

S.73-135

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

To SENATE

From SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Subject FACULTY OF ARTS - DEPARTMENT OF  
ECONOMICS AND COMMERCE - NEW COURSE  
PROPOSAL - ECONOMICS 309-5 -  
INTRODUCTION TO MARXIAN ECONOMICS

Date NOVEMBER 20, 1973

MOTION: "That Senate approve, as set forth in S.73-135,  
the new course proposal for Economics 309-5 -  
Introduction to Marxian Economics."

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# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

## MEMORANDUM

To	SENATE	From	SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES
Subject	FACULTY OF ARTS - DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS <del>AND COMMERCE - NEW COURSE PROPOSAL</del> ECONOMICS 309-4 - INTRODUCTION TO MARXIAN ECONOMICS	Date	NOVEMBER 20, 1973

On the recommendation of the Faculty of Arts, the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies has approved, as set forth in SCUS 73-48, the new course proposal for Economics 309-5 - Introduction to Marxian Economics, and recommends approval to Senate.

*Imp. dxi.*

## SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

## MEMORANDUM

To Mr. H.M. Evans	From W.A.S. Smith
Registrar	Dean of Arts
Subject Economics 309-5.	Date November 15, 1973.

Attached is the additional information requested by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies for the new course ECONOMICS 309-5 as supplied by Dr. M. Lebowitz.

*W.A.S. Smith*  
*per [initials]*  
W.A.S. Smith

To SCUS - Secretary's Note

The new course proposal form and other documents provided for Econ 309-5 have been added to this material now provided.

FACULTY OF ARTS

September 1973

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL

1. CALENDAR INFORMATION

Department: Economics Course Number: 309-5 Title:  
Sub-title or Description:

Introduction to Marxian Economics

Credit Hours: 5 Vector Description: 3-2-0  
Pre-requisite(s):

Economics 200 and 205 or by permission of instructor

2. ENROLMENT AND SCHEDULING

Estimated Enrolment: 25

Semester Offered (e.g. yearly, every Spring; twice yearly, Fall  
and Spring):

once every four semesters

When will course first be offered?

It has been offered several times as Directed Studies or Special Topics  
and will be offered again ~~in 74-5~~ in 74-5 either in this form or as  
a new course.

3. JUSTIFICATION

- A. What is the detailed description of the course including  
differentiation from lower level courses, from similar courses  
in the same department, and from courses in other departments  
in the University?

Examination of Marx's economic theory, with particular emphasis on  
Capital, Theories of Surplus Value and the Grundrisse. Consideration of  
earlier work as the basis for studying the above. Identification of  
critical differences between Marxian economic theory and the dominant  
schools of economic theory in North America.

There are no comparable courses in the Department of Economics and  
Commerce and none with a similar orientation to Marx's economic theory  
in other departments.

- B. What is the range of topics that may be dealt with in the  
course?

Hegel and Marx. Extent of continuity between the Young Marx and  
the old Marx. Nature of Marx's methodology. Relation of philosophical  
orientation and the structure of Capital. Capital as a critique of both  
"vulgar" and Ricardian political economy. Modern cyclical and growth theories  
and Marxian economics. Marx's projections of the separation of ownership  
and control with the growth of the joint-stock company, increasing sales  
expenses and the significance of increasing concentration of industry. Etc.

- C. How does this course fit the goals of the department?

Provides a balance by introducing students to an alternative theoretical explanation of economic relationships and change. For economics majors, it gives an introduction to a significant body of economic theory and also provides a background for understanding some current theoretical controversies in economics. It also serves non-econ. majors looking for an understanding of Marxian economics to complement studies in their own departments.

- D. How does this course affect degree requirements?

*Additional elective*

- E. What are the calendar changes necessary to reflect the addition of this course?

*Calendar entry to be included in 74-75  
Calendar submission*

- F. What course, if any, is being dropped from the calendar if this course is approved?

The course has been introduced and tested for feasibility and student demand as Directed Studies and Special Topics. It would, accordingly, no longer be given in these forms. As proposed, rather than three credits, the course would carry five credits, which is consistent with the course load in the past and also with comparable third-year level courses.

- G. What is the nature of student demand for this course?

Enrollment was restricted and numerous students were turned away when this was given as Special Topics in 73-1. There have been a number of requests as to when the course will be given again. Student reaction has been quite favorable, as indicated by the results of the Teaching Evaluation Survey which showed it was ranked second highest among courses in the Department of Economics and Commerce in 73-1.

- H. Other reasons for introducing the course.

Availability of instructor with teaching and research interests in this area. Potential for stimulation of inter-disciplinary work.

4. BUDGETARY AND SPACE FACTORS

A. Which faculty will be available to teach this course?

Lobowitz

B. What are the special space and/or equipment requirements for this course?

None

C. Any other budgetary implications of mounting this course:

None. See 3.F.

Approval:

Curriculum Committee: October 4, 1973

Dean of Faculty:

Senate Undergraduate  
Studies Committee:

Senate: .

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Department of Economics and Commerce

(Offered under Selected Topics)

Course: Economic 484

Semester: Spring 1973

Title: Marxian Economics

Instructor: M. Lebowitz

COURSE OUTLINE:

A unique opportunity to learn what Marx really had to say about the nature and economic tendencies of Capitalism as opposed to what Smith says Jones says Brown says Marx said. (Or what a pre-Keynesian, Keynesian or ex-Keynesian may have to say about the subject.) The main part of the course will be an examination of Capital, following consideration of earlier works as a basis for understanding Marx's concerns and methodology. Time and interest permitting, the course will also consider Kalecki and recent neo-Marxist extensions.

BOOKS REQUIRED:

Karl Marx, Capital, Volumes I, II, III

Theories of Surplus Value, Volume III

Books Recommended:

Karl Marx, Theories of Surplus Value, Volumes I, II

Karl Marx, The Grundrisse

Karl Marx, Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844

Ernest Mandel, The Formation of the Thought of Karl Marx

Mao Tse-Tung, On Contradiction

Louis Althusser (ed), Reading Capital

David Horowitz, Marx and Modern Economics

E.K. Hunt, A Critique of Economic Theory

# ECON 309-S

Introduction to Marxian Economics  
(as taught Spring 1973 as Econ 484)

<u>Week</u>	<u>Lecture</u>	<u>Subjects</u>	<u>Assigned Readings</u>
1	Introduction. Bibliographical History of Marx. Consideration of approaches to studying Marx. The question of the "break" between the Young and Old Marx		
2	Hegel's <u>Science of Logic</u> . Dialectics Hegelian contradiction, etc.		Mas Tse-Tong, <u>On Contradiction</u>
3	Hegel's Phenomenology of Mind, Feuerbach, Marx and Engels' Feuerbachian Criticism Classical Political Economy. Marx and Smith. <u>Re Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts of 1844</u>		Marx, Economic and <u>Philosophical Manuscripts</u> of 1844
4	Hegel's <u>Philosophy of History</u> . Marx and Engels, <u>The German Ideology</u>		Marx and Engels, <u>The German Ideology</u>
5	Marx. <u>The Poverty of Philosophy</u> . Marx and Ricardo as of the 1840's. <u>Wage Labour and Capital</u>		Marx, <u>Wage Labour and Capital</u>
6	<u>Wage Labour &amp; Capital</u> continued. <u>Communist Manifests</u> . Marx's work in the 1850's. The place of the <u>Grundrisse</u> and the <u>Theories of Surplus Value</u>		<u>Communist Manifests</u>
7	Introduction to <u>Capital</u> . Marx's methodology in Capital. Treatment of questions in the <u>Critique of Political Economy</u> . The Labour Theory of Value, Supply and Demand, and the Invisible Hand.		Excerpts from Marx, <u>The Grundrisse</u>
8	Commodities, Money and Simple Circulation. Marx and Ricardo. Surplus Value, etc.		<u>Capital</u> , Vol. I.
9	Absolute and Relative Surplus Value. Wages. Simple Reproduction		<u>Capital</u> , Vol. I.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Lecture</u>	<u>Subjects</u>	<u>Assigned Readings</u>
10		Factors affecting the Rate of Accumulation. The General Law of Accumulation. Historic Tendency of Capitalist Accumulation. Primitive Accumulation.	<u>Capital</u> Vol. II.
11		Circuits of Capital. Capital as Money, Means of Production and Commodities. Costs of Circulation.	<u>Capital</u> , Vol II
12		Adjustment effects when commodity-capital and money-capital are not equal. Reproduction models - Simple and Extended.	<u>Capital</u> , Vol III
13		Dialectical Synthesis of Volume III of <u>Capital</u> . Problems 1- Volume III. Falling Rate of Profit. Transformation of Values into Prices. Capital as a Critique of Political Economy.	<u>Capital</u> , Vol. III, excerpt from <u>Theories of Surplus-Value</u> , Volume III..