

Department of Sociology

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES

(Ayala, Rosenberg, Xu)

DUE DATE: Sunday, Jan 21, 2024, before 5 pm, in Canvas under “Assignments.”

Instructions: You are to write a 2-page essay in reaction to the following question. Please note that one page equals 250 words (please use the word count function in your word processor to measure the length of your papers). Please indicate your TA and your discussion section in the cover sheet.

Question : We saw in our lecture the first minutes of René Clair's *A nous la liberté* and of Charles Chaplin's *Modern Times* . The idea of "alienation of labor" is very vividly portrayed in both films. We have also read Marx's piece on labor alienation, entitled "Estranged Labor." Can you connect the two notions of alienation expressed in these two different media? Does Clair's portrayal (manufacture) of the alienation of labor have anything to do with Marx's writings on alienation? Does Chaplin's portrayal (machinofacture, conveyor belt) correspond to Marx's writings? Is Marx referring to what we see in the Clair and Chaplin films? If yes, then how so? If no, how so?


