

ENGL 3701: LITERARY CRITICISM & THEORY: MARXIST THEORY & CRITICISM

MW 12:40 – 2:05

Mickalites

Have you ever felt exploited by your employer? Do you ever wonder why “Marx” is such a dirty word to a lot of people? Have you ever noticed shared concerns among women, people of color, and wage earners? Are you curious about how capitalism works, or how it has changed over various historical periods? Would you like to know how the things we buy all the time conceal the real conditions in which they’re made? Do you ever question whether the current state of social organization is “natural” or “inevitable”? Or would you like to write some badass literary criticism?

If you answered “yes” to any of these, this class is for you! We’ll begin with foundational 19th century texts by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, and then move through later developments in **Black Marxism, Marxist-Feminism, Postcolonial Studies**, and other engagements with this important intellectual legacy. Along the way we will supplement our discussion with select literary texts, films, and other cultural products. *No prior knowledge of Marxism is required!!!*