INTRODUCTION: logistics of the course

I. Prologue: What this course is about
   1. The history of the course
   2. The Marxist Tradition.
   3. My own relationship to the material.
   4. Many Marxism.
   5. Learning the Language of Marxism.

II. Critical + Emancipatory + Social + Science

   1. Foundations:
      Foundational claim of critical social science: Many forms of human suffering and many deficits in human flourishing are the result of existing institutions and social structures.
      Foundational claim of emancipatory social science: Transforming those institutions and structures has the potential to reduce human suffering and expand the possibilities for human flourishing.
      Marxian Variant
      Foundational critical thesis: Many forms of human suffering and many deficits in human flourishing are the result of the class structure and dynamics of capitalism.
      Foundational emancipatory Thesis: Transcending capitalism by creating a democratic-egalitarian political economy has the potential to reduce human suffering and expand the possibilities for human flourishing.
   2. Goals of Emancipatory Social Science
   3. Reflexivity
   4. Science & tension between scientific and ideological faces of Marxism
   5. Summing up:
      The “emancipatory” in emancipatory social science ➔ choice of questions to ask
      The “social science” in emancipatory social science ➔ a methodology for producing answers

III. What kind of Critical Emancipatory theory is Marxism?

   1. Emancipatory social transformation is possible.
   2. Agents for such transformation come from within the game
   3. Transformation comes through struggle
   4. Punchline: Oppressed people can transform the conditions of their own oppression through struggle.
   BUT
   5. Constraints: They do so under constraints “not of their choosing” which can thwart their efforts
   6. Knowledge: Therefore: to effectively transform the world in an emancipatory way we must understand the nature of the constraints themselves and how to transform them.