

COGR 200A: Introduction to the Study of Communication as a Social Force
Friday, 1-3:50pm
MCC 201
Winter 2009

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Course Description

This seminar engages with questions of social structure, power and subjectivity. We consider particular institutions and systems of power including the economy and markets, the nation and state, and civil society and the formation of publics. The first half of the seminar considers foundational social theories including Marxism and liberalism, critical theory and structural/poststructural theory. The second half engages with the institutions of modernity including the nation, state, publics, citizenship and the post-colonial. These readings combine social theory, history and comparative case studies that consider political economy, the forces of globalization and the legacies of imperialism across the disciplines of sociology, anthropology, communication and media studies. The seminars will focus on explicating the readings, clarifying and critiquing the concepts, and relating these concepts to students' particular areas of study.

Assessment

Class participation. In addition to participating in discussions each week, students are required to introduce two authors during weeks 3-10. These presentations (15-20 minutes each) should include a brief background of the author, the historical context in which the author was writing, and the main conceptual contributions the author has made to academic work. These introductions will serve as gateways for the closer discussion of the particular readings. (33%)

Essay #1. A 10-12 page paper that critically engages with the foundational concepts that we discuss in weeks 1-5. Seminararians should include readings from each of these weeks, demonstrate their understanding of the key concepts considered each week, place the concepts in dialogue, and provide a critical analysis of the concepts. These papers cannot be comprehensive assessments, so students are encouraged to focus their engagement on how these concepts can inform the particular work they are pursuing in their dissertation areas. Papers are due at the beginning of class on week 5. (33%)

Essay #2. A 10-12 page paper that critically engages with the institutions of modernity we consider in weeks 6-10. Papers should engage with theories of the nation and state, the formation of publics and citizens, and the political economic forces at play across national and transnational contexts. Students must demonstrate their understanding of the key concepts, but may focus their engagement on a particular case study that is relevant to their dissertation area. Papers are due in my department mailbox at noon on Friday March 20. (33%)

Week 1(1/9): Introduction

Karl Marx. "For a Ruthless Criticism of Everything" and "Theses on Feuerbach." *The Marx-Engles Reader*, 2nd Ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1978. 12-15, 143-45.

Foundations

Week 2 (1/16): The Social Subject

Karl Marx. "Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844." *The Marx-Engles Reader*, 2nd Ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1978. 66-81.

Karl Marx. Capital, Volume One. *The Marx-Engles Reader*, 2nd Ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1978. 302-361, 376-384.

W.E.B Du Bois. "The Black Worker," "The White Worker," "Back towards Slavery." *Black Reconstruction in America*. 3-31. 670-710.

Week 3 (1/23): The Liberal Subject

John Stuart Mill. "Chapter 1: Introduction" and "Chapter 3: Of Individuality, as One of the Elements of Well-being." Stefan Collini, eds. *On Liberty and Other Writings*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989. 5-18, 56-74.

Lisa Duggan. "Downsizing Democracy." *The Twilight of Equality?: Neoliberalism, Cultural Politics, and the Attack on Democracy*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2003. 1-21, 89-91.

David Harvey. *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*. Look for selections. 1-63, bibliography.

Aihwa Ong. *Neoliberalism as Exception: Mutations in Citizenship and Sovereignty*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2006. 1-52, notes, bibliography.

Week 4 (1/30): Critical Theory and Ideology

Karl Marx. "The German Ideology." *The Marx-Engles Reader*, 2nd Ed. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1978. 146-175.

Christine Delphy. "Patriarchy, Domestic Mode of Production, Gender, and Class." Cary Nelson and Lawrence Grossberg, eds. *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1988. 259-267.

Max Horkheimer. "Notes on Institute Activities." Stephen Eric Bronner and Douglas MacKay Kellner, eds. *Critical Theory and Society: A Reader*. New York: Routledge, 1989. 264-66.

Jürgen Habermas. "The Tasks of a Critical Theory of Society." Stephen Eric Bronner and Douglas MacKay Kellner, eds. *Critical Theory and Society: A Reader*. New York: Routledge, 1989. 292-312.

Theodor W. Adorno. "Culture Industry Reconsidered." Paul Marris and Sue Thornham, eds. *Media Studies: A Reader*, 2nd Ed. New York: New York University Press, 2000. 31-37.

Antonio Gramsci. Quintin Hoare and Geoffrey Nowell Smith, eds. *Selections From the Prison Notebooks of Antonio Gramsci*. 229-239.

Stuart Hall. "The Toad in the Garden: Thatcherism among the Theorists." Cary Nelson and Lawrence Grossberg, eds. *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1988. 35-57.

Stuart Hall. "Gramsci's Relevance for the Study of Race and Ethnicity." 411-440. David Morley and Kuan-Hsing Chen, eds. *Stuart Hall: Critical Dialogues in Cultural Studies*. New York: Routledge, 1996.

Week 5 (2/6): Discourse, Practice, Networks

- Michael Foucault. "Politics and the Study of Discourse." Graham Burchell, Colin Gordon and Peter Miller, eds. *The Foucault Effect: Studies in Governmentality*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1991. 53-72.
- Nancy Fraser. Foucault: "A Young Conservative"? Barry Smart, ed. *Michel Foucault: Critical Assessments*, Vol. 3. New York: Routledge, 1994. 171-89.
- Pierre Bourdieu. "Structures, *Habitus*, Practices." *The Logic of Practice*. 1980. Trans. Richard Nice. Cambridge: Polity, 1990. 52-65
- Pierre Bourdieu. "Introduction." *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste*. Trans. Richard Nice. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1984. 1-7.
- Latour, Bruno. "Introduction: How to Resume the Task of Tracing Associations." *Reassembling the Social: An Introduction to Actor-Network-Theory*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2005. 1-17.
- Nick Couldry. "Form and Power in an Age of Continuous Spectacle." David Hesmondhalgh and Jason Toynbee, eds. *The Media and Social Theory*. New York: Routledge, 2008. 161-76.
- Nikolas Rose. "Introduction: Reframing Political Thought" and "Governing." *Powers of Freedom: Reframing Political Thought*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999. 1-60, bibliography.

Modernity

Week 6 (2/13): Nation

- Benedict Anderson. "The Origins of National Consciousness." Annabelle Sreberny-Mohammadi, Dwayne Winseck, Jim McKenna and Oliver Boyd-Barrett, eds. *Media in Global Context: A Reader*. London: Arnold, 1997. 58-66.
- Partha Chatterjee. "Whose Imagined Community?" Ackbar Abbas and John Nguyet Erni, eds. *Internationalizing Cultural Studies: An Anthology*. London: Blackwell Publishing, 2005. 406-12.
- Paul Starr. *The Creation of the Media: Political Origins of Modern Communication*. New York: Basic Books, 2004. 1-12, 47-150, 403-406, 411-435.
- David Morley. "Broadcasting and the Construction of the National Family." *The Television Studies Reader*. Robert C. Allen and Annette Hill, eds. New York: Routledge, 2004. 418-41.

Week 7 (2/20): State

- Michel Foucault. "The Body of the Condemned." *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. Trans. By Alan Sheridan. New York: Vintage Books 2nd Ed., 1995. 3-31, 309.
- Saskia Sassen. "Assembling National Political Economies Centered on Imperial Geographies." *Territory, Authority, Rights: From Medieval to Global Assemblages*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006. 74-140.
- Giovanni Arrighi. *Adam Smith in Beijing: Lineages of the Twenty-First Century*. New York: Verso, 2007. 13-39, 351-389.

Week 8 (2/27): Publics

- Jurgen Habermas. "The Public Sphere." Paul Marris and Sue Thornham, eds. *Media Studies: A Reader*, 2nd Edition. (New York: New York University Press, 2000. 92-97.

- Catherine R. Squires. "Rethinking the Black Public Sphere: An Alternative Vocabulary for Multiple Public Spheres." *Communication Theory* Vol. 12, No. 4. (November 2002): 446-468.
- Kari Karppinen. "Media and the Paradoxes of Pluralism." David Hesmondhalgh and Jason Toynbee, eds. *The Media and Social Theory*. New York: Routledge, 2008. 27-42.
- Sarah Igo. *The Averaged American: Surveys, Citizens, and the Making of a Mass Public*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2007. 1-23, 281-299.
- Georgina Born. "Digitizing Democracy." John Lloyd and Jean Seaton, eds. *What Can Be Done? Making the Media and Politics Better*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2006. 102-23.

Week 9 (3/6): Citizens

- Nikhil Pal Singh. *Black is a Country: Race and the Unfinished Struggle for Democracy*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2004. 1-100, notes.
- Seyla Benhabib. "Democratic Iterations: the Local, the National, and the Global." *The Rights of Others: Aliens, Residents, and Citizens*. New York; Cambridge University Press, 2004. 1-24, 171-221, bibliography.

Week 10 (3/13): Post-colonial

- Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak. "Can the Subaltern Speak?" Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin, eds. *The Post-Colonial Studies Reader* 2nd Edition. New York: Routledge, 2006. 24-28.
- Edward W. Said. "Orientalism." Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin, eds. *The Post-Colonial Studies Reader* 2nd Edition. New York: Routledge, 2006. 87-91.
- Frantz Fanon. "National Culture." Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths and Helen Tiffin, eds. *The Post-Colonial Studies Reader* 2nd Edition. New York: Routledge, 2006. 153-57.
- Ella Shohat. "Area studies, Gender Studies, and the Cartographies of Knowledge." *Social Text* 72, Vol. 20, No. 3 (Fall 2002):67-78.
- Raka Shome and Radha S. Hegde. "Postcolonial Approaches to Communication: Charting the Terrain, Engaging the Intersections." *Communication Theory* Vol. 12, No. 3 (August 2002): 249-270.
- Annabelle Sreberny. "Media Imperialism," in *Television Studies*. Toby Miller, ed. London: BFI Publishing, 2002. 21-24.