Texts (available at New Jersey Books)

Kevin Anderson, Marx at the Margins: On Nationalism, Ethnicity, and Non-Western Societies (Chicago)
E. L. Doctorow, Ragtime (Random House)
Terry Eagleton, Ideology: An Introduction (Verso)
Tillie Olsen, Yonnondio (Bison Books)

Many of the course texts are available on Blackboard (B). All writings by Marx, Engels, Lenin, Mao, and Lukács, unless otherwise specified, are available at: http://www.marxists.org/archive

Schedule

January 26   Introduction to the Course

Marx, “The Communist Manifesto”
Marx, “Theses on Feuerbach”
Poems by Genevieve Taggard, William Carlos Williams, & Langston Hughes
(B)-xeroxes distributed in class

February 2   Historical Materialism

Marx, The German Ideology, Part I
Kevin Anderson, Marx at the Margins, Ch. 1-2
Marx and Engels on Literature and Art (B)
Étienne Balibar and Pierre Macherey, “On Literature as an Ideological Form” (B)
Walt Whitman, “Crossing Brooklyn Ferry,” “A Noiseless Patient Spider,” “Song of the Exposition”(B)

February 9   Political Economy

Marx, “Wage-Labor and Capital”
Marx, Capital I, Ch. 1, 5, 6, 10, 26
Poems by Sue Doro, Philip Levine, Carlos Bulosan, & Martin Espada (B)
optional: chapters from David Harvey, A Companion to Marx’s Capital (B)
February 16  **Ideology I: Base and Superstructure**

Marx, “Preface” to the *Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy* 32
Raymond Williams, *Marxism and Literature*, Part II (B)
Eagleton, *Ideology*, Ch. 1-3
Althusser, “Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses”
(http://www.marx2mao.org/other/LPOE70ii.html)
Gramsci, “Political Struggle and Military War”; State and Civil Society” (B)
Langston Hughes, “White Man” (B)
T. S. Eliot, *The Waste Land* (B)

February 23  **Ideology II: Alienation and Reification**

Marx, “Estranged Labor” (from the *Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844*)
Georg Lukacs, “Reification and the Consciousness of the Proletariat,” I and III, (from *History and Class Consciousness*)
Eagleton, *Ideology*, Ch. 4
Ann Petry, “Like a Winding Sheet” (B)
Herman Melville, “Bartleby, the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street” (B)
optional: Deleuze, “Bartleby, or, the Formula” (B)

March 2  **Dialectics**

Mao, “On Contradiction”
Engels, *Anti-Duhring*, “General”; Part I, Ch. XI-XII
Marx, *Capital*, Ch. 32
Muriel Rukeyser, “Theory of Flight” (B)
Tillie Olsen, *Yonnondio: From the Thirties*
Bertolt Brecht, “A Bed for the Night” (B)

March 9  **Marxism and Race Theory**

(http://eserver.org.clogic/1-2/allen.html)
Marx, Capital, Ch. 31
Kevin Anderson, *Marx at the Margins*, Ch. 3 &5
Gregory Meyerson, “Post-Marxism as Compromise Formation”
Ralph Ellison, “A Party Down at the Square” (B)
Gloria Anzaldua, poems (B)
Hegel, “Lordship and Bondage” (B)
March 16  Spring Break

March 23  Marxism and Gender Theory

Engels, *On the Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State*
Lise Vogel, *Marxism and the Oppression of Women*-excerpt (B)
Kevin Floyd, *The Reification of Desire*, Introduction & Ch. 1-2 (B)
Rosemary Hennessy, “The Material of Sex” (B)
Teresa Ebert, “Cyborgs, Lust and Labor: The Crisis of Ludic Feminism” (B)
Olsen, *Yonnondio*
Olsen, “I Want You Women up North to Know” (B)
Anderson, *Marx at the Margins*, Ch. 6

March 30  The Politics of Modernism

Georg Lukács, “The Ideology of Modernism” (B)
Herbert Marcuse, “The Affirmative Character of Culture” (B)
Bertolt Brecht, “Against Georg Lukács” (B)
Walter Benjamin, “The Author as Producer” (Blackboard)
T. S. Eliot, *The Waste Land* (B)
Helena Maria Viramontes, “The Cariboo Café” (B)

April 6  Marxism and Postmodernism

Fredric Jameson, “Postmodernism; or, The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism” (B)
Eagleton, *Ideology*, Ch. 7
Alex Callinicos, “The Jargon of Postmodernity” (B)
Doctorow, *Ragtime*

April 8  Prospectus and annotated bibliography should be sent to Professor Foley’s email address by 8 p.m.

April 13  Communism and Revolution

Engels, “Socialism: Utopian and Scientific”
Marx, “Critique of the Gotha Programme”
Lenin, *The State and Revolution*, Parts I and IV
Joseph Freeman, Introduction to *Proletarian Literature in the United States* (B)
Revolutionary poems and stories TBA (B)

April 20  Students’ Field Day (short texts chosen by students)

April 27  Student Reports

May 4  Student Reports
Requirements:

1. Each student will be responsible for shaping and leading the discussion in one class meeting. (If two students lead the discussion, they should collaborate.) This task will entail (1) sending out two prompts to the discussion board, to which the other students will respond; and (2) giving a short report in the seminar on any two assigned texts (at least one of which should be a “theory” text). This report should be not primarily a summary but an analysis of those features of the texts that the student finds especially provocative. Each report should be 10-15 minutes long.

2. Although only one formal paper is required, each student is also required to participate thoughtfully every week in the discussion board (failure to do so will result in a lowered grade). Blackboard posts should consist of at least 400 words and should respond to both the prompts posed by the discussion leader(s). Students are also required to read the entire discussion board each week before class and be ready to discuss one another’s posts.

3. In order to make the discussion board effective, the student(s) leading the class should post the prompts by 9 a.m. Saturday. Students responding to the prompts must do so no later than 7 p.m. Sunday. Entries cannot be handed in late to Professor Foley, since their function is to spur discussion in the seminar.

4. On April 8 each student should hand in a two-to-three-page prospectus outlining her/his projected research project, accompanied by an annotated bibliography consisting of at least 6 sources beyond those assigned in class.

5. On April 20 and May 4, students will present brief (10-minute) summaries of the arguments they plan to make in their seminar papers.

6. On May 11, seminar papers are due. Each paper should be at least 15 pages long, exclusive of notes and bibliography. The paper may be “purely” theoretical, or it may conjoin literary analysis with consideration of some aspect(s) of Marxist theory.

7. Attendance is absolutely required. No more than one absence is permitted.

8. The student’s final grade will be based about 50% on his/her final paper and 50% on his/her oral report, participation in the discussion board, and participation in class discussion.