Great Books of Radical Thought: Revolution, Evolution, Mind and “Man”

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GRBK 2600, Tu/Th 11-12:15
CRN 84855; Honors 299: 84856
Fall 2012

Interested in a more just society? Curious about human nature and cultures? So were they…

This Great Books course will focus on four very important works of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries: Karl Marx’s *Communist Manifesto* (1848), Charles Darwin’s *On the origin of species by means of natural selection* … (1859), Sigmund Freud’s *Civilization and its Discontents* (1929), and Simone de Beauvoir’s *The Second Sex* (1949). We will read these texts alongside fiction (works by Upton Sinclair, H.G. Wells, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Virginia Woolf) and contextual material, including, in some instances, excerpts of other key works by the same author. The course will ask you to consider these as literary as well as philosophical texts, and the way in which works of fiction have engaged their ideas.