

Notes for Thursday, January 19th
Soc 0150: Social Theory w/ Dr. Lisa Brush
(Notes by Sam Goldberg with some supplementary material from Dr. Brush)

*Dr. Brush acknowledged our anxiety over the text and future exams:

- She suggested grappling with the text by trying to find 3 things within the text:
 1. Concepts
 2. Propositions
 3. Frameworks

-Be sure to give significance of these things as well.
-Take notes, pick one for a Q-Card; if still having trouble, restate the theorist's primary point in your own words. Use learning goals to guide you.
- Exams=
Format:
 1. ID (2 pts) and significance (1 pt) of concepts (will have some choice on which to answer)
 2. 1 brief Essay question (will have some choice here as well)
 - 4 important things Dr. Brush will be looking for in the essay=
 - a. *answer* the question asked of you in the essay question
 - b. show that you are engaged with materials and discussions
 - c. make connections
 - d. show insight.

-Take tests on 8th floor of Alumni Hall in Testing Center
-Have 1 hour and 15 minutes to take the test (Be sure to leave enough time!)

-You may take ANY materials you want with you to the testing center (including the CST book, notebook, any secondary sources, etc.)
-BUT: you must provide a reference for *everything*; include a works cited section at the bottom of the exam if you use any outside source material. Cite source and page numbers for books, or cite class notes by date.
-Be sure to use quotation marks when taking direct quotes, and still cite source when paraphrasing.
*Do NOT plagiarize. You WILL fail.

- Dr. Brush suggests making an outline on the computer during the test to make it easier
Dr. Brush has posted advice on taking exams on the website.

*No Class Thursday, January 26th

-Exam on the 30th covers only and *all* of Marx, both from the readings and class discussions.

-Dr. Brush has posted some materials to help you prepare for the exam online

-Can take the test at the Testing Center anytime from after 4pm on the 26th to the end of our usual class time on the 30th (Testing Center may be closed Mondays—so check out the times, there's a link on the site).

*Notes on readings

1. political economy= a type of social theory
 - a. Ricardo & Smith were key proponents of liberal theories of how markets, trade, and organization of production “work” and how they organize the social order.
 - Asks: Where does wealth come from?

2. Marx both uses and criticizes political economy
 - a. uses different framework, which is what he means by criticism.
 - b. Says categories of bourgeois political economy misrepresent social processes and thus help reproduce the status quo
 - c. Critiques on page 55 of CST= tries to demystify the concepts of mainstream economy

3. Marx has a theory about the relationship between ideas and social relations in the world = his theory of ideology
 - a. says producing commodities conceals the social relations involved in capitalist production
 - Thinking about commodities in terms of money conceals it.
 - “They” miss the fact that abstract human labor creates value
 - b. says the ways of thinking are historically specific and conceal social relations.
 - Capitalism brings workers into a common site and gives them a common plight; also gives them radical chains, and the possibility of change.

4. Marx asks: Why do are some people “haves” and others “have nots” in capitalism?
 - a. political economy tells us that
 - b. the reason there are haves and have-nots are because the haves *earned* it and the have-nots are “lazy rascals” (CST page 70)
 - this history is a history of violence

- c. Marx says that he really does like that capitalism really produces “stuff”
and develops technology and science
- d. workers can stop producing by stopping their work and labor power.
-they can make their mark and transform it.

5. Main concepts from readings

- a. Use Value= can be independent of labor
- b. Exchange Value= isn't independent of labor

-Where value comes from is abstract labor, not in the market.
Circulation of commodities in the market *looks* like it creates wealth.

*Next Class= we'll talk about Marx's theory of history; commodity fetishism