

Fall 2010

Figures of the Political/Economy – Shades of Power

Anthropology 897-053 (Arturo Escobar)
Communication Studies 855 (Lawrence Grossberg)
Geography 804 (John Pickles)

Tuesday 2.00pm-5.00pm
Kenan Labs 125



This class will explore the four major “figures”/theories of power and politics in contemporary social and cultural theory. It seeks to explore the relations among them, the harmonies, fissures and contradictions. For each figure, we will read and discuss founding works as well as more contemporary elaboration. The final part of the class will read a number of recent analyses that, in different ways, attempt to work with and between multiple figures. Due to room size, enrolled students only.

Readings (to be updated during the semester)

1. 8/24 Introduction. A map of social theory and power—the class as platform building
Perry Anderson, Considerations on Western Marxism

Watch before class: David Harvey: Reading Marx's Capital – Class 1: Introduction
<http://davidharvey.org/2008/06/marxs-capital-class-01/>
Class 2: Chapters 1-2: <http://davidharvey.org/2008/06/marxs-capital-class-02/>

Hegemony

2. 8/31 Reinventing Gramsci
 - Laclau and Mouffe, *Hegemony and Socialist Strategy* (not ch. 4)
 - Laclau, selections from *Emancipations*, chs. 2 and 3.
 - Bob Jessop Gramsci as a Spatial Theorist *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*, 1743-8772, Volume 8, Issue 4, 2005, Pages 421 – 437
 - Wolfgang Natter (1995) Radical democracy: hegemony, reason, time and space. *Environment and Planning D* 1995 13 267 – 274
 - Watch in class -- YouTube.com -- RSA animates Crises of Capitalism.
'Harvey on the economic crisis' http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOP2V_np2c0
3. 9/7 Hegemony in Cultural Studies
 - Raymond Williams, “Base and superstructure in Marxist theory” in *Problems in materialism and culture*
 - Raymond Williams, “Cultural Theory” in *Marxism and Literature*
 - Stuart Hall, *The Hard Road to Renewal: Introduction*, chs 1, 2, 8-10, 19

- Stuart Hall, "Gramsci's relevance for the study of race and ethnicity." In Morley and Chen, eds. *Stuart Hall: Critical Dialogues in Cultural Studies*.
- Solomos, Findlay, Jones and Gilroy, "The organic crisis of British capitalism and race" in *The Empire Strikes Back*.

4. 9/14 Explorations of hegemony

- Eunice Sahle, *World Orders, Development and Transformation*. Ch 1,2 (pp.1-25), 2010
- Jean and John Comaroff, *Of Revelation and Revolution*, Introduction (pp. 1-48)
- Boaventura de Sousa Santos, *The Rise of the Global Left*, Ch 1-2 (pp. 10-34), 2006.
- Ruccio, David. 2006. "Unfinished Business: Gramsci's Prison Notebooks". *Rethinking Marxism*, 18 (1), pp. 1-7.
- David Ruccio. 2009. Rethinking Gramsci: Class, Globalization, And Historical Bloc'. *Perspectives on Gramsci: Politics, culture and social theory*. Edited by Joseph Francese. New York: Routledge

Marxism and Poststructuralisms

5. 9/21 Poststructuralism meets Marx

- Derrida, *Spectres of Marx*

6. 9/28 Althusserian engagements

- E. Ann Kaplan and Michael Sprinker. *The Althusserian Legacy*. London: Verso.
- essays by Balibar, Callinicos, Montag, Resnick and Wolff, Lipietz
- Gibson-Graham, *The end of capitalism (as we know it)*. New York: Guilford Press, ch. 2
- Gibson-Graham, Resnick and Wolff, "Class in a poststructuralist frame." in *Class and its Others*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Power and Biopolitics

7. 10/5 Foucault on Power

- Michel Foucault, *History of Sexuality, vol. 1*
- Michel Foucault, What is Enlightenment?
<http://foucault.info/documents/whatIsEnlightenment/foucault.whatIsEnlightenment.en.html>
- Michel Foucault. *Power/Knowledge*.
"Truth and power,"
"Power and strategies,"
"The eye of power"
- Michel Foucault. "Power and norm: Notes" in *Power, Truth, Strategy*
- Michel Foucault. "The subject and power" in *Power (Essential Works, 3)*
- Michel Foucault. "The discourse on power" in *Remarks on Marx*

8. 10/12 Foucault on Biopower

- Michel Foucault. Society must be defended, lecture. 1-3,11.
- Michel Foucault. Security, Territory, Population, lectures 1-5
- Michel Foucault. Birth of Biopolitics, lectures 1-3
- Michel Foucault. Government of Self and Others. Lectures 1 and 2.

Other possible readings:

- Paul Rabinow and Nikolas Rose, "Biopower today," *BioSocieties* (2006)
- Maurizio Lazzarato, "From biopower to biopolitics"

Toward Autonomous and Ontological Power

9. 10/19 Deleuze and Guattari

- Deleuze, *Foucault*, 23-93.
"Many politics" in *Dialogues*

- “Control and Becoming”
 - “Postscript on Control Societies” in *Negotiations*
 - Deleuze and Guattari, *Anti-Oedipus*:
 - “The civilized capitalist machine”
 - “Capitalist representation”
 - Deleuze and Guattari, *A Thousand Plateaus*:
 - ch. 1 “Rhizome”
 - ch.12 “Treatise on Nomadology”
 - ch.13 “Apparatus of Capture”
 - Guattari, “Molecular revolutions” and “Desire is power” in *Soft Subversions*
10. 10/26 Autonomous (Workerist) Marxism (Operaismo)
- Lotringer and Marazzi, *Autonomia: Post-political politics*. pp. 8-216.
11. 11/2 *Empire*
- Negri, *Empire and Beyond*
12. 11/9 Autonomy and Social Movements
- Raúl Zibechi, *Dispersing Power*, 2010
 - Gustavo Esteva, “Tepito: No Thanks m First World,” *In Context* Fall/Winter 1991, pp. 38-43.
 - Gustavo Esteva, “Celebration of Zapatismo,” *Humboldt Journal of Social relations* 29(1): 127-167
 - Gustavo Esteva, “The ‘Other Campaign’ and the Left: Reclaiming an Alternative,” unpublished ms, 2006.
 - Colectivo Situaciones on militant research and the current impasse, <http://www.lab.org.uk/index.php/cultures/518-colectivo-situaciones>
 - David Graeber, “The New Anarchists,” *New left Review* 13, 2002. <http://www.newleftreview.org/A2368>
 - Turbulence Collective, “Move into the Light?,” In Turbulence Collective, *What would it Mean to Win?* Oakland: PM Press, pp. 121-132, 2010.
 - Arturo Escobar and Michal Osterweil, “Social movement and the politics of the virtual: Deleuzian Strategies.” In Casper Bruun Jensen and Kjetil Rødje, eds. *Deleuzian Intersections in Science, Technology, and Anthropology*. Pp. 187-218. Oxford: Berghahn, 2010.
13. 11/16 From Autonomous to Ontological Politics
- Mario Blaser, Marisol de la Cadena, Arturo Escobar, “Politics from the Pluriverse,” 2010
 - Elizabeth Povinelli, “Radical Worlds” *American Review of Anthropology* 2001. 30: 319-34.
 - Mario Blaser, *Storytelling Globalization. From the Chaco and Beyond*. Preface, Introduction (in press)
 - Isabelle Stengers, “The Cosmopolitical Proposal.” In *Making Things Public*. B. Latour and P. Weibel, eds., pp. 994-1003, 200?
 - Marisol de la Cadena, “Indigenous Cosmopolitics in the Andes: Conceptual Reflections Beyond Politics’.” *Cultural Anthropology* 25(2): 334-370, 2010.
 - John Law, “Fishy Parables,” 2010 (pending permission).

Conclusions?

11/23 Open— tba

14. 11/30 The ethics/politics of reading power

15. 12/7 continued