

## MARX: EARLY WRITINGS

J. Wolff 2000-2001

Dept of Philosophy j.wolff@ucl.ac.uk

University College London office hour: Mondays 11.30 to 1.00

The point of these lectures is to come to an understanding of the most important texts Marx produced during his intellectual formation, prior to developing his theory of historical materialism and the concept of surplus value. These texts show Marx at his most philosophical. The readings are in some places very hard, and so some of the secondary material can be extremely useful, particularly the starred items.

These texts from Marx are collected in a number of edited works. I have given the page references for two of the most accessible editions:

Karl Marx: Selected Writings ed. D. McLellan (OUP) (nb Library copies are likely to be the first edition, in green covers. If you buy it now you will get the second edition, with red covers. Page numbers are given for both: M1 and M2)

Karl Marx: Early Writings ed. Lucio Colletti (Penguin)

If you need secondary texts to help you understand these writings, the most useful introductory works, are, in my view:

Maguire, John, Marx's Paris Writings

\*McLellan, David, Marx Before Marxism

Some other introductory works, and more advanced texts are listed below.

Week 1 Introduction

Week 2 "On The Jewish Question" McLellan 1 49-62, McLellan 2 46-70, Colletti 211-41.

Week 3 "A Contribution to the Critique of Hegel's Philosophy of Right:

Introduction. M1 63-73, M2 71-82, C 243-57.

Week 4 Alienated Labour

Week 5 Money

Week 6 Private Property and Communism

Readings for weeks 4-6 "Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts" M1 75-112, M2 83- 121, C 322-34, 345-58, 377-400.

"On James Mill" M1 114-123, M2 122 -132, C 264-78.

Week 7 "Theses on Feuerbach" M1 156-9 M2 171-4, C 421-3

Secondary Texts

Adams, William, 'Aesthetics: Liberating the senses', in *The Cambridge Companion to Marx*,

ed. T. Carver

Althusser, Louis, *For Marx*, essay "On the Young Marx."

Arneson, Richard J., *Commerce and Selfishness* *Canadian Journal of Philosophy* Supp vol 8, 1982

Arthur, Chris, *Dialectics of Labour*

\*Avineri, Shlomo, *The Social and Political Thought of Karl Marx*

\* Cohen, G.A. *If You're an Egalitarian How Come You're So Rich?* chs 4 and 5.

Colletti, Lucio, *Karl Marx: Early Writings*, Introduction

Elster, Jon, *Making Sense of Marx*, pt 1 ch 2

Hook, Sidney, *From Hegel to Marx*, chs 1-4, 7, 8.

\*Kolakowski, Leszek, *Main Currents of Marxism*, vol 1, chs 1-7

Maguire, John, *Marx's Paris Writings*

\*McLellan, David, *Marx Before Marxism*

Plamenatz, John, *Karl Marx's Philosophy of Man*, parts 1 and 2

Suchting, W.A. Marx: An Introduction, part 1

Wolff, Jonathan, "Playthings of Alien Forces", Cogito 1992

Wood, Allen, Karl Marx, part 1.