

Title of the course: *Marxism*

General aim of the course:

Marxism is one of the most important movements in the history of philosophy in terms of its impact on history, society, the humanities, and the social sciences. It has grown far beyond philosophy and, interestingly, it remained relevant (although highly controversial) even after the fall of socialism in Eastern Europe.

The course provides an introduction to Marxism on the basis classic texts from the tradition. The aim is to understand the core ideas and the official terminology of the founding fathers, Marx and Engels. This is potentially useful for two reasons: 1. it makes it easier to study critical social theory, which builds on, but is not quite the same as, classical Marxism, and 2. studying the classic texts helps us appreciate the contemporary relevance of Marxism as well as the relationship (or lack thereof) between contemporary left-wing movements and classical Marxism.

The course requires no background in economics or philosophy.

Course homepage: elte.dkodaj.net

Content of the course:

1. The Invisible Hand
2. What is communism? (Marx/Engels: The Communist Manifesto)
3. Alienation (Marx: Economic-philosophical manuscripts of 1844)
4. Materialism (Marx/Engels: The German Ideology)
5. Ideology (Marx/Engels: The German Ideology)
6. Theory and practice (Theses on Feuerbach)
7. Fetishism (Marx: The Capital 1)
8. Value (Marx: The Capital 1)
9. The collapse of capitalism (Marx: The Capital 3)
10. Economic planning
11. Market socialism
12. Meaningful work
13. Exploitation

Grading criteria, specific requirements for the course:

There will be a written exam at the end of the term (with questions based on the Marx passages discussed during lectures).

Recommended readings:

Arnold, N Scott (1994): *The Philosophy and Economics of Market Socialism*. Oxford University Press.

Halliday, Daniel & John Thrasher (2020): *The Ethics of Capitalism*. Oxford University Press.

Kornai, Janos (1992): *The Socialist System*. Clarendon Press.

Piketty, Thomas (2020): *Capital and Ideology*. Harvard University Press.