

CULTURE & CAPITAL

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Objectives: The goal of this course is to provide students with three different perspectives on the relationship between culture and capital: Marx's critique of political economy; Deleuze and Guattari's reworking of Marx with an emphasis on subject formation; and Graeber's anarchist anthropology. Students will be encouraged to develop a research project of their choosing and to address it from these three perspectives.

Methodology: Each unit centers on a book, and seminar time will be devoted to delineating the major features of its theoretical approach or conceptual framework in order to assist students with working through it in the context of their research project. The reading is exceedingly demanding, but the seminar will not succeed unless everyone keeps up with the materials (a minimum requirement). Course time will ideally be divided in three parts: an hour of focused review of the readings, and hour of discussion dealing with practical implications, and an hour devoted to student's case studies (not necessarily in this order).

Readings: The books are at Paragraphe. Other readings will be made available in class.

Evaluation:

Participation: 25%

There are two options.

1. At the end of each unit, you will submit a paper (a highly focused five to ten pages) in which you consider your research project in light of the unit's framework (25% each). By the end of the course, you should have three proto-chapters for your thesis, or three sections of an essay. Ideally, when you submit the third and last paper, you will be able to reformulate the three parts into an essay format, with a brief introduction and conclusion. But you have the option to submit only the third paper without reworking the three sections in a whole.
2. At the end of each unit, you will submit a précis of the book (approximately five pages) addressing its central problems, assumptions, aims, methods, and conclusions (25% each). Details will be given in class.

The due dates are as indicated in the outline below.

NOTE: McGill likes us to add these disclaimers: (1) McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information). (2) In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded. (3) In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

READING SCHEDULE

January 8 Introduction
—Karl Marx, “Production, Consumption, Distribution, Exchange (Circulation),” Introduction to *Grundrisse* (1857; Penguin, 1993), 83-111.
—Videos: David Harvey’s seminar on *Capital*

Unit 1: Political Economy (Marx)

January 15 —Karl Marx, *Capital Volume 1*, Parts 1, 2, 3

January 22 —Karl Marx, *Capital Volume 1*, Parts 4, 5, 6, 7

January 29 —Karl Marx, *Capital Volume 1*, Part 8

February 5 Presentations and discussion
—Jacques Lacan, “The Mirror Stage,” in *Écrits*,
—Daniel Smith, “The Inverse Side of Structure: Zizek on Deleuze on Lacan,”
Criticism 46:4 (2004): 635-650

First Paper Due

Unit 2: Subjectivity (Deleuze & Guattari)

February 12 —Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari, *Anti-Oedipus* Chapters 1-2

February 19 —Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari, *Anti-Oedipus*, Chapter 3

February 26 —Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari, *Anti-Oedipus* Chapter 4

March 5 Reading Week

March 12 Presentations and discussion

Second Paper Due

Unit 3: Anthropology (Graeber)

March 19 —David Graeber, *Debt*, Chapters 1-6

March 26 —David Graeber, *Debt*, Chapters 7-10

April 2 Easter Monday

April 9 Speaker: Michael Bourdagh

April 16 —David Graeber, *Debt*, Chapters 11-12

April 21 **Third Paper Due**