



Department of Cultural Studies

General information		
Name of the course	Theories of Ideology	
Course instructor	Ozren Pupovac, PhD	
Study programme	Graduate Study Programme in Cultural Studies	
Status of the course	elective	
Year of study	2022-2023	
Language	English	
ECTS credits and manner of instruction	ECTS credits	5
	Number of class hours (Lectures + Exercises + Seminars)	30+0+15

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION
1.1. Course objectives
The course offers an overview of the development of the problem of ideology in Marx, as well as among his heirs and his critics, by reconsidering the heuristic value as well as the limits of the concepts, stretched as it is between theoretical critique and polemic on the one hand, and practical engagement on the other.
1.2. Course enrolment requirements and entry competences required for the course
There are no specific requirements.
1.3. Expected course learning outcomes
Set at a relatively advanced level, the course will primarily enable the development of skills of conceptual analysis and synthesis – by working through primary and secondary sources of text -- as well as by guiding the students into developing their unique paths of individual research. Moreover, by demonstrating an approach to a historical field through a precise conceptual framework, it will also train skills of interdisciplinary problematisation, while at the same time enabling connections between epistemological queries and practical engagements.
1.4. Course content
In Marx's original formulation, the theory of ideology seems to appear twice: a) through the critical question of the "truthfulness" or the "falsity" of various representations of the real of social relations – a question which Marx, as we know, frames through the idea of domination from "above"; b) through a politically formulated problem of the "materiality of ideas", which actually appears "from below", in the sense of the historical and political possibilities of the development of a certain "rebellious subjectivity" which resists the extant order of domination. The two problems of the theory of ideology are not entirely separated – but they also do not overlap completely: and while the first is bound to the entire critical set of themes on relations of power and domination – with concepts such as "hegemony", "false universality", "fetishism", but also, in terms of its antipode, the theme of "science" – the second path opens more towards the affirmative themes of "consciousness", but also towards political questions of "organisation", "rebellion", "party", etc. A critical concept or a strategic concept, "ideology" gives birth to a complex history – which is

essentially bound to the history of the political experiments of “Marxism” – and it is precisely this dual nature which we will attempt to follow with Marx and his heirs, such as Lukacs, Gramsci or Althusser, but also with contemporary theorists such as Ranciere, Badiou and others.

1.5. Manner of instruction

- ✓ Lectures
- ✓ Seminars and workshops
- ✓ Individual assignments and research
- ✓ Mentorship
- ✓ Other: consultations