

Syllabus: Course Code and Title

Wednesday, 17:00-20:00

Location: Zoom

Instructor: [Kanishka Goonewardena](#)

Instructor Email: Kanishka.goonewardena@gmail.com

Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2-3pm

Course Description

This semester, we will approach some key issues of space, time and revolution by revisiting the concepts and practices of the *dialectic*, *ideology* and *history* in order to explicate their relationship to radical politics located within—and against—the historical geography of capitalism. This theoretical exploration will be complemented by comparative studies of several revolutionary experiences, including the Haitian revolution, the Paris Commune, the Bolshevik revolution, and anti-colonial as well as feminist struggles in both colonies and metropolises. This course is intended as a study of subjective and objective conditions of revolutionary politics—past, present and future.

Learning Outcomes

A critical-theoretical as well as conjunctural sensibility of aesthetic, technological and political mediations of the socio-spatial dialectic will be the prime intended ‘learning outcome’.

Course Organization

In fall 2020, this course will be conducted online by means of Zoom, during the planned course time (Wednesday 10am-1pm), with no recordings--unless specifically requested by one or more students who cannot attend a particular session. Links to Zoom meeting will be posted on the Quercus course website and emailed to enrolled students. Most of the course materials will be available from the U of T Library, the internet or the course website. Coursework will be submitted through Quercus as explained in class.

Assignments and Evaluation

[Assignment 1 – Title \(e.g. weekly reading reflection, draft lit review, etc.\)](#)

Five reading reflections (one-page maximum), due by 5pm the day before the relevant readings are to be discussed in class. These should offer insightful questions and comments to help facilitate seminar discussion and will make up 30% of the course grade.

[Assignment 2 – Title \(e.g. weekly reading reflection, draft lit review, etc.\)](#)

Seminar participation will contribute to 20% of the course grade.

Assignment 3 – Title (e.g. weekly reading reflection, draft lit review, etc.)

A term paper, video or another appropriate project approved by the instructor will be worth 30% of the course grade, and due no later than 16th December 2020 (two weeks after the last class).

Late Penalties

No late work will be accepted. Extensions without penalty will be granted for reasons of accommodation, illness or emergencies when appropriate documentation is submitted to the instructor.

Required Text

See course schedule for required readings, most of which will be available from the U of T Library, internet or the course website. When reading some of the longer texts, we will focus on a reasonable selection of pages, as explained in class.

Course Schedule

Week 1 – 09 September

Introduction

Week 2 – 16 September

Topic: History

Walter Benjamin, ON THE CONCEPT OF HISTORY, 1940: www.marxists.org

Michael Löwy, FIRE ALARM: READING WALTER BENJAMIN'S 'ON THE CONCEPT OF HISTORY', trans. Chris Turner, London: Verso, 2005 [2001].

Week 3 - 23 September

Topic: Dialectics

Fredric Jameson, 'The Three Names of the Dialectic' in VALENCES OF THE DIALECTIC, Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2009, 3-70.

Herbert Marcuse, 'Note on Dialectic' in REASON AND REVOLUTION: HEGEL AND THE RISE OF SOCIAL THEORY, Boston: Beacon Press, 1960 [1941], vii-xiv.

Louis Althusser, 'Contradiction and Overdetermination' [1962] in FOR MARX, trans. Ben Brewster, London: Verso, 1969 [1965], 87-128.

Week 5 - 30 September

Topic: Ideology

Fredric Jameson, 'Ideological Analysis: A Handbook' in VALENCES OF THE DIALECTIC, Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2009, 315-363.

Fredric Jameson, 'HISTORY AND CLASS CONSCIOUSNESS as an "Unfinished Project"', RETHINKING MARXISM 1.1, 1998, 49-72 (republished in idem, VALENCES OF THE DIALECTIC, 201-222).

Donna Haraway, 'Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of the Partial Perspective', *FEMINIST STUDIES* 14.3, 1988, 575-599.

Week 5 - 7 October

Topic: Lenin

V. I. Lenin, *THE STATE AND REVOLUTION*, 1917: www.marxists.org

Week 6 - 14 October

Topic: Luxemburg

Ankica Čakardić, *LIKE A CLAP OF THUNDER: THREE ESSAYS ON ROSA LUXEMBURG*, trans. Andrew Hodges, Beograd: Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung, 2019.

Week 7 - 21 October

Topic: Revolution

C. L. R. James, *THE BLACK JACOBINS: TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE AND THE SAN DOMINGO REVOLUTION*, New York: Vintage, 1989 [1938].

Week 8 - 28 October

Topic: Commune

Kristin Ross, *COMMUNAL LUXURY: THE POLITICAL IMAGINARY OF THE PARIS COMMUNE*, London: Verso, 2015.

Week 9 - 4 November

Topic: Communism

Walter Rodney, *THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION: A VIEW FROM THE THIRD WORLD*, eds. Robin D. G. Kelley and Jesse Benjamin, foreword Vijay Prashad, London: Verso, 2018.

Week 10 - 18 November

Topic: Communism

Priyamvada Gopal, *INSURGENT EMPIRE: ANTICOLONIAL RESISTANCE AND BRITISH DISSENT*, London: Verso, 2019.

Week 11 - 25 November

Topic: Communism

Kristen R. Ghodsee, *WHY WOMEN HAVE BETTER SEX UNDER SOCIALISM*, New York: Nation Books, 2018.

Week 12 - 2 December

Topic: Indigenous Critical Theory

Robert Nichols, *THEFT IS PROPERTY! DISPOSSESSION AND CRITICAL THEORY*, Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2020.

Graduate Course Policies

Important Dates

Graduate courses are normally a minimum of 2-3 hours/week for 12 weeks. Reading week is optional for graduate courses. If observed, the instructor will inform the class and provide a make-up date for the missed class.

Fall 2020

July 30, 2020	Course enrolment opens
September 8, 2020	F (fall) and Y (fall-winter) session graduate courses and seminars begin
September 11, 2020	Final registration deadline
September 21, 2020	Deadline to add F (fall) and Y (fall-winter) session courses
October 26, 2020	Deadline to drop Fall courses
October-November 2020	Undergraduate reading week*

Winter 2020

January 4, 2021	S (winter) session graduate courses and seminars begin
January 13, 2021	Grades for F (fall) courses available for viewing on ACORN
January 18, 2021	Deadline to add S (winter) session courses
February 22, 2021	Deadline to drop S (winter) and Y (fall-winter) session courses
April 16, 2021	Grade deadline for students graduating in June 2021

Summer 2021

May 3, 2021	Summer F (May-June) and Y (May-August) session graduate courses and seminars begin
May 19, 2021	Grades for S (winter) and Y (fall-winter) courses available for viewing on ACORN
May 28, 2021	Final date to drop F (May-June) session courses without academic penalty
June 7, 2021	Summer S (July-August) session graduate courses and seminars begin
July 14, 2021	Grades for F (May-June) courses available for viewing on ACORN

* Reading week applies to undergraduate programs, and is optional for graduate courses, at the discretion of the instructor. If observed, the instructor will inform the class and provide a make-up date for the missed class. This may include an extra class at the end of term. Fall reading week dates: UTSC – October 10-16; UTM – October 13-16; UTSG – November 9-13. Winter reading week dates: UTSC – February 13-19; UTM – February 16-19; UTSG – February 16-19.

Course Syllabi

A final course syllabus, which includes all assignments, deadlines and weighting of methods of evaluation, must be made available to all students enrolled in the course as early as possible, no later than the deadline for enrolling in classes. Changes to the methods of evaluation or their relative weights cannot be made after this date without the consent of a simple majority of students in the class, provided a vote is announced at the previous class meeting.

Late Assignments

Instructors are not obligated to accept late work, except where there are legitimate, documented reasons beyond a student's control. In such cases a late penalty is not normally applied. In all other circumstances, if an instructor intends to accept and apply penalties to late assignments this will be clearly set out in the syllabus.

Attendance and Participation

Although attendance makes up no more than 20% of the final course grade, regular and consistent attendance in graduate courses is expected. Most graduate courses are seminar style classes, which involve collaborative work and in-class discussions with other students and instructors. Students who are unable to attend class each week must inform the instructor as early as possible.

Accessibility and Accommodations

The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations because you are disabled, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or course materials, please contact [Accessibility Services](#) as soon as possible.

Where there is an accommodation recommended by Accessibility Services, the department and/or instructors will be provided with an accommodation letter.

Academic Integrity

Academic misconduct by graduate students is taken very seriously. The University's policy on academic misconduct is found in the Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (the Code). Students in graduate studies are expected to commit to the highest standards of integrity and to understand the importance of protecting and acknowledging intellectual property. For example, it is assumed that they bring to their graduate studies a clear understanding of how to cite references appropriately, thereby avoiding plagiarism.

Regarding plagiarism, the Code includes the following statements:

B.i.1. It shall be an offence for a student knowingly:

(d) to represent as one's own idea or expression of an idea or work of another in any academic examination or term test or in connection with any other form of academic work, i.e., to commit plagiarism.

Wherever in the Code an offence is described as depending on "knowing," the offence shall likewise be deemed to have been committed if the person ought reasonably to have known.

Other academic offences include the possession and/or use of unauthorized aids in examinations, submitting the same paper for different courses, forgery (whether of academic records or other documents), concocting facts or references to sources, personating someone, and other forms of cheating and academic dishonesty. Please refer to sections B.i.1. and B.i.3. in the Code for detailed descriptions of offences applicable to students.

The [SGS Academic Integrity Resources](#) webpage outlines the policy on academic misconduct and the process for handling an allegation of academic misconduct.

Coursework Extensions

The authority to grant an extension to submit coursework beyond the sessional grade deadline is with the department and not the instructor of the course. To request a formal extension, students must submit a Coursework Extension Form, completed by both the student and course instructor, to the relevant graduate department prior to the final grade deadline.

In order to ensure fairness in granting extensions, the department must be reasonably certain that:

- The reasons for delay are serious and substantiated.
- The student is not granted unfair advantage over other students in the course.
- The student has a reasonable chance of completing the outstanding work within the time allotted.
- The normal and satisfactory completion of any new coursework is not in jeopardy.

Extension requests for medical reasons (e.g. short-term illness) must be accompanied by a medical note. Extension requests for students with accommodations due to disability must be supported by documentation from Accessibility Services. Extension requests for other reasons must be detailed in the form or a note to the department.

Religious Accommodations

Students must alert instructors in a timely fashion to any upcoming religious observances and anticipated absences. Instructors will make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling tests, exams or other compulsory activities at these times. In the case of an unavoidable conflict with a compulsory activity, every reasonable effort is made to give students the opportunity to make up missed work.

Course Enrolment and Quercus

Acorn is the only indicator of official course enrolment; Quercus is not. Students enrolled in Acorn will be automatically populated to a course's Quercus site within 24 hours of enrolling. In some cases, if a student is on a course wait list or there is another delay in processing registration an instructor may give a student access to Quercus as a guest. This will not constitute official enrolment and students are responsible for making sure the course is added correctly using Acorn.

Auditing

Students who wish to audit a course must obtain permission directly from the course instructor within the first week of class. Permission is subject to available space and can only be granted by the course instructor.

Only registered students at the University of Toronto may audit courses. Auditing entitles a student to attend lectures only. Students may not submit any written work, attend labs/tutorials or write tests/exams. The student will not be enrolled in the course and the course will not appear on their transcript. The department does not provide certificates of attendance.

Reading Courses

Reading courses allow students to complete coursework in topics not covered by current course offerings in Geography or Planning. The [Reading Course Form](#) must be accompanied by a brief course outline.

Copyright in Instructional Settings

If a student wishes to record (tape, video, photograph, etc.) any lecture presentations or other similar materials provided by the instructor; the instructor's written consent must be obtained beforehand. Otherwise, all such reproduction is infringement of copyright and prohibited. In the case of private use by students with disabilities, the instructor's consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.