

**HIS 100.368, fall 2023**  
**European Socialist Thought**  
Peter Jelavich

This course examines various debates among socialists (broadly defined) between 1840 and 1960. The first part concerns the disputes between Marx and Engels on the one hand, and the anarchists Proudhon and Bakunin on the other. The second section covers the origins of Social Democracy in the thought of Bernstein; Lenin's and Luxemburg's attack on Bernstein's "revisionism"; and Luxemburg's critique of Lenin's authoritarian tendencies. The third and last part examines the relation of socialist theories to two other emancipatory movements: feminism and anti-colonialism.

This course will give students an opportunity to study and debate the variety of, and differences within, socialist thought. Skills to be gained include: How to analyze theoretical texts dealing with social, economic, and political issues; how to compare and contrast ideas within the framework of a complex, wide-ranging, and sometimes self-contradictory ideological movement; how to orally discuss and debate these issues; and how to present such topics in writing.

Your final grade for the course will be determined by three 8-page essays on assigned topics (25% each) and participation in class discussion (25%). No extensions or incompletes will be granted, except for medical reasons. All three essays must be submitted in order to pass the course.

My office hours are Wednesdays from 2:00 to 3:00, and by appointment, in Gilman 370.

**Sept 5**

Pierre-Joseph Proudhon, *What is Property?*, ed. and trans. Donald Kelly and Bonnie Smith (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993), 13-66, 86-99, 114-116, 170-217.

**Sept 12**

*The Marx-Engels Reader*, ed. Robert Tucker, second edition (New York: Norton, 1978), 3-6, 136-175, 469-491, 525-532 (includes selections from "German Ideology," "Communist Manifesto," and "Critique of the Gotha Program").

**Sept 19**

*The Marx-Engels Reader*, 294-312, 319-438 (selections from "Capital volume I").

**Sept 26**

*Bakunin on Anarchy*, ed. Sam Dolgoff (New York: Knopf, 1972), 73-101, 148-155, 177-208, 218-224, 259-285, 323-333.  
*The Marx-Engels Reader*, 542-548, 728-729 (Marx and Engels versus Bakunin).

**Oct 3            FIRST ESSAY DUE**

**Oct 10**

Eduard Bernstein, *The Preconditions of Socialism*, ed. and trans. Henry Tudor (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993), 1-28, 56-119, 136-159, 189-210.

**Oct 17**

V.I. Lenin, "What is to be Done?," "The Party Organization and Party Literature," and "The State and Revolution," in *The Lenin Anthology*, ed. Robert Tucker (New York: Norton, 1975), 12-31, 67-79, 148-152, 311-325, 344-346, 369-384.

**Oct 24**

Rosa Luxemburg, "Social Reform or Revolution," "The Mass Strike, the Political Party, and the Trade Unions," and "Organizational Questions of Russian Social Democracy," in *The Rosa Luxemburg Reader*, ed. Peter Hudis and Kevin Anderson (New York: Monthly Review Press, 2004), 128-199, 248-265.

**Oct 31        SECOND ESSAY DUE****Nov 7**

August Bebel, "Woman in the Future," in *Woman and Socialism* (New York: Socialist Literature Company, 1910), 466-473.

*The Rosa Luxemburg Reader*, 232-245 ("Writings on Women").

*Selected Writings of Alexandra Kollontai*, ed. and trans. by Alix Holt (Westport: Lawrence Hill, 1978), 127-149, 225-236, 250-292.

**Nov 14**

Aimé Césaire, "Discourse on Colonialism," in *Discourse on Colonialism* (New York: Monthly Review Press, 2000), 29-78.

Césaire, *Letter to Maurice Thorez* (Paris: Présence Africaine, 1957), 3-16.

I. Léopold Sédar Senghor, *Nationhood and the African Road to Socialism* (Paris: Présence Africaine, 1962), 63-69, 87-108.

**Nov 28**

Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* (New York: Grove, 1968), 35-205, 311-316.

**Dec 5        THIRD ESSAY DUE**