

GMST 420: *Capital* and Commentary, Part II – Critiques (Studies in Modern German-speaking Culture)

Questioning dogmatic assumptions about ‘Marxism’, ‘socialism’, and ‘historical materialism’, this course examines how Marx’s critique of political economy in his masterpiece, *Capital*, was itself criticized and creatively read by intellectuals in a variety of disciplines since the late 19th century. We’ll consider how Marx’s classic ideas about the commodification and mechanization of culture (Benjamin and Lukàcs), class conflict and social discipline (Simmel and Weber) have been revised and expanded by feminist, queer, post-structuralist, and ecological critics to account for the racialized, gendered, sexualized, and colonial character of capitalist exploitation on multiple scales. CENS 201: *Capital* and Contexts is recommended, but *not* required!

