

Readings in Social Theory:
Consciousness and Resistance

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Course: HIGR 200

Location: H&SS 6008

Time: Th 9-11:50

Quarter: Fall 2014

A Note on Course Description, Objectives, and Organization:

This course surveys critical social and cultural theory from classical Marxism to the Zapatistas. It is organized as an introduction to Marxist historiography, with an eye to themes, concepts, and questions of consciousness, ideology, and resistance. In addition to familiarizing ourselves with the works of a wide range of theorists and the way these thinkers have been critiqued through feminist, race and ethnic, historical, and “post” debates, we will consider how the shifting and ever growing historiography of social and cultural theory might help each of us in the designing and framing of our own on-going research projects. Ultimately, this course requires that we engage and analyze the ways theorists and the people they write about both imagine and practice social change in order to learn about the past, make sense of the present, and envision the future.

Classroom Culture:

This course is designed to incorporate your participation and ideas as an important part of every class meeting. Since we will often engage difficult and controversial issues it will be our collective responsibility to make sure that our classroom interaction is respectful and supportive of the views, experiences, and expertise of others at all times. If you expect people to listen to your ideas, in other words, you have to show respect for their ideas. To create a classroom culture of courtesy, collegiality, and cooperation, let us remember that we know more together than any one of us knows individually.

Course Assignments and Grading:

You are expected to carefully read the assigned material, attend all classes and arrive on time, be prepared to participate in seminar discussions and activities, and complete all written assignments. You are required to complete all of the following assignments.

1.) Weekly thought pieces, 30% of final grade. Each week you are required to prepare a 2-3 page thought piece on the week’s readings. These are not meant to be summaries of the weekly readings. They are instead a space for you to critically engage the week’s readings by exploring the readings main concepts and debates, devising questions to share in the seminar discussion, and/or considering the implications of the readings for other texts we have read, your own research, or larger fields of study. Your thought pieces will be assessed weekly by another class participant for comment and reaction, so they should be typed and proofread carefully.

3.) Essays, 40% of final grade. You will prepare two 10-12 page essays over the course of the quarter. They are due in class during Week 6 and Finals Week. These essays should address a concept, debate, or question from the previous 5 weeks readings and class discussions. One formula for these essays is to 1) identify your central concept/debate/question 2) discuss how the readings investigate this concept/debate/question 3) explore your own critiques/perspectives 4) consider how your concept/debate/question might be useful for further developing your own research interests.

4.) Class Facilitation and Participation, 30% of final grade. You are responsible for facilitating at least one class session, including consulting with the professor beforehand, designing a lesson plan, providing a class outline and discussion questions, and moderating the class conversation.

All written work must be typed, double-spaced, and in 12 point font. All assignments must include your name, the course, title of the paper, and the date. All papers are due at the beginning of class on the due date. No late papers or email submissions will be accepted. Your written work must be your own and you are expected to conform to the university's academic honesty code for all assignments.

Course Outline:

Week Zero, October 2: Course Introduction

Introductions, review of syllabus, and brief discussion of “theory, consciousness, and resistance” and expectations for seminar.

Week 1, October 9: Marx and Ideology

Read: Karl Marx, “Feuerbach” in *The German Ideology*; John Holloway, “The Scream” in *Change The World Without Taking Power: The Meaning of Revolution Today*; Stuart Hall, “The Problem of Ideology: Marxism without Guarantees” *Journal of Communication Inquiry* 10, no. 2 (1986), 28-44; Robin D.G. Kelley, “When History Sleeps: A Beginning,” in *Freedom Dreams: The Black Radical Imagination*; Ross Chambers, “Preface” and “Introduction” in *Room to Maneuver*.

Week 2, October 16: Gramsci and Hegemony

Read: Antonio Gramsci, *The Prison Notebooks*, excerpt from *Cultural Resistance Reader*; Leon Fink, Jackson Lears, John Diggins, George Lipsitz, Mari Jo and Paul Buhle, “A Round Table: Labor, Historical Pessimism, and Hegemony,” *The Journal of American History* 75, no. 1 (June 1988), 115-161; T. Jackson Lears, “The Concept of Cultural Hegemony: Problems and Possibilities,” *American Historical Review* (June 1985), 567-593; Jorge Gonzalez, “Cultural Fronts: Towards a Dialogical Understanding of Contemporary Cultures,” in James Lull, ed., *Culture in the Communication Age* (London: Routledge, 2001), 106-131; James Scott, “Hegemony and Consciousness: Everyday Forms of Ideological Struggle” in *Weapons of the Weak*.

Week 3, October 23: Foucault and Power

Read: Michel Foucault, "Docile Bodies," "The means of correct training," "Panopticism," in *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of a Prison*; Michel Foucault, "The Deployment of Sexuality" in *The History of Sexuality: Volume 1, An Introduction*; Hubert Dreyfus and Paul Rabinow, "Power and Truth" in *Michel Foucault: Beyond Structuralism and Hermeneutics*; John Holloway, "Beyond the State" and "Beyond Power" in *Change the World Without Taking Power*.

Week 4, October 30: Cultural Studies and Identity

Read: Matthew Arnold, "From Culture and Anarchy," in *Cultural Resistance Reader*; Walter Benjamin, "The Author as Producer"; Raymond Williams, "Culture" in *Keywords*; Raymond Williams, "Structures of Feeling," in *Marxism and Literature*; E.P. Thompson, "Preface" in *The Making of the English Working Class*; Dick Hebdige, "From Culture to Hegemony," in *Subculture*; Stuart Hall, "Gramsci's Relevance for the Study of Race and Ethnicity" *Journal of Communication Inquiry* 10, no. 2 (1986), 5-27; Stuart Hall, "Old and New Identities, Old and New Ethnicities," in Anthony King, *Culture, Globalization, and the World System*; Les Back, "X Amount of Sat Siri Akal! Apache Indian, Reggae Music, and the Intermezzo Culture," in Aleksandra Alund and Raoul Granqvist, eds., *Negotiating Identities: Essays on Immigration and Culture in Present-Day Europe*.

Week 5, November 6: History and the Cultural Turn

Daniel Wickburg, "Heterosexual White Male: Some Recent Inversions in American Cultural History," *Journal of American History* 92, no. 1 (June 2005): 136-157; Nan Enstad, "On Grief and Complicity: Notes Towards a Visionary Cultural History," in *The Cultural Turn in U.S. History*; James Cook and Lawrence Glickman, "Twelve Propositions for a History of U.S. Cultural History," in *The Cultural Turn in U.S. History*; Geoff Eley, "Preface," in *A Crooked Line: From Cultural History to the History of Society*; William Sewell, Gabrielle Spiegel, Manu Goswami, Geoff Eley, "AHR Forum: Geoff Eley's *A Crooked Line*," *American Historical Review* (April 2008), 391-437; James Cook, "The Kids Are All Right: On the 'Turning' of Cultural History," *American Historical Review* 117, no. 3 (2012), 746-771.

Week 6, November 13: The Post Debates

Read: Dick Hebdige, "Staking out the Posts," in *Hiding in the Light: On Images and Things*; Gustavo Esteva and Madhu Suri Prakash, "Grassroots Postmodernism" in *Grassroots Postmodernism: Remaking the Soil of Cultures*; Frederic Jameson, "Postmodernism, or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism," *New Left Review* 146 (1984); David Harvey, "Class Relations, Social Justice, and the Politics of Difference," in S. Pile and M. Keith, eds., *Place and the Politics of Identity*; Gayatri Spivak, "Can the Subaltern Speak?" in Cary Nelson and Lawrence Grossberg, eds., *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture* (1988); Stuart Hall, "When Was the Postcolonial?," in Iain Chambers and Lidia Curti, eds., *The Postcolonial Question: Common Skies, Divided Horizons* (NY: Routledge, 1996).

Week 7, November 20: Critical Gender and Radical Feminism

Read: Kimberly Crenshaw, "Demarginalizing the Intersection of Race and Sex: A Black Feminist Critique of Antidiscrimination Doctrine, Feminist Theory, and Antiracist Politics," *University of Chicago Legal Forum* (1989), 139-167; Joan Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis" *The American Historical Review* 91, no. 5 (Dec. 1986), 1053-1075; Donna Haraway, "Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspectives," *Feminist Studies* (1988), 575-599; Angela Davis, "Women and Capitalism: Dialectics of Oppression and Liberation," in *The Angela Y. Davis Reader*; Chela Sandoval, "U.S. Third World Feminism: The Theory and Method of Oppositional Consciousness in the Postmodern World," *Genders* 10 (Spring 1991); Gloria Anzaldua, "La Conciencia de la Mestiza/Towards a New Consciousness" in *Borderlands/La Frontera*.

Week 8: Thanksgiving Holiday. No Class!

Week 9: December 4, Zapatismo

Read: John Holloway and Eloina Pelaez, "Introduction: Reinventing Revolution," in *Zapatista! Reinventing Revolution in Mexico*; John Holloway, "Dignity's Revolt" in *Zapatista! Reinventing Revolution in Mexico*; Gustavo Esteva, "Celebration of Zapatismo" in *Humboldt Journal of Social Relations*, Special Issue: Zapatismo as Political and Cultural Practice 29, no. 1 (2005); Manuel Callahan, "Why Not Share a Dream?: Zapatismo as Political and Cultural Practice" in *Humboldt Journal of Social Relations*, Special Issue: Zapatismo as Political and Cultural Practice 29, no. 1 (2005); David Graeber, "The New Anarchists," *New Left Review* 13 (Jan-Feb 2002), 61-73; Alex Khasnabish, "Introduction: Bridges of Imagination, Spaces of Possibility," in *Zapatismo Beyond Borders: New Imaginations of Political Possibility* (Toronto: Univ. of Toronto Press, 2008).

Week 10: December 11, Consciousness and Resistance in the University

Read: George Lipsitz, "Taking Positions and the War of Position: The Politics of Academia" in George Lipsitz, *American Studies in a Moment of Danger* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2001); George Lipsitz and Barbara Tomlinson, "American Studies as Accompaniment," 65, no. 1 (2013), 1-30; Frank Donaghue, *The Last Professors: The Corporate University and the Fate of the Humanities* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2008).