PROBLEMS OF SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY
(Weber and Lukács)

A close reading of selected texts by Max Weber and Georg Lukács. Topics include rationalization, reification, alienation, and the nature of capitalism and modernity.

Prerequisite for Undergraduates: PHIL V3353 or V3264 and permission of instructors
Prerequisite for Graduate Students: permission of instructors

Required texts (available at Book Culture)
Lukács, Georg, History and Class Consciousness (MIT) (= HCC)
Marx, Karl, Capital, vol. 1 (any edition)
Weber, Max, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism (Dover)
_____, From Max Weber, eds. Gerth and Mills (Oxford) (= FMW)

Secondary texts (on reserve in Butler Library)
Arato, Andrew, Young Lukacs & Origins of Western Marxism
Aron, Raymond, Main Currents in Sociological Thought, vol. 2: chs. on Weber
Cohen, G. A., Karl Marx's Theory of History: A Defense
Giddens, Anthony, Capitalism and Modern Social Theory, chs. 9-12
Goldmann, Lucien, Lukács and Heidegger: Towards a New Philosophy
Habermas, Jürgen, Theory of Communicative Action, vols. 1-2
Hawthorn, Geoffrey, Enlightenment and Despair: A History of Social Theory, ch. 7
Honneth, Axel, The Fragmented World of the Social, ch. 3
_____, Reification
Jay, Martin, Marxism and Totality
Löwy, Michael, Georg Lukács: From Romanticism to Bolshevism
Meszaros, Istvan, Aspects of History and Class Consciousness
Turner, Stephen, ed. Cambridge Companion to Weber
Schedule of Class Meetings

Sept. 8    Introductory Session:  
            Plan of seminar; Marx on capitalism and historical materialism

Sept. 15, 22, 29  
            *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*  
            (+ Habermas, vol. 1, chs. II, IV.1; vol. 2, ch. VIII.1)


Oct. 6, 13  Weber, "Science as a Vocation," in FMW


Nov. 3 Weber, selections on bureaucracy: FMW, Part II, ch. VIII


Nov. 17, Dec. 1, 8 Lukács, "Reification and the Consciousness of the Proletariat," in HCC

I. "The Phenomenon of Reification" (Nov. 17)  
II. "The Antinomies of Bourgeois Thought" (Dec. 1)  
III. "The Standpoint of the Proletariat" (Dec. 8)

Course Requirements for Graduate Students (E, or graded, credit)
-Attendance of all seminar meetings
-One 20 page term paper, due Monday, December 12, 5:00 p.m.

Course Requirements for Graduate Students (R credit)
-Attendance of all seminar meetings

Course Requirements for Undergraduate Students
-Attendance of all seminar meetings
-One 5-page paper on some aspect of Weber, due Thursday, October 6, 11:00 a.m.
-One 15 page term paper, due Monday, December 12, 5:00 p.m.
   -topic proposal & outline due Monday, November 28, 5:00 p.m. (though you're encouraged to turn it in November 17)

Final grades will be determined as follows:  
1/3 First paper  
2/3 Term paper