the ADA, please contact: Carol Pope, Asst. Dir. for disAbled Student Support Services cpope@kennesaw.edu disAbled Student Support Services Website: http://www.kennesaw.edu/stu_dev/dsss/dsss.html

**Schedule of Readings:**

January 8: Introduction: Social Political Philosophy and Critical Social Theory in the Western Tradition

**Part I. Class Analysis and the Critique of Capitalism**


January 16


January 23

“Preface to the First Edition”

Chapter 4: “The General Formula for Capital”

Homework #1 due on the 23rd


January 30

Chapter 7: “Labor and Valorization Process”

Homework #2 due on 30th
February 6: Chapter 13: “Co-operation”
                   Homework #3 due on 6th

February 13: “Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts, 1844”
                   Homework #4 due on 13th

**Part II. The Frankfurt School**

February 20: “The New Forms of Control”
              “The Closing of the Political Universe”
                   Short Paper #1 due on 20th

February 27: “The Closing of the Political Universe” (continued)
              “From Negative to Positive Thinking”
                   Homework #5 due on 27th

March 6: Sections 1-6
                   Homework #6 due on 6th
                   Note: March 5 is the last day to withdraw

March 13: Sections 24-27, 35, 43-45
                   Homework #7 due on 13th

**Part III. Anarchist Social Thought**

                   Chapters 1-3, 10, and 11

March 20: No Class

                   “The ABC of Anarchism” (Chapters 1-4, and 7-9)
                   Short Paper #2 due on 25th

                   “What is Anarchism?”
                   Homework #8 due on 27th
Spring Break
March 29-April 4

Part IV. Society and Power

“Nietzsche, Freud, Marx”

April 10: No Class

April 17
“Nietzsche, Genealogy, History”
Homework #9 due on 17th

April 22: Michel Foucault, Essential Works of Foucault v.3 (The New Press: NY, 1997)
April 24
“The Subject and Power”
Homework #10 due on 24th

April 29: Foucault Summary

May 1: Short Paper #3 due