

WWP Lesson Plan – Dialectical & Historical Materialism-Part 1

This template was created to help those planning and teaching Party classes to make those interactive, interesting and consistent so that they can be reproduced in the future.

<p>*Teacher Preparations and</p> <p>*Essential Understandings</p>	<p>*Consider accessibility and accommodation needs in communicating with candidates, sending material in advance for preparation, reading aloud in class, etc.:</p> <p>*For this class, make several copies of Part 1 of “Talk Outline Dialectical and Historical Materialism,” to be shared during read-aloud. Not everyone may have electronic access during class!</p> <p>* The class leader(s) should tell participants to please ask the group to STOP the reading--at any point--if they get spaced out, confused or have questions or comments or examples. This will encourage deeper conversation.</p> <p>*The most important lessons people should learn in this two-part class:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Engels’ fundamental principle of dialectics– the 3 “laws of change– difference between dialectical v. metaphysical thinking– differences between materialism and idealism– Marx’s thinking on relation between above points and human economic and social development
<p>Overview of Class</p>	<p>Lecture notes and material for this class is contained in “Talk Outline Dialectical and Historical Materialism, Parts 1 & 2,” with relevant quotes from communist leaders incorporated into the text. Participants will take turns reading out loud from the talk, pausing at questions in the text for discussion.</p>
<p>Motivating Question</p>	<p>Ice-breaker question: One version of a statement by Marx about dialectical materialism is often given as “Being determines consciousness” or “What we do creates how we think/perceive.” Can you give examples of this from your own life?</p>

Readings, Materials, Links	<p>Relevant quotes from Engels, Marx, Hegel and Mao are incorporated for this class into Part 1 of “Talk Outline Dialectical and Historical Materialism, Parts 1 & 2.”</p> <p>Resources for further study are listed in “Class Reading Dialectical & Historical Materialism.”</p>
<p>Methods of Learning (Several methods: people learn in different ways)</p>	<p>Informal orienting comments</p> <p>Reading/reading out loud together from short texts</p> <p>Discussion, including response to readings & questions</p> <p>Student role-playing</p> <p>Video excerpts (optional)</p> <p>Student-led presentations can be pre-assigned for Part 2 class on Dialectical & Historical Materialism</p>
Discussion Questions	<p>See questions included in “Talk Outline Dialectical and Historical Materialism, Parts 1 & 2.”</p>
Organizing	<p>Encourage discussion about specific daily examples that illustrate the “three laws of change,” the difference between dialectical thinking and “metaphysical thinking,” the difference between materialism and idealism – all as seen in political discussion and organizing</p>
Skill Building	<p>Encourage discussion about how to recognize “idealist thinking” as it may turn up in organizing situations. Have candidates practice role-playing with each other on how they would talk to co-organizers or rally participants about what a materialist approach might be to an organizing problem/understanding.</p>
Reflection	<p>Save some time at the end for participants to answer questions about the class:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What will you remember/be useful for you? 2. What would you change, spend less time on, or make less confusing?