

## SPACE, TIME, REVOLUTION

JPG1503 | Winter 2019 | W 5-8pm SS5016

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O turn of times! You hope of the people!  
[*O Wechsel der Zeiten! Du Hoffnung des Volkes!*]  
Bertolt Brecht, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle*, 1944.

### a DESCRIPTION

This graduate seminar explores the spatial and temporal dimensions of revolution, with special reference to the making and unmaking of capitalism. This semester, we will approach some key issues of space, time and revolution by revisiting the concept of the dialectic, with an eye on its relationship to radical politics, while assessing the historical geography of capitalism. Classical dialecticians such as Hegel, Marx, Georg Lukács along with contemporary critics like Perry Anderson, Fredric Jameson, Kathi Weeks, Silvia Federici, Kristin Ross, Harry Harootunian, Kojin Karatani, China Miéville who have been closely engaged with the socialist tradition will furnish the textual basis of this seminar. Critical-theoretical studies of revolution, radical perspectives on the uneven development capitalism and instructive narratives of revolutionary as well as counter-revolutionary political experience constitute the core of this course. It is intended therefore as a study of subjective and objective conditions of revolutionary politics—past, present and future.

### b REQUIREMENTS

- > Five brief reflections on selected readings: 5\*10% = 50%
- > Term paper, film, website or other project: 30%
- > Seminar participation (3\*12=36 hours): 20%

The brief reflections will address central issues raised by course readings, in response to questions broached by participants of the seminar. These will generally assume the essay form and be shared communally with the whole class. In addition, everyone will be expected to suggest specific passages of text and questions for discussion each week to one or more designated seminar facilitators. The traditional term paper requirement may be substituted by another kind of scholarly or artistic contribution (short film, blog, work of art, etc.) demanding more or less equal labour-time.

<b>c</b>		<b>MAIN TOPICS AND READINGS (Week 1 to Week 12)</b>
<b>W1</b>	Jan 9	<b>Introduction</b>
<b>W2</b>	Jan 16	<b>History</b> Francis Fukuyama, 'The End of History', <i>The National Interest</i> , 1989, 3-18. Perry Anderson, 'The Ends of History' in <i>A Zone of Engagement</i> , London: Verso, 1992, 279-375. Boris Groys, 'Three Ends of History: Hegel, Solovyov, Kojève' in <i>Introduction to Antiphilosophy</i> , trans. David Fernbach, London: Verso, 2012 [2009], 145-167.
<b>W3</b>	Jan 23	<b>Dialectics/Ideology</b> Fredric Jameson, 'The Three Names of the Dialectic', 'Hegel and Reification', 'Hegel's Contemporary Critics' and 'Ideological Analysis: A Handbook' in <i>Valences of the Dialectic</i> , Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2009, 3-70, 75-101, 102-123, 315-363. Herbert Marcuse, 'Note on Dialectic' in <i>Reason and Revolution: Hegel and the Rise of Social Theory</i> , Boston: Beacon Press, 1960 [1941], vii-xiv.
<b>W4</b>	Jan 30	<b>Reification/Consciousness</b> Georg Lukács, 'Reification and the Consciousness of the Proletariat' in <i>History and Class Consciousness: Studies in Marxist Dialectics</i> , trans. Rodney Livingstone, Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1971 [1923], 83-222. Fredric Jameson, 'History and Class Consciousness as an "Unfinished Project"', <i>Rethinking Marxism</i> 1.1, 1998, 49-72.
<b>W5</b>	Feb 6	<b>Subjects</b> Kathi Weeks, <i>Constituting Feminist Subjects</i> , London: Verso, 2018 [1998].
<b>W6</b>	Feb 13	<b>Commons</b> Silvia Federici, <i>Re-Enchanting the World: Feminism and the Politics of the Commons</i> , foreword by Peter Linebaugh, Oakland: PM Press, 2019.
<b>W7&amp;8</b>	Feb 27 & Mar 6	<b>Intercourse (Verkehr)</b> Kojin Karatani, <i>The Structure of World History: From Modes of Production to Modes of Exchange</i> , trans. Michael K. Bourdagh, Durham: Duke University Press, 2014. Kanishka Goonewardena, 'Theory and Politics in Karatani Kojin's <i>The Structure of World History</i> ', <i>Journal of Japanese Philosophy</i> 4, 2016, 77-105.
<b>W9&amp;10</b>	Mar 13 & 20	<b>Uneven Development</b> Harry Harootunian, <i>Marx after Marx: History and Time in the Expansion of Capitalism</i> , New York: Columbia University Press, 2015.
<b>W11</b>	Mar 27	<b>Communism</b> China Miéville, <i>October: The Story of the Russian Revolution</i> , London: Verso, 2017. Lenin, <i>State and Revolution</i> , 1917: <a href="http://www.marxists.org/ebooks/lenin/state-and-revolution.pdf">www.marxists.org/ebooks/lenin/state-and-revolution.pdf</a>
<b>W12</b>	April 3	<b>Commune</b> Kristin Ross, <i>Communal Luxury: The Political Imaginary of the Paris Commune</i> , London: Verso, 2015. Karl Marx, <i>The Civil War in France</i> , 1871: <a href="https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1871/civil-war-france/index.htm">https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1871/civil-war-france/index.htm</a>