

WWP Lesson Plan -

Dialectical & Historical Materialism-Part 2

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 2 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 on this topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">— what is the relation of Historical Materialism to Dialectical Materialism— what is the relation of “ideas” to “economic foundation”—how is historical materialism embodied in class struggle— what are the “two hostile camps” within capitalism and their relation to concept of “contradictions”— how does a “contradiction” create change— how does Dialectical Materialism function in creating change |
| <p>Overview of Class</p> | <p>Lecture notes and material for this class are 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>Give an ice-breaker question relevant to this class, like: “What did you learn about materialism from Part 1?” or “When did you start thinking of yourself as a worker, and was that related to your job or a larger political movement going on?”</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| Readings, Materials, Links | Short selections from Marx, Trotsky, Mao are given in for this Part 2 class in “Talk Outline Dialectical and Historical Materialism Parts 1 & 2.” Readings for further study are given in the Class Readings document. |
| Methods of Learning (People learn in different ways) | Brief explanatory lecture remarks Reading/reading out loud together Discussion Video (optional) “Instant study groups” for 10 minutes if class is large — to work with a specific question/text Participant-led presentations (assign prior to class) |
| Discussion Questions | Included in “Talk Outline Dialectical and Historical Materialism, Parts 1 & 2.” |
| Organizing | Raise a recent U.S. or international political development and ask what contradictions might be contained in the situation. Have a discussion about how this might impact organizing decisions. |
| Skill Building | Have participants brainstorm a placard on a current organizing issue that would use no words—only symbols or pictures—to make a point—and be clearly understandable across language difference. |
| Reflection | Save some time at the end for participants to answer questions about the class: 1. What will you remember/be useful for you? 2. What would you change, spend less time on, or make less confusing? |