

ANG 6286: SOCIAL THEORY and contemporary ethnography

Spring 2015

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Seminar meets: Tuesdays 9-11 @ TUR 2341

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 20th 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 main goal in this tracing of links is to underscore the difference ethnographic methods and engagements bring to evidence-making and to social theorizing.

We want to understand the various theoretical frameworks that inform the ways anthropologists engage, think and write about social experience, subjectivity, and politics today.

What are the concepts that anthropologists use to approach contemporary lives caught in embattled geopolitics and in novel economic, technoscientific and legal constellations? How can we analytically highlight both larger social processes and human singularities? How theoretically generative is ethnographic fieldwork?

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. The content of this seminar will be creatively engaged depending on the theoretical grounding of students (i.e. we will not read everything listed in the syllabus).

Format and Assignments:

This seminar is based on student presentations of the select material and 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 and understand the creative analytics of ethnography.

Students are expected to prepare short commentaries on the readings each week, which serve as a starting point for discussion. Readings will be 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 6: introduction

Week 2 Jan 13: *having an idea in anthropology*

Walzer, Michael. "Preface" and "Introduction." In *The Company of Critics: Social Criticism and Political Commitment in the Twentieth Century*. New York: Basic Books, 2002, pp.xix-xx, 3-28.

Foucault, Michel. "What is Enlightenment?" In: *The Foucault Reader*, edited by Paul Rabinow. New York: Pantheon Books, 1984, pp. 32-50.

Deleuze, Gilles. "Having an Idea in Cinema." In *Deleuze and Guattari: New Mappings in Politics, Philosophy, and Culture* edited by Eleanor Kaufman and Kevin Jon Heller. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1998, pp.14-19.

Kapferer, Bruce 2005. Introduction to "The Retreat of the social". In : *Critical Interventions* Vol 6.

Week 3 Jan 20: *cultural analysis and the contemporary*

Crapanzano, Vincent. "The Postmodern Crisis: Discourse, Parody, Memory." *Cultural Anthropology* 6, no. 4 (1991): 431-446.

Anna Tsing 2000. "The Global Situation". In: *Cultural Anthropology*. Vol 15, Issue 3, pages 327–360, August 2000

Fischer, Michael M.J. "Culture and Cultural Analysis as Experimental Systems." In *Anthropological Futures*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2009, pp.1-49.

Rabinow, Paul. *Marking Time: On the Anthropology of the Contemporary*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2007.

And/Or Rabinow, Paul *Designs on the contemporary*

Week 4 Jan 27: *fieldwork today and ethnography*

Fortun, Kim. "Ethnography in Late Industrialism." *Cultural Anthropology* 27, no. 3 (2012): 446-464.

Marcus, George. "The end(s) of ethnography: Social/cultural anthropology's signature form of producing knowledge in transition." *Cultural Anthropology* 2008, 23(1): 1–14.

Carlo Caduff, 1999 "Ethnographies of Science: Conversation with the Authors and Commentary" In Cultural Anthropology @ <http://culanth.org/articles/127-ethnographies-of-science-conversation-with-the>

Feldman Greg "Engaged Anthropology" and "If Ethnography is More than Participant - Observation, then Relations are More than Connections: The Case for Nonlocal Ethnography in a World of Apparatuses." Anthropological Theory 11(4): 375-395
Allen Chun's "From Text to Context: How Anthropology Makes Its Subjects" (2008),

Robben, Antonius & Jeffrey Szluka. Ethnographic Fieldwork. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2007, pp. 1-32.

Further readings:

Geertz, Clifford. "The World in Pieces: Culture and Politics at the End of the Century." Available Light: Anthropological Reflections on Philosophical Topics. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000, pp. 218-263.

Biehl, João & Byron Good, Arthur Kleinman. "Introduction: Rethinking Subjectivity." In Subjectivity: Ethnographic Investigations edited by Biehl, Good, Kleinman. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2007, pp.1-23.

Weeks 5-7: rehashing the classics: society, culture, modernity

Feb 3 Emile Durkheim: the collective and the individual

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

Durkheim, *The Division of Labor*, excerpts *Rules of Sociological Method*, excerpts. *Suicide*, excerpts.

Durkheim, *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*

- 1) <http://www.archive.org/stream/elementaryformso00durk#page/48/mode/2up>
- 2) <http://durkheim.uchicago.edu/Summaries/forms.html> (provides a summary of the book)

Nonini, Donald 2007. The Global Idea of the Commons, In: Critical Interventions Vol. 10

Feb 10 Karl Marx: historical materialism / alienated labor / history / commodity fetishism

Selections from Marx Engels Reader (Tucker, editor)

Society and Economy in History (pp.136-142).

Theses on Feuerbach (pp.143-145).

The German Ideology, Part I. (up to "The Real Basis of Ideology", (pp. 146-176).

The Communist Manifesto.

Selections from Capital, Volume 1, especially 1.1.

"The two factors of the commodity" 1.2. "The dual character of labor embodied in commodities" 1.4. "The fetishism of the commodity and its secret" 2. "The process of exchange" 4. "The general formula for capital" 26. "The secret of primitive accumulation"

Further readings:

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.

Feb 17 Max Weber: rationalization and modernity

Weber "Religious Rejections of the World and their Directions" (Pdf file available)

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."

Further Readings: 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 8 Feb 24: culture, agency, and ideology

Hannah Arendt, 1993. "The Crisis in Culture" In: *Between Past and Future*. Penguin (Pdf file available)

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

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.

Spring Break: March 2-7

Week 9 March 10: the Foucauldian subject of power and discourse

Foucault, Michel. *The History of Sexuality. Volume 1*. excerpts. *Discipline and Punish*, excerpts.

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

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

Foucault, Michel. *The Birth of Biopolitics: Lectures at the Collège de France, 1978-1979*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008, pp.27-50, 291-325.

Rabinow, P and Rose, N 2006. "Biopower Today" *Biosocieties* 1 195-217

Zamora, Daniel, 2014 "Can We Criticize Foucault?"
<https://www.jacobinmag.com/2014/12/foucault-interview/>

Baca, George 2005. "Legends of Fordism". In: *Critical Interventions* Vol. 6

Web resources:

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

http://www.scribd.com/doc/37700426/Michel-Foucault-Two-Lectures-From-Power-Knowledge#force_seo

Midterm due!!!!

Week 10 March 17: problematizing economics...

Ho, Karen. *Liquidated. An Ethnography of Wall Street*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2009.

Roitman, Janet. "The Pluralization of Regulatory Authority." In *Fiscal Disobedience: An Anthropology of Economic Regulation in Central Africa*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2005, pp.151-199.

Greenhouse, Carol (ed.). *Ethnographies of Neoliberalism*. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2010.

Week 11 March 24: problematizing politics ...

Ferguson, James. "Global Shadows: Africa and the World." In *Global Shadows: Africa in the Neoliberal World Order*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2006, pp.1-25.

Spencer, Jonathan. "Locating the Political." In *Anthropology, Politics and the State*.

Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2007, pp. 19-47.

Fassin, Didier. "Compassion and Repression. The Moral Economy of Immigration Policies in France." *Cultural Anthropology*, 20 (3), 362-387.

Suggested

Das, Veena & Deborah Poole (eds.). *Anthropology at the Margins of the State*, Santa Fe, NM: SAR Press, 2004.

Week 12 March 31: Bourdieu: negotiating agency and structure in practice

Bourdieu, Pierre. "*The social space and the genesis of groups*" "*Time Perspectives of the Kabyle*" *An Invitation to Reflexive Sociology*, excerpts.

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

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

Week 13 April 7: Embodiment

Mahmood, Saba 2005. *Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject* (2005)

Fassin, Didier. *When Bodies Remember: Experiences and Politics of AIDS in South Africa*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 2007.

Csordas, Thomas. "Embodiment as a Paradigm for Anthropology." *Ethos*, 1990, 18 (1): 5-47.

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy. "Delírio de Fome: The Madness of Hunger." In *Death Without Weeping. The Violence of Everyday Life in Brazil*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, pp. 128-166.

Further 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.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=flz6shD3g2s>

<http://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/works/fr/bourdieu.htm>

Sociology is a Martial Art:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_V_X52VQcA8

Week 14 April 14: writing and becoming

Deleuze, Gilles. "Preface to the French Edition;" "Literature and Life;" "Whitman." In *Essays Critical and Clinical*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 1997, pp.lv-lvi, 1-6, 56-60.

Cixous, Hélène. "Coming to Writing." In *Coming to Writing and Other Essays* edited by Deborah Jenson. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1991, pp. 1-58.

Rancière, Jacques. *The Emancipated Spectator*. London: Verso, 2009, pp.1-23.

Biehl, João and Peter Locke. "Deleuze and the Anthropology of Becoming." *Current Anthropology*, 2010, 51(3):317-351 (with comments and a reply).

Week 15 April 21: 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)

