                ▪ Alienation from Product
                    • Ownership over the product a laborer creates is lost
                    • No more connection to the finished product
                ▪ Alienation from nature
                    • I.e. kids not being able to identify actual food but they could identify the food products
                    • Natural products altered by human labor
                    • i.e. restrooms in nature preserves
        • Homo sapiens- “wise human”

1/27/14

Karl Marx 1818-1883

- Capital & Value
    - Use-value: the utility of something; how much use you can get out of something; how long does it take to extract all possible value out of a commodity (hammer example)
        - The extraction of use-value is always destructive
            - Translates value from 1 commodity to another
                - Cumulative process; builds over time
        - Value- relative to a time period/culture/within a society; highly porous/highly fluid/ very susceptible to change
            - Price- symbolically represents value, not a statement of value itself
    - Exchange value- most relative; the value of any given commodity compared with the value of all other commodities in the market place
        - Price is a symbolic representation of exchange value (also relative); [bottle example]
            - In changing social context; price changes but the use-value does not change
                - All commodities are ultimately connected with other commodities in an economy
                    - I.e. if the power of a dollar falls, then values go up (even if the price tag itself has not changed)
    - Surplus value- (can be compared to profits) how much value has been put into a commodity through labor, then exchanged on the open market, and the exchange fees add value to the commodity
        - All value comes from labor; surplus value=anything over the cost of labor + tools of labor
    - Commodities- (for Marx) everything is ultimately a commodity; everything has a use-value; items that can be used as tools for the desires/needs of humans
        - All commodities are ultimately created/recreated in terms of social products [dirt example]
            - For something to be a commodity, it has to be a social product
                - Everything in nature is prior. Value & the notion of what a commodity is, is all in our heads
                    - Money is the universal commodity b/c it’s already an abstract commodity that can be exchanged for actual commodities; therefore no use-value except as a social product
- Price & Labor
    - How prices are determined
        - According to the cost of production
            - The cost of production does not dictate price; price is oriented around the cost of production
                - Price goes above or below the cost of production based on the cost of transportation, labor, & other stuff

- i. Based on an understanding of bourgeoisie classes as feudal lords
  - 1. Bourgeoisie classes have no such honor

II. Social Contract (i.e. John Locket, Rousseau,)
- a. State of Nature/War
  - i. Largely written in 17th/18th century, idea that a state of nature will always desolve into a state of war
    - 1. Everyone vs. everyone, strong vs. weak
      - a. The weak will band together→give up freedom in order to increase security
      - b. Bonding together against the strong creates civilization
      - c. Life in a state of nature is “cruel, brutish, & short”
  - ii. Marx rejects this: The very notion of individuality comes from society itself; but the very idea that an individual creating language & society in the middle of nothing is absurd
    - 1. Organization of society is based on the family unit
    - 2. An individual cannot exist before the idea of society exists
    - 3. Unbroken chain in the process of production—all revolutions of technology are based on other revolutions of technology
      - a. Each new thesis contains its own antithesis—each revolution of the means of production contains the seeds of its own destruction leading to new revolutions

III. Political Economy
- a. Historical Movement
  - i. Politics & economics are intimately connected
    - 1. Politics are a way of formally organizing social relationships, orientated around the process of production itself
      - a. i.e. minimum wage laws, laws against loitering, laws against panhandling →have to work, don’t have a choice
  - ii. Moving from the concrete to the abstract—“all that’s solid melts into air”
    - 1. At one point in time, currency was based on something material; now money has value b/c we say some so; it now has value as social product itself b/c all believe in it
      - a. Alienation from nature is increasing
      - b. Capital is an amount of money used to invest in other things
        - i. The compounding of wealth occurs b/c of the movement of wealth across hands , no extra value is added except by the workers who move the wealth around (labor-based theory of value)
- b. Private Property- the appropriation of nature (fundamentally economic)
  - i. Generates as a concept in terms of feudal-social relationships
    - 1. “Capital”-The very word itself is a reference to a feudal king
  - ii. Coming across things & claiming ownership (?)
    - 1. Labor creates ownership→it’s the proletariat who should own the products of labor
  - iii. Private property is a legal relationship; purchased through reified labor
    - 1. Private property w/ the labor of others
    - 2. Typically comes w/ inheritance rights
      - a. Maintain & consecrate property into smaller & smaller hands→increases the static nature of class structures
  - iv. Relationship b/tween state power & economic power

IV. Social Relations