Ethnic Studies 257A
Social Theory

Fall Quarter, 2004-2005

Tuesdays 2:00-4:50
Social Sciences Building 103
Office hours: Mondays, 1:00-2:30 (Social Sciences 231)
Thursdays, 1:30-3:00 in CILAS (Gildred Hall, Inst. of Americas Complex, below RIMAC)

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Course description
An intensive, two-quarter survey of social and cultural theory. The first quarter focuses on modernity, particularly science, epistemology, language, tradition, rationality, and political theory in the seventeenth century, Romantic Nationalism, Malthus and his program of research on “the lower classes,” statistical perspectives on society, Marx, Durkheim, Weber, psychoanalytic thought (Freud and Lacan), linguistic and cultural relativism, and structuralism. The second quarter surveys post-structuralist, postmodern, globalization, and other approaches, including the work of Derrida, Gramsci, Foucault, Latour, Harvey, Jameson, Baudrillard, Subaltern Studies, Spivak, Garcia Canclini, Bakhtin, Habermas, Stuart Hall, Butler, Crenshaw, Appadurai, and Castells. 257A is not a prerequisite for 257B.

Texts for 257A available at Groundwork Books
Chakrabarty, Dipesh, Provincializing Europe
Durkheim, Emile, The Division of Labor in Society
Foucault, Michel, The Order of Things
Freud, Sigmund, The Interpretation of Dreams
Mignolo, Walter, Local histories/global designs: Coloniality, subaltern knowledges, and border thinking
Pateman, Carole, The Sexual Contract
Marx, Karl, The Philosophic and Economic Manuscripts of 1844

Reader: Available from the UCSD Library through E-Reserves [*indicates that the text is in the Reader]

Requirements:
(1) Careful preparation of readings before coming to class.
(2) Participation in class discussions.
(3) A term-paper of 20-25 pages that presents a critical discussion of the readings in terms of a particular theme, as chosen by the student in keeping with her or his interests. Examples include the contradiction between ideologies of inclusion and practices of exclusion; shifting definitions of the modern subject and their social and material consequences; ideologies of the public, vox populi, and practices for constructing public spheres; textual and social practices for the exclusion or marginalization of subaltern voices; the social and discursive construction of authority; the embodiment of schemes of social inequality in constructions of race, gender, class, sexuality, and nation; and of notions of (un)consciousness. A paper proposal due on 19 October. Paper is due on 3 December.
Reading and lecture schedule:

Week 1 28 September

Introduction

Readings:
Chakrabarty, Provincializing Europe, Introduction, chap. 1

Week 2 5 October

Debating Modernity: Foucauldian and Postcolonial Perspectives

Readings:
Foucault, The Order of Things, Foreword, Preface, pp. 46-124
Mignolo, Local histories/global designs, Introduction, chap. 1, 5

Recommended reading:
Latour, We Have Never Been Modern, chap. 2-3

Week 3 12 October

Foundations of the Modern World: Language, Rationality, Gender, and the Politics of Exclusion

Readings:
Pateman, Carole, The Sexual Contract

Recommended:

19 October: Paper proposal (one-page) due
Romantic Nationalism, the Other, and the Naturalization of Inequality

Readings:
Chakrabarty, chap. 3-4

Recommended:

Quantifying Subjects, Investigating the Subaltern

Readings:
Foucault, *The Order of Things*, pp. 166-214
*Hacking, Ian (1990). *The Taming of Chance*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 1-46, 105-124 (on e-reserve; a few copies are available in Groundworks)

Recommended:
Week 6  2 November
Karl Marx: Materialism, Modernism, and the Scientific Critique of Capitalism

Readings:
Marx, *The Philosophic and Economic Manuscripts of 1844*
Chakrabarty, *Provincializing Europe*, chap. 2
Foucault, *Order of Things*, chap. 6

Week 7  9 November
Emile Durkheim and the Science of Society

Reading:
Durkheim, *The Division of Labor in Society*

Week 8  16 November
Max Weber: Rationality and Modernist Angst

Readings:
Weber, *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism*

Week 9  23 November
Psychoanalysis: Mind, Memory, Modernity, and Imagination

Readings:

Week 10  30 November
Evolution, Cultural Reasoning, and the Democratization of Otherness

Readings:
*Morgan, Lewis Henry (1974[1877]). *Ancient Society, or, Researches in the Lines of Human Progress from Savagery through Barbarism to Civilization. Glouchester, MA: Peter Smith, pp. 3-44 (note that this reading is also quite relevant to the reading on Karl Marx in Week 6).*
Recommended:


3 December: Final Paper due