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Professor Greaves

COM421

Homework 17

1)

Class conflict, revolution, and a critique of capitalism come to mind when I hear the word "Marxism." I also think about how communism has been practiced historically in different nations, leaving a variety of legacies. It is true that "Marxism" has taken on a bad meaning for certain individuals, especially as a result of links with authoritarian governments and economic stagnation. Some people may be put off from carefully contemplating Marx's views by this unfavorable reputation. Marx's basic theories, however, must be distinguished from the different ways they have been applied since they continue to provide essential insights into social and economic processes.

2)

When I hear the word "feminist," I immediately think of the crazy blue haired women who claim they fight for women's rights, gender equality, and the defiance of prevailing gender roles, but in actuality, they do not want equality, they want to be greater than men. Although the term has various social implications, it is important to understand that feminism embraces a wide spectrum of viewpoints and objectives. It's true that some unfavorable stereotypes, like the one of the "man-hating feminist," may discourage people from giving feminist viewpoints a serious look. I think it is crucial to recognize that to be an actual feminist means to want and support equal rights for women, but the issue is, many feminist are delusional and take that to the extreme where they fall into misandry. The annoying part is, if you have anything to say about it, they go crazy and say you hate woman. I would consider myself a feminist, but I do not associate with the radicals or the people who learned what it means to be a feminist from Social Media and the media. To engage with the many and complex ideas that the feminist movement has to offer, it is essential to see past these preconceptions.

3)

In contrast to the original Marxist approach, Stuart Hall's theory of hegemony places more emphasis on the role of ideology and cultural practices in upholding and perpetuating power relations. Hall's approach takes into consideration the manner in which prevailing ideas are negotiated and challenged through regular cultural activities, in contrast to the Marxist approach, which places a greater emphasis on the economic foundation and class conflict. As opposed to simplifying everything to a class fight, I believe Hall's perspective is more correct since it recognizes the intricate interplay of economic, political, and cultural influences in defining power dynamics.

4)

I think that the text and the reader work together to create meaning. Texts may have intrinsic meanings and messages that their authors have created, but how these meanings and messages are interpreted and received depends on the user's cultural background, life experiences, and personal views. This viewpoint is consistent with Reader-Response Theory, which highlights the reader's active participation in deriving meaning from a text.

5)

I believe that not all depictions of other people in the media, from the news to advertisements, are fair and reasonable. In certain cases, media portrayals reinforce preconceptions, marginalize particular communities, or favor sensationalism over fact. For instance, certain news sources could overreport crimes perpetrated by racial or ethnic minorities, reinforcing unfavorable stereotypes and escalating racial tensions. Similar to how conventional gender roles are frequently reinforced in advertising, unattainable beauty standards are promoted, which contributes to difficulties with body image and gender inequality. We may also observe the opposite, such as the recent incident in which a tranny murdered three Christian children. The majority of the media ignores the children's religious affiliation and conceals the shooter's mental illness (transgender). If the shooter was black and shot 3 Muslim children, all we would know about the incident is that a black man killed Muslim kids in a hate crime. This is all because the media, insurance, and pharmaceutical corporations can profit greatly from the individuals who like subjectivity and their own illusions. It is abhorrent that politicians are discussing the massacre while, instead of attempting to truly address it, they are positioning themselves for reelection by claiming that the transgender community is currently under attack.

6)

My media writings would be significantly affected if I adopted critical theory's emphasis on equality and opposition to established power systems. Avoiding preconceptions and sensationalism, I would place a higher priority on honest, fair, and inclusive depiction of all points of view. By putting out alternate perspectives and narratives, I would also work to provide voice to underrepresented groups and to undermine established power systems. By doing this, I would help create a media environment that promotes critical thinking and social change and is more egalitarian and just.