

GV150 Week 22 Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts Questions

Lecture:

1. Do you agree with Marx that there is a great underlying direction to history?
2. How do you think an industrialised non-capitalist society would look, and is it plausible?
3. Is labouring a fundamental part of being human?

Reading:

4. How does Marx view labour?
5. What is alienation? What are the four types?
6. How does Marx reverse the relation between labour and private property? In what sense is private property a consequence of alienated labour?
7. Why does Marx believe that merely “an enforced raising of wages... [or] even the equality of wages” would not be enough to solve the problems of private property?
8. What would real, authentic labour look like? How would it fulfil humans?
9. What are the three stages of communism? How does each relate to the preceding one, and how does the first relate to capitalism?
10. Why is it important for Marx to insist that developed communism will also emphasise individuality?
11. How does Marx differentiate humans from animals and from the rest of nature? What makes humans so special?
12. What does Marx mean by species being?
13. What is Marx’s ideal of human existence?