

Philosophy G9755  
Fall 2011  
Th 11-12:50

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Office Hours

Honneth: TBA  
Neuhouser: Tu, W: 2-3 (& by appointment)

**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	<i>The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism</i> (+ Habermas, vol. 1, chs. II, IV.1; vol. 2, ch. VIII.1)  [Optional reading: "Religious Rejections of the World and Their Directions," in <i>FMW</i> , Part III, ch. XIII]
Oct. 6, 13	Weber, "Science as a Vocation," in <i>FMW</i>
Oct. 20, 27	Weber, "Politics as a Vocation," in <i>FMW</i>
Nov. 3	Weber, selections on bureaucracy: <i>FMW</i> , Part II, ch. VIII
Nov. 10	Marx, "The Fetishism of Commodities," in <i>Capital</i> , vol. 1, Part I, ch. I, Section 4 (+ Cohen, ch. V)
Nov. 17, Dec. 1, 8	Lukács, "Reification and the Consciousness of the Proletariat," in <i>HCC</i> 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

