

SOCIETY AND ITS DISCONTENTS

Honors (HNRS) 130, Section 2
Spring 2012, 3 Units

Instructor: **Dr. Andrew Dilts**

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Class Meetings:

T/R, 3:00p-4:15p

University Hall 4442

Course Website:

<https://mylmuconnect.lmu.edu/>

COURSE INFORMATION

DESCRIPTION: “Society and its Discontents” serves as an introduction to the cultural and ideological formations that have shaped our understanding of social, political, economic, and cultural questions in the contemporary period. In particular, we will focus our attention on the typically fraught relationship between the “self” and “society.” We will organize this discussion through the work of two quintessentially ‘modern’ theorists of society, Karl Marx and Sigmund Freud, and their reinterpretation in twentieth century social theory. By tracing Marx and Freud’s theories of the self and society through the work of W.E.B. DuBois, Herbert Marcuse, Simone de Beauvoir, Frantz Fanon, and Michel Foucault, we will ask how we should best think about society at the end of the first decade of the twenty-first century.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Students will develop a solid grounding in the major concepts and arguments in the work of Marx and Freud.
2. Students will learn how Marxist and Freudian thought have shaped key movements in 20th century social theory.
3. Students will develop an appreciation for how theory helps us to think about our contemporary condition, especially the “tensions” between difference and unity, between the “self” and “society.”
4. Students will improve their skills of deliberation and logical argumentation.
5. Students will develop an appreciation for close reading and textual analysis.
6. Students will improve their critical, argumentative, and interpretive writing skills.
7. Most importantly, students will develop their critical thinking skills and apply them to their political and social lives, allowing them to grow as persons and as critical citizens.

PREREQUISITES/RECOMMENDED BACKGROUND: This is a course for honors students at LMU. There are no additional prerequisites other than college-level reading, writing, and study skills.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- (1) You will submit **three writing assignments** during the semester. Each assignment must be formatted and submitted properly in order to receive full credit, as documented in the course paper requirements, available on MYLMU Connect. Specific requirements for each assignment will be given during the semester. You may elect to “drop” the lowest paper grade of the three at the end of the quarter.

- (1) Marx Interpretive Essay

- (2) Freud Interpretive Essay
- (3) Final Essay
- (2) Twenty-four hours before each class meeting, you must post a **prepared reading question** on the course website. Be prepared to present your question at the beginning of class.
- (3) You will give an **in-class presentation** with another student during the second half of the semester. Presentations will last no longer than 15 minutes and will follow the presentation requirements.
- (4) You must **attend class** and be an **active participant** in discussion having **completed each day's assigned reading**. This is a text-driven course, and as such, you must bring your copy of the day's reading to class.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Marx Essay:	20%
Freud Essay:	20%
Final Essay:	20%
Presentation:	20%
Reading Questions:	10%
Class Participation:	5%
Attendance:	5%

GRADING SCALE:

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	88-89
B	83-87
B-	80-82
C+	78-79
C	73-77
C-	70-72
D	60-69
F	0-59

****Any student who receives a failing grade for attendance and participation will receive a failing grade for the class. Any student who has not turned in all three writing assignments and given an in-class presentation will receive a failing grade for the class.****

PAPER SUBMISSION: Exact deadlines for papers and writing assignments will be announced in class and posted online. All papers will be submitted electronically for and prepared for blind review by the instructor. Submission requirements and formatting details will be posted with each assignment.

READING QUESTIONS: A good reading question is one that directly and explicitly engages with the text. Your question should cite a specific passage, term, or concept that you are puzzled about, and it should offer your interpretation of the passage at hand. It should be focused on something that genuinely puzzles you in the reading, and which you can probably assume that others find puzzling or confusing as well.

You will submit one question per class meeting. Questions must be submitted twenty-four (24) hours before class meets. Late questions will be accepted for partial credit. Questions posted after class meets will receive no credit. Questions will be graded on a three point scale: Excellent = 2, Satisfactory (or late) = 1, Unacceptable (or not submitted) = 0.

In the unlikely event that students are not keeping up with the reading, the instructor reserves the right to add short reading quizzes without notice.

COURSE POLICIES

ATTENDANCE: Timely, prepared, and engaged attendance is required. Absences will only be

excused in the case of illness or emergency. If there is a conflict between course participation and religious observance, please contact me in advance. It is not necessary to obtain prior approval from the instructor when missing a meeting is unavoidable, but note that students bear the *entire responsibility* for the decision to miss class and for whatever effect that may have on their course grade and their learning experience. Repeated absences and lateness will directly affect the discussion and attendance portion of a student's grade, as detailed in the course requirements section.

LATE PENALTIES: I accept assignments when they are due. Assignments must be turned in at the designated time and place. Failure to turn in an assignment on time is unacceptable except with the prior agreement of the instructor (which will be given only in exceptional circumstances). Except in documented cases of illness or emergency, a penalty of up to a **full letter grade** may be assessed for each day (24hrs) the assignment is late. However, each student may, at his or her discretion, take a 24-hour extension for *one* of the writing assignments, no questions asked (if you are using your extension please indicate this on the first page of your paper).

PLAGIARISM & ACADEMIC HONESTY: Academic dishonesty will be treated as an extremely serious matter. Proven plagiarism of any kind may result in automatic failure of the course, and will be referred to the University for further disciplinary action. I reserve the right to submit your electronic document to plagiarism detection websites if necessary. It is **never** permissible to turn in any work that has been copied from another student or copied from a source (including Internet) without properly acknowledging the source. It is your responsibility to make sure that your work meets the standard of academic honesty set forth in the "LMU Honor Code and Process" which appears in the LMU Bulletin 2011-2012. You should also refer to my own writing requirements posted on the course website.

GENDER NEUTRAL & GENDER SPECIFIC LANGUAGE, NAMES & ACCENTS: Academics no longer use the pronoun "he" to apply universally to all persons, nor do we use the term "man," when we are referring to humanity or people in general. In our writing, when we are making generalizations we should use gender neutral pronouns, that is, sie and hir, s/he, him or her, they/their, etc. When referring to a specific person or group of people, we should use the language and pronouns *that they prefer* if we know them. Further, we should be attentive to the spelling and accents of author's names. Finally, all authors must be referred to by their entire names, or only their last names, *not by their first names*, orally and in writing.

EMAIL COMMUNICATION: At times I will communicate with the entire class using campus email systems, so it is essential that you regularly check your lion.lmu.edu email address or forward your lion account email to your preferred email address. You are welcome to contact me via email with questions about the course, but I will not respond to emails that ask for information that is available in the course syllabus, assignment sheets, or any other documents distributed as an addendum to the course syllabus. In short, before asking a question, make sure you don't already have the answer.

TECHNOLOGY USE DURING CLASS: You are welcome to bring a computer to class provided that it enables you to engage more in the class discussion. You may also use a computer to help you take notes. Email, Twitter, Facebook, or anything at all that is not directly related to the *conversation* we are having will not be tolerated. Using a computer in this way during a seminar is quite simply RUDE and deeply disrespectful to your classmates. If you need to use a computer in class, you will be expected to post copies of your class notes on the class website immediately following the class session to share with others. If you are not willing to do this, do not bring a computer with you.

There is simply no reason whatsoever for you to be using your phone/PDA/Kindle/iPad/whatever during class time. E-Reserve texts should be *printed* and brought to class.

Your phone should be turned off and put away. If your phone rings during class, I will answer it for you, and it will be your responsibility to arrange for coffee service for every member of the class during our next meeting.

OFFICE HOURS: I look forward to meeting with you all during regularly scheduled office hours, or by appointment when meeting during office hours is not possible. Students who would like to discuss issues raised in the course further than class discussions will permit, or students who encounter difficulties with the course or the assigned material, are especially encouraged to attend office hours.

ACCOMMODATION: Loyola Marymount University is committed to equality in education. Students with special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act who need reasonable modifications, special assistance, or accommodations in this course should promptly direct their request to the Disability Support Services Office. Any student who currently has a documented disability (physical, learning, or psychological) needing academic accommodations should contact the Disability Services Office (Daum Hall Room 224, 310-338-4535) as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. Please visit <http://www.lmu.edu/dss> for additional information.

TENTATIVE NATURE OF THE SYLLABUS: If necessary, this syllabus and its contents are subject to revision; students are responsible for any changes or modifications distributed in class or posted on MYLMU Connect.

REQUIRED TEXTS

These texts will all be available for purchase from the bookstore. You are welcome to purchase them wherever you please or borrow them from the library, but *you must use these editions of the texts* so that we are all literally on the same page during class. You will be expected to come to class with the text in hand. Some readings will be made available via electronic reserve in PDF format. You must **print** hard copies of these readings, i.e. do not bring your computer or e-reader in order to refer to the texts.

- Karl Marx & Friedrich Engels, *The Marx-Engels Reader*, 2nd ed. (W.W. Norton & Co). [ISBN: 9780393090406]
- Sigmund Freud, *Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis*. (W.W. Norton). [ISBN: 9780871401182]
- Herbert Marcuse, *Eros and Civilization* (Beacon Press). [ISBN: 9780807015551]
- Michel Foucault, *History of Sexuality, Vol. 1* (Vintage). [ISBN: 0679724699]
- Frantz Fanon, *Black Skins, White Masks*. (Grove Press). [ISBN: 978-0802143006]
- W.E.B. Du Bois, *Souls of Black Folks* (Bedford/St. Martins). [ISBN: 0312091141]

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction

- 1) T Jan 10: Course Introduction.
- 2) R Jan 12: Marx, "Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844" (MER, pp. 70-81).

Week 2: Marx

- 3) T Jan 17: Marx, "Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844" (MER, pp. 81-93).
 4) R Jan 19: (1) Marx & Engels, "The German Ideology" (MER, pp. 149-175);
 (2) Marx & Engels, "The Communist Manifesto" (MER pp. 473-483);
 (3) Marx, "Grundrisse" (MER pp. 221-226, 236-244).

Week 3: Marx

- 5) T Jan 24: Marx, Capital, Volume 1 (MER, pp. 302-312, 319-336).
 6) R Jan 26: Marx, Capital, Volume 1 (MER, pp. 336-384).

Week 4: Marx

- 7) T Jan 31: Marx, Capital, Volume 1 (MER, pp. 384-438).
 8) R Feb 2: Marx, "Grundrisse" (MER, pp. 278-292).

Week 5: Freud

- 9) T Feb 7: Freud, *Introductory Lectures*. Chapter I, V-VI (pp. 17-28, 101-137).
 10) R Feb 9: Freud, Chapters VII, IX-X (pp. 138-153, 167-208).

Week 6: Freud

- 11) T Feb 14: Freud, Chapters XI, XVII-XVIII (pp. 209-226, 318-353).
 12) R Feb 16: Freud, Chapters XIX-XX (pp. 354-396).

Week 7: Freud

- 13) T Feb 21: Freud, Chapters XXI-XXII (pp. 397-444).
 14) R Feb 23: Freud, Chapters XXIII, XXVII (pp. 445-468, 536-556).

Week 8: SPRING BREAK

Week 9: Marcuse

- 15) T Mar 6: Herbert Marcuse, *Eros and Civilization*, Introduction and Chapters 1-3.
 16) R Mar 8: Marcuse, *Eros and Civilization*, Chapters 4, 6.

Week 10: Marcuse / Beauvoir

- 17) T Mar 13: Marcuse, *Eros and Civilization*, Chapters 10, 11.
 18) R Mar 15: Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, pp. 3-17, 49-68 (E-Reserve).

Week 11: Beauvoir

- 19) T Mar 20: Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, pp. 638-664, 721-751 (E-Reserve).
 20) R Mar 22: Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, pp. 266-274, 753-766 (E-Reserve).

Week 12: Du Bois

- 21) T Mar 27: W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, Forethought, Chapters 1-2.
 22) R Mar 29: Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, Chapters 4 and 7.

Week 13: Du Bois

- 23) T April 3: Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk*, Chapters 8-9, 11, 13-14
 24) R April 5: NO CLASS, Easter Break

Week 14: Fanon

- 25) T April 10: Frantz Fanon, *Black Skins, White Masks*, Introduction, Chapters 1 & 5.

26) R April 12: Fanon, *Black Skins, White Masks*, Chapters 4 & 6.

Week 15: Fanon / Foucault

27) T April 17: Fanon, *Black Skins, White Masks*, Chapters 7 & 8.

28) R April 19: Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1*, pp. 1-50. (skim pp. 51-73)

Week 16: Foucault

29) T April 24: Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1*, pp. 76-133.

30) R April 26: Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1*, pp. 133-159.