

## **MARX AND THE LABOR THEORY OF VALUE:**

Lacking species-specific behavior but characterized by Species-Being, humans do not live in the natural world as it is given, but live in the world that they create through their collective labor.

- Humans oppose nature as one of nature's own forces through labor.
- Labor is not only the human relationship to nature, it is also the mode of human self-expression.
- That human self-expression through labor creates products.
- Products contain embedded labor.
- The value of a product is determined by the labor needed to produce it.
- Labor originally takes the form of necessary labor.
- Capitalism introduces a new form of labor called surplus labor.
- Products are defined primarily by their use value.
- Commodities are products that are produced for and defined primarily by their exchange value.