

UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM
LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

SOCIETY AND ITS DISCONTENTS
Honors (HNRS) 130, Section 3
Spring 2013, 3 Units

Instructor: **Prof. Andrew Dilts**

Office: University Hall 4203

Office Hours: T/R 10:00a-12:00p

<http://dilts.org/officehours>

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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 three definitive modern terms: self, society, and freedom. We will organize this discussion through the work of two quintessentially ‘modern’ theorists of society, Karl Marx and Sigmund Freud, and reinterpretations of their thought in twentieth century social theory. By tracing Marx and Freud’s theories of the self and society in the work of Herbert Marcuse, Simone de Beauvoir, Frantz Fanon, and Michel Foucault, we will ask how we should best think about how to be free as individuals and collectively as a society in the first decades of the twenty-first century.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. Students will develop a 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. Students will improve their skills at oral presentation, discussion leading, and collaborative research.
8. 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 students in the LMU Honors Program only. There are no additional prerequisites other than college-level reading, writing, presentation, and study skills.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- (1) You will submit **two 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.
- (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 one **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 distributed by the instructor.
- (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. If you are more than 5 minutes late to class, you will be marked as absent. If you do not bring your copy of the reading with you to class, you will be marked as absent.

GRADE BREAKDOWN:

Marx / Freud Essay:	25%
20th Century Essay:	25%
Presentation:	25%
Reading Questions:	15%
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 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 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/PARTICIPATION: 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. Participation in class discussions will be evaluated on quality, quantity, and appropriateness of student questions and comments. Please note: it is just as possible to talk *too much* as it is to talk too little in class. Likewise, there is such a thing as active listening, and yes, your professors are capable of distinguishing this from passive listening. If you are worried about your the level and/or quality of your participation, the best thing to do is to come to office hours, where the professor can give you direct feedback throughout the semester, rather than at the end (when it is too late to change your behavior!).

LATE PENALTIES: Assignments are accepted 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. Because assignments are submitted electronically, this includes weekend days. 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 without exception. 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 the 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, *she* and *he*, *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.

Where this is not possible (either because the claim you are making is gendered, or because you are relying on a text that uses gender-exclusive pronouns), you must explain why this is the case. Usually, this requires no more than a footnote (e.g. Hobbes uses “he” or “mankind” as universals. Add a footnote at your first usage of his language, directly quoted or not, and say that you are following Hobbes’ usage here, and do not mean to endorse his usage). You aren’t required to solve these problems, but you are required to make note these problems and signal your awareness of them.

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. I encourage you to contact me via email with questions about the course, the material we cover in class, and assignments.

You are expected to be professional in all communication with the instructor. All email communication should be in complete sentences with a proper salutation and conclusion. Treat the email more as a letter and less like a text message. Include a comprehensible subject heading (e.g. “HNRS 130 paper question”), address and sign the email, making sure to identify what class you are in (usually instructors are teaching more than one class) and explain clearly what it is that you are inquiring about. Failure to do these will guarantee that you will not get a response. Also, unless I’ve explicitly stated otherwise, I generally check my faculty email only during normal business hours (more or less from 7am to 6pm).

Finally, here is a short list of things to which I **will not respond**:

- Questions that can be answered by checking the course syllabus or looking online.
- A request to know **if** you missed anything during an absence. (The answer is yes.)
- A request to know **what** you missed during an absence. (Instead of asking this through email, take the appropriate next steps to catch up: ask a classmate for notes, meet with me in my office hours, etc.)

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 rude and 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 no reason to use 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 you will be marked absent for the session.

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 educational opportunity. 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]
- Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents* (W.W. Norton). [ISBN: 9780393301588]
- Herbert Marcuse, *Eros and Civilization* (Beacon Press). [ISBN: 9780807015551]
- Frantz Fanon, *Black Skins, White Masks*. (Grove Press). [ISBN: 9780802143006]
- Michel Foucault, *History of Sexuality, Vol. 1* (Vintage). [ISBN: 0679724699]

Strongly Recommended:

- Anthony Weston, *A Rulebook for Arguments*, 4th ed. (Hackett, 2008), ISBN: 978-0872209541.
- Michael Harvey, *The Nuts and Bolts of College Writing* (Hackett, 2003), ISBN: 0872205738.

Required Films (online and/or on reserve at Library)

- *Modern Times*, Dir. Charlie Chaplin, 87 min, 1936.
- *Killer of Sheep*, Dir. Charles Burnett, 83 min, 1979.
- *David Harvey's Crisis of Capitalism*, Dir. RSA Animate, 12 min, 2010.
- *Waltz with Bashir*, Dir. Ari Folman, 90 min, 2008.

- *The Philadelphia Story*, Dir. George Cukor, 112 min, 1940.
- *Battle of Algiers*, Dir. Gillo Pontecorvo, 121 min, 1966.

TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1: Introduction

- 1) T Jan 15: Course Introduction
- 2) R Jan 17: Marx, “On the Jewish Question” (MER, pp. 26-52).

Week 2: Marx

- 3) T Jan 22: (1) Marx, “Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844” (MER, pp. 70-81);
(2) Film: *Modern Times*, Dir. Charlie Chaplin, 87 min, 1936. (http://youtu.be/wise_qB372M)
- 4) R Jan 24: Marx, “Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844” (MER, pp. 81-93).

Week 3: Marx

- 5) T Jan 29: (1) Marx & Engels, “The German Ideology” (MER, pp. 149-175);
(2) Marx & Engels, “The Communist Manifesto” (MER pp. 473-483);
(3) Film: *Killer of Sheep*, Dir. Charles Burnett, 83 min, 1979.
- 6) R Jan 31: Marx, Capital, Volume 1 (MER, pp. 302-312, 319-336).

Week 4: Marx

- 7) T Feb 5: Marx, Capital, Volume 1 (MER, pp. 336-384).
- 8) R Feb 7: (1) Marx, Capital, Volume 1 (MER, pp. 384-438).
(2) Film: *David Harvey's Crisis of Capitalism*, Dir. RSA Animate, 12 min, 2010. (http://youtu.be/qOP2V_np2c0)

Week 5: Freud

- 9) T Feb 12: Freud, *Introductory Lectures*. Chapter I, V-VI (pp. 17-28, 101-137).
- 10) R Feb 14: (1) Freud, Chapters VII, IX-X (pp. 138-153, 167-208);
(2) Film: *Waltz with Bashir*, Dir. Ari Folman, 90 min, 2008.

Week 6: Freud

- 11) T Feb 19: Freud, Chapters XI, XVII-XVIII (pp. 209-226, 318-353).
- 12) R Feb 21: Freud, Chapters XIX-XX (pp. 354-396).

Week 7: Freud

- 13) T Feb 26: Freud, Chapters XXI-XXII (pp. 397-444).
- 14) R Feb 28: Freud, Chapters XXIII, XXVII (pp. 445-468, 536-556).

Week 8: SPRING BREAK

Week 9: Freud / Marcuse

- 15) T Mar 12: Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents*, entire book. **PLEASE READ OVER BREAK!**
- 16) R Mar 14: Herbert Marcuse, *Eros and Civilization*, Introduction & Chapters 1-3.

Week 10: Marcuse

- 17) T Mar 19: Marcuse, *Eros and Civilization*, Chapters 4, 6
- 18) R Mar 21: *NO CLASS, Instructor absence*
**** Freud/Marx Paper Due****

Week 11: Marcuse

- 19) T Mar 26: Marcuse, *Eros and Civilization*, 10, 11.
- 20) R Mar 28: *NO CLASS, Easter Break*

Week 12: Beauvoir

- 21) T April 2: Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, pp. 3-17, 49-68 (E-Reserve).
- 22) R April 4: Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, pp. 638-664, 721-751 (E-Reserve).

Week 13: Beauvoir / Fanon

- 23) T April 9: (1) Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*, pp. 266-274, 753-766 (E-Reserve);
(2) Film: *The Philadelphia Story*, Dir. George Cukor, 112 min, 1940.
- 24) R April 11: Frantz Fanon, *Black Skins, White Masks*, Introduction, Chapters 1 & 5.

Week 14: Fanon

- 25) T April 16: Fanon, *Black Skins, White Masks*, Chapters 4 & 6.
- 26) R April 18: (1) Fanon, *Black Skins, White Masks*, Chapters 7 & 8;
(2) Film: *Battle of Algiers*, Dir. Gillo Pontecorvo, 121 min, 1966. (http://youtu.be/7bOr_U_92xE)

Week 15: Foucault

- 27) T April 23: Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1*, pp. 1-50. (skim pp. 51-73)
- 28) R April 25: Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Vol. 1*, pp. 76-133.

Week 16: Foucault

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

**** Final Paper Due Tuesday, May 7 @ 4pm ****