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Click, Clack, Moo Marxism: Recognizing Theoretical Frameworks

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Theoretical Frameworks: CLICK, CLACK, MOO and Marxism



INSTRUCTIONS:

Please read through all instructions before starting the assignment.

PURPOSE: To help you recognize the application of a Marxist theory framework in a non-conventional context.

SKILLS/OBJECTIVES: After completing this assignment, you should be able to:

- Understand how theoretical frameworks intersect within and outside of your worldview
- Recognize and deconstruct the application of a theoretical framework
- Evaluate how institutions of power and social justice are perceived differently from individual and group perspectives

You should also become familiar with the following discipline-specific knowledge areas:

- Enriched understanding of dominant systems and institutions of meaning
- Questioning how these systems and institutions operate in positioning yourself and others in society

TIME TRACK: On average, this writing assignment should take about 2 1/2 to 3 hours to complete.

DUE DATE: You are expected to **complete 3 of 4 Theory Frameworks** assignments for the course. If you choose to complete this as one of your assignments, your submission is due no later than **11:59 PM EST on JUNE 25, 2018**.

GRADE: The assignment is worth a possible 50 points toward your Theory Frameworks assignments final grade. Please see the rubric for information on distribution of points in grading.



STEP 1: Review Framework Criteria

Understanding Key Characteristics

Marxism is a method of socioeconomic analysis that frames **capitalism** through a paradigm of exploitation, analyzes class relations and social conflict using a materialist interpretation of historical development and takes a dialectical view of social transformation. It originates from the works of 19th century German philosophers Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.

Marxism uses a methodology, now known as historical materialism, to analyze and critique the development of capitalism and the role of class struggles in systemic economic change. According to this approach, class conflict arises in capitalist societies due to contradictions between the material interests of the oppressed **proletariat**—a class of wage laborers employed by the **bourgeoisie** to produce goods and services—and the bourgeoisie—the ruling class that owns the means of production and extract their wealth through appropriation of the surplus product (**profit**) produced by the proletariat.

The class struggle is commonly expressed as the revolt of a society's productive forces against its relations of production and results in a period of short-term crises as the bourgeoisie struggle to manage the intensifying alienation of labor experienced by the proletariat, albeit with varying degrees of class consciousness. This crisis culminates in a proletarian revolution and eventually leads to the establishment of **socialism**—a socioeconomic system based on social ownership of the means of production, distribution based on one's contribution and production organized directly for use.

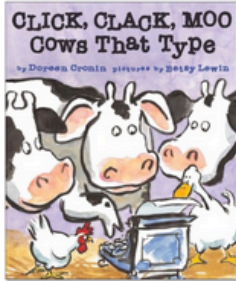
TASK: Through your assigned readings, lectures and class discussion, you should be familiar with the key characteristics of Marxism as it is used in Anthropology. You can further review this theoretical framework by looking back at your notes, lecture slide handouts, and assigned readings. You may also consider making your own list of defining criteria for Marxism before moving on to STEP 2. Once you are familiar with the characteristics and application of this framework, you are ready to start STEP 2 of the assignment.



STEP 2: Think Critically

Apply Critical Literacy Skills

We will be using a well-known selected work from children's literature, *Click Clack Moo, Cows that Type* by Doreen Cronin, as our focus in this assignment. You can download a digital access copy of the book by clicking on the title link below:



[Click Clack Moo, Cows that Type](#)

Author: D. Cronin

Illustrator: B. Lewin

Publisher: Simon and Schuster (2000)

TASK: To complete this step of the assignment, you should:

- Read the selected work try to identify key characteristics of the dominant system and institution that is present in the work.
- Think about the roles that the characters are playing in the story. Who would make up the proletariat and the bourgeoisie? What traits suggest that these characters fit these roles?
- What is the means of production in this story? How is wealth extracted from production?
- What class struggle exists and how is it expressed?
- What does this class conflict result in? Who takes part?
- How is socialism eventually established? Does the cycle end, or is there a following stage of action in society?

After you have considered each of these points and any additional defining criteria that you may have added on your own list, you are ready to move on to STEP 3 of the assignment.



STEP 3: Constructing Your Response

Writing Your Paper

In this step, you are expected to compose a well organized, clear and concise short report that synthesizes your thinking from STEP 2. You are also expected to briefly reflect on which character you most identify with in this class conflict story.

The act of being **reflexive** means that you are acknowledging the effect that your position in the world – economically, socially, culturally, geographically, and so on – has on yourself. It is a reflection on the past and current situations and conditions that have brought you here and molded you and your mind. It is a reflection on the way you think and why you think in this way.

TASK: Using a maximum of three typed pages (see formatting below), you will present and defend an informed view on:

- key characteristics of the dominant system and institution that is present in the work
- how the system and institution operated in socially positioning the farmer and the animals
- how power and social justice are perceived by the farmer and the animals in the work
- the character you most identify with in the story and why

FORMATTING YOUR PAPER: The body of your paper should be **no longer than 3 pages in length** (not including a references cited page if needed) and follow these formatting and writing criteria:

- Use formal, essay writing style
- Use APA citation style (if needed)
- One-inch document margins
- 12-point font (Times or similar serif font preferred)
- 1.5 line spacing for body text
- Include an essay title at the start that is no longer than a single line of text
- Paper should be saved as a **.doc or .docx** file for submission



STEP 4: Getting Graded

Submit Your Work

Before submitting your work for grading, read over your paper one last time and consider the following:

- Are there any obvious grammatical and/or spelling errors?
- Did you follow the correct formatting for the assignment?
- Are the concepts and reflections in your work organized and understandable to others?
- Does your work include the expected general aims of critical thinking and writing outlined for this course?

After consideration, submit your work using the link provided on this page no later than **11:59pm on JUNE 25, 2018**.

Questions?

If you have any questions about the assignment or encounter any problems during submission or peer review, please contact the professor for assistance. For questions concerning make-up or late assignments, please review your syllabus prior to contacting your professor.

Click on the "Next" and "Previous" buttons at the bottom of these pages to navigate through this module.