

**ANG 6930 (Section 3439):  
Theoretical Foundations of Anthropology and 20<sup>th</sup> Century  
Social Thought**

**Spring 2011**

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Seminar meets: W: 9:35-12:35 @ CBD 316

Office Hrs: to be announced in class @ Turlington 3345 (also by appointment)

**Course description:**

This seminar seeks to chart some of the many theoretical interfaces between anthropology and the philosophical traditions of social and political sciences of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

We follow some of the most influential theoretical debates of the last two centuries and how they have informed (but also have been influenced) by anthropological thought and theory. The seminar partially relies on (or can be used as a complement to) other courses in political anthropology and economic anthropology offered in the UF Anthropology Department. It reflects on anthropological work but focuses mainly on the larger intellectual context within which anthropological questions have been formulated.

We begin by reviewing the classics – the work of Marx, Durkheim and Weber – and their core investigations around questions of ‘modernity’, ‘capitalism,’ ‘industrialization,’ ‘division of labor,’ ‘individualization,’ and ‘rationalization’. We ask what is ‘progress,’ ‘freedom’, ‘equality,’ and ‘humanism’.

Contemporary “politics of” anthropology reflect Critical Theory approaches, and Postmodern, “Foucauldian” emphases on power and representation, held together by the bottom-up approaches that have always defined anthropology. We explore the contours of these theories and ideas as they reflect anthropological thinking on power, knowledge and contemporary societies.

Finally we conclude with some recent anthropological elaborations on method.

**Books:**

Lawrence H. Simon (Ed.) 1994. *Karl Marx, Selected Writings*. Hackett Publishing Company

Robert J. Antonio. 2003. *Marx and Modernity: Key Readings and Commentary*. Ira J. Cohen: Books.

Gerth and Mills. *From Max Weber*. Oxford University Press

Giddens, Anthony, 1971. *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory. An Analysis of the writings of Marx, Durkheim and Max Weber*. Cambridge. Cambridge University Press

Sayer Derek, 1991. *Capitalism and Modernity: Excursus on Marx and Weber*. Routledge

Hannah Arendt, 1993. *Between Past and Future*. Penguin

Hannah Arendt, (Ed.) *Illuminations* New York: Schocken Books, 1986.

Michel Foucault. 1977. *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. New York: Pantheon.

Antonio Gramsci. 1987. *Selections from the Prison Notebooks of Antonio Gramsci*. New York: International.

Jürgen Habermas. 1975. *Legitimation Crisis*. Boston: Beacon Press.

Max Horkheimer and Theodor W. Adorno. 1988. *Dialectic of Enlightenment*. New York: Continuum.

Karl Polanyi. 1957. *The Great Transformation*. Boston: Beacon Press.

**Format and Assignments:**

This seminar is based on student presentations of the select material and small research they prepare for each author, to intellectually contextualize author's work. The list of authors is selected loosely, while the agenda of the course will be determined based on students' interests and needs (note that there are more readings assigned than we will be able to cover in class!!!).

The seminar aims to help students navigate through the various theoretical debates in social sciences of the last two centuries and help them systematize their theoretical knowledge of anthropology.

Each student will be presenting a reading each class session, or a short summary of the particular theoretical school within which these works have occurred. In addition students are expected to prepare short commentaries on the readings each week, which serve as a starting point for discussion. These readings are made available to everyone prior to class meetings. We will also try to set up a webpage with various resources and student commentaries on the readings. By the middle of the semester students are expected to have conceptualized a topic for their final research paper and turn in a short description or an outline of their paper topic of choice.

Materials will be made available electronically or through photo copies prior to class meetings. Students are responsible for gathering the material if they do not own the applicable books.

Students pursue their own areas of interest, and at the end of the class are expected to write an analytical paper on topics of their choice as related to the class material (up to 15 pages long double- spaced).

### **Week 1, Jan 5: Introduction**

### **Week 2, Jan 12: *the classicists* : Karl Marx**

Karl Marx: extracts from “Capital” and “The German Ideology” (From: Lawrence H. Simon (Ed.) 1994. Karl Marx, Selected Writings Hackett Publishing Company)

Karl Marx: “The communist manifesto”

#### **OR:**

Robert J. Antonio. 2003. *Marx and Modernity: Key Readings and Commentary*. Ira J. Cohen: Books.

Part 1. Marx’s Vision of History: Historical Materialism. (Pp. 51-73).

Part 2. The Juggernaut of Capitalist Modernity (pp. 75-100).

Part 3. Marx’s Labor Theory of Value (pp. 101-30)

Part 4. From Manufacture to Modern Industry (pp. 131-52).

Part 5. “Downside of Capitalist Growth.” Pp. 153-174.

Part 6. “Globalization and Colonialism.” pp. 175-194.

Part 7. “New Society Rising in the Old.” pp. 195-212.

Part 8. “Revolutionary Proletariat and the Vicissitudes of History” pp. 213-248.

### **Week 3, Jan 19: *the classicist* : Emile Durkheim**

Mustafa Emirbayer (Ed.) 2003. Emile Durkheim: Sociologist of Modernity. Blackwell

### **Week 4, Jan 26: *the classicist* : Max Weber**

Gerth and Mills. *From Max Weber*. Oxford University Press

Chapter X (read only pp. 253, 262-64) in “Meaning of Discipline.”

Chapter XI (pp. 267-301). “Social Psychology of the World Religions .”

Chapter XII (pp. 302-322). “Protestant Sects and the Spirit of Capitalism.”

Chapter XIII (pp. 323-362). “Religious Rejections of the World and Their Directions.”

Chapter VII (pp. 180-195). “Class, Status, and Party.”

Chapter IX (pp. 245-252). “Sociology of Charismatic Authority.”

#### **Positioning the Classics:**

Giddens, Anthony, 1971. *Capitalism and Modern Social Theory*. An Analysis of the writings of Marx, Durkheim and Max Weber. Cambridge. Cambridge University Press

Sayer Derek, 1991. *Capitalism and Modernity: Excursus on Marx and Weber*. Routledge

Robert Antonio (Ed). 2003. *Marx and Modernity: Key Readings and Commentary*. Ira J. Cohen: Books.

Lash, Scott and Sam Whimster eds. 1987. *Max Weber, Rationality and Modernity*. London Alen&Unwin

Kivisto, Peter (Ed.). *Illuminating Social Life: Classical and Contemporary Theory Revisited*, 4th edition. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge Press, 2008

### **Week 5, Feb 2: Autonomy of Culture**

Hannah Arendt, 1993. "The Crisis in Culture" In: *Between Past and Future*. Penguin

Weber "Religious Rejections of the World and their Directions"

Durkheim, *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*

### **Week 6, Feb 9: Structure, Agency and the Space of Ideology**

Louis Althusser. "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses: Notes Toward an Investigation" (<http://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/althusser/1970/ideology.htm>)

Clifford Geertz, 1973. "Ideology as a Cultural System" In: *The Interpretations of Cultures*. Basic Books

Antonio Gramsci, 1971. *Selections from the Prison Notebooks*. Quinton Hoare and Geoffrey Smith (eds.) New York: International Publishers (the Modern Prince: 133-185; State and Civil Society: 206-246; Americanism and Fordism: 277-318)

**Note:** The Introductory essay by Hoare and Smith is of value.

### **Week 7, Feb 16: Critical theory (the Frankfurt School of Social Theory)**

Max Horkheimer and Theodor W. Adorno. 1988. *Dialectic of Enlightenment*, New York: Continuum. The concept of Enlightenment 3-42

Adorno, Theodor. "Functionalism Today." Tr. John H. Smith. *Oppositions: A Journal for Ideas and Criticism and Architecture* 17 (1979) 31-41.

**Note:** Some writings of Adorno on the web:

[http://www.icce.rug.nl/~soundscapes/DATABASES/SWA/Some\\_writings\\_of\\_Adorno.shtml](http://www.icce.rug.nl/~soundscapes/DATABASES/SWA/Some_writings_of_Adorno.shtml)

Benjamin, Walter. 1986. "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction." In *Illuminations*, ed. Hannah Arendt, New York: Schocken Books

### **Week 8: Feb 23: The Archaeology of Seeing: Michel Foucault**

Michel Foucault. "Las Meninas." *The Order of Things*. New York: Random. (<http://mh.cla.umn.edu/txtimbw2.html>)

Foucault, Michel. 1977. *Discipline and Punish: the birth of the prison*. London: Allen Lane, 1977.

Foucault, "Truth and Power" In: *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings, 1972-1977* 131

Arendt, "Truth and Politics" In: *Between Past and Future*. New York: Viking Press, 1961. Revised edition, 1968.

#### **Web resources:**

<http://www9.georgetown.edu/faculty/irvinem/CCTP748/Foucault-Outline.html>

### **Week 9: March 2: Commodification, Embeddedness and Forms of Capital**

#### **Paper outline due!!!**

Karl Polanyi. 1957. *The Great Transformation*. Boston: Beacon Press (Habituation threue fictitious commodities 33-76; Political economy, society, man and nature 111-134; Markets: man, nature, productive organization, impaired 163-208).

Pierre Bourdieu, 1977. *Outline of a Theory of Practice*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (Reading guide at: <http://www.arasite.org/bdieuprc.htm>)

Pierre Bourdieu, 1986. *The Logic of Practice*, Book I, "Critique of Theoretical Reason," pp. 23-141.

#### **Additional readings:**

Pierre Bourdieu "The Forms of Capital." In J.G. Richardson (ed.), *Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education*. New York: Greenwood Press, pp. 241-258.

"The Soviet Variant and Political Capital," in *Practical Reasons*, pp. 14-18.

Pierre Bourdieu and Loïc Wacquant, 1992. *An Invitation to Reflexive Sociology*, pp. 94-139, 224-235. University of Chicago Press

Pierre Bourdieu. 2001. "The Forms of Capital." Pp.96-111 in Mark Granovetter and Richard Swedberg (eds.) *The Sociology of Economic Life (2nd Ed.)*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

### **Spring Brake: March 5-12**

#### **Week 10: March 16: Class, style and value**

Thorstein Veblen. *The Theory of the Leisure Class*: at:  
[http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/VEBLEN/veb\\_toc.html](http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/VEBLEN/veb_toc.html), esp. Ch 4

Norbert Elias, 2000. *The Civilizing Process*. Blackwell Selections from Vol.1

#### **Week 11, March 23: Modern Culture and Society (Cultural Studies)**

Raymond Williams. 1980. "Ideas of Nature." Pp.67-85 in *Problems in Materialism and Culture: Selected Essays*. London: Verso.

Stuart Hall. 1996. "Cultural Studies and Its Theoretical Legacy." Pp. 262-275 in David Morley and Kuan-Hsing Chen (eds.) *Stuart Hall: Critical Dialogues in Cultural Studies*. NY: Routledge.

Arjun Appadurai. 1986. "Introduction: Commodities and the Politics of Value." Pp. 3-63 in *The Social Life of Things: Commodities in Cultural Perspective*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

#### **Additional readings:**

E.P Thompson the making of the English working class  
Paul Willis "Leaning to Labour"

#### **Week 12, March 30: Postmodernity and poststructuralism**

Lyotard, Jean-Francois (1984) *The Postmodern Condition: A Report on Knowledge*. Manchester: Manchester University Press. (Find on:  
<http://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/works/fr/lyotard.htm>)

Fredric Jameson. 1991. *Postmodernism, or, The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. (Find on: <http://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/works/us/jameson.htm>)

Baudrillard, Jean. "Simulacrum and Simulations," in Mark Poster, ed., *Selected Writings*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 1989.

### **Week 13, April 6: Understanding the Scientific Process**

Niklas Luhman, 2002. *Theories of distinction : redescribing the descriptions of modernity*. Part III p-155- Stanford, Calif. : Stanford University Press (LW: HM585.L84 2002)

Bruno Latour, 1987. *Science in action*) "*How to Follow Scientists through Society*" (2,3,6)

Sandra Hardings, 1993. "The Racial Economy of Science" (by choice)

### **Week 14: April 13 Gender, Science and Bodily Reproduction**

Donna Haraway. 1991. "Situated Knowledges: The Science Question in Feminism and the Privilege of Partial Perspective." In *Simians, Cyborgs and Women: The Reinvention of Nature*. London: Free Association. (First published in 1988 in *Feminist Studies* 14: 575-99). Available online: [http://science.consumercide.com/haraway\\_sit-knowl.html](http://science.consumercide.com/haraway_sit-knowl.html)

Monica J. Casper and Lisa Jean Moore. 1995. "Inscribing Bodies, Inscribing the Future: Gender, Sex, and Reproduction in Outer Space." *Sociological Perspectives*. 38(2): 11-33.

N. Katherine Hayles. 1993. "The Materiality of Informatics." In: *Configurations* 1(1):147-170.

Margaret Lock. 1997. "Decentering the Natural Body: Making Difference Matter." In: *Configurations* 5(2):267-292.

Emily Martin. 1998. "Fluid Bodies, Managed Nature." Pp.64-83 in Bruce Braun and Noel Castree (eds.) *Nature at the Millenium: Remaking Reality at the End of the Twentieth Century*. London: Routledge.

#### **Additional readings:**

Judith Butler *Gender Trouble* (1990), See also: <http://www.theory.org.uk/ctr-butl.htm>

### **Week 15: April 20 – End of Classes**

Paul Rabinow, 2003. *Anthropos Today: Reflexions of Modern Equipment*. Princeton University press