

Ethnic Studies 257A
Social Theory

Fall Quarter, 2004-2005

Tuesdays 2:00-4:50
Social Sciences Building 103
Office hours:

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Mondays, 1:00-2:30 (Social Sciences 231)

Thursdays, 1:30-3:00 in CILAS (Gildred Hall, Inst. of Americas Complex, below RIMAC)

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

*Latour, Bruno. 1993[1991]. *We Have Never Been Modern*. Catherine Porter, trans. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, chap. 1-2. [on electronic reserves, available through Geisel Library Reserves]

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:

*John Locke (1959[1690]). *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*. New York: Dover. Book III, Chap. IX-XI; Book IV, Chap. V, XXI

*John Locke (1960[1690]). *Two Treatises of Government*. New York: New American Library. pp. 169-73, 307-61, 374-99

Pateman, Carole, *The Sexual Contract*

Recommended:

*Hobbes, Thomas (1968[1651]). *The Leviathan*, edited by C. B. MacPherson.

Harmondsworth, Middlesex: Penguin. Pp. 81-168, 183-217. Recommended: 311-408.

Aubrey, John. 1972. *Three prose works*, edited by John Buchanan-Brown. Carbondale: Southern Illinois Press.

Poovey, Mary (1998). *A History of the Modern Fact: Problems of Knowledge in the Sciences of Wealth and Society*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

19 October: Paper proposal (one-page) due

Week 4 October 19

Romantic Nationalism, the Other, and the Naturalization of Inequality

Readings:

- Herder, Johann Gottfried (1969). *Herder on Social and Political Culture*, ed. by F. M. Barnard. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp. 296-301, 314-26
- Herder, Johann Gottfried (1966[1787]). *Essay on the Origin of Language*. In *On the Origin of Language: Jean Jacques Rousseau, Essay on the Origin of Languages and Johann Gottfried Herder, Essay on the Origin of Language*, tr. John H. Moran and Alexander Gode. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, pp. 85-99.
- Grimm, Jacob, and Wilhelm Grimm. (1987[1819]). Preface to the Second Edition of *Die Kinder- und Hausmärchen*. In *The Hard Facts of the Grimms' Fairy Tales*, ed. by Maria Tatar, 215-222. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Anderson, Benedict. (1991[1983]). *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. London: Verso, chap. 1, 3, 5, 10 (rest strongly recommended)
- Chakrabarty, chap. 3-4

Recommended:

- Rousseau, Jean-Jacques (1950[1755]). *A Discourse on the Origin of Inequality*, In *The Social Contract and Discourses*, trans by G. D. H. Cole. New York: E. P. Dutton, pp. 196-244

Week 5 to be rescheduled

Quantifying Subjects, Investigating the Subaltern

Readings:

- *Condorcet, Antoine-Nicolas de (1955[1795]). *Sketch for a Historical Picture of the Progress of the Human Mind*. June Barraclough, trans. New York: Noonday Press, pp. 163-202.
- *Malthus, Thomas Robert (1960[1798]). *An Essay on the Principle of Population*. In *An Essay on the Principle of Population and A Summary View of the Principle of Population*, Antony Flew, ed. Harmondsworth, Middlesex: Penguin, pp. 61-62, 67-85, 93-103, 125-145, 162-167, 200-217 (on e-reserve; a few copies available in Groundworks)
- 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:

- Bowker, Geoffrey C., and Susan Leigh Star. (1999). *Sorting Things Out: Classification and Its Consequences*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Latour, Bruno (1988). *The Pasteurization of France*. Translated by Alan Sheridan and John Law. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.
- Porter, Theodore (1995). *Trust in Numbers: The Pursuit of Objectivity in Science and Public Life*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press.

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*

*Weber, Max (1968). *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology*, edited by Guenther Roth and Claus Wittich. New York: Bedminister Press, pp. 87-157.

Week 9 23 November

Psychoanalysis: Mind, Memory, Modernity, and Imagination

Readings:

Freud, *The Interpretation of Dreams*, 167-195, 311-385, 547-660

*Lacan, Jacques, *Écrits: A Selection*, pp. 179-225.

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*. Gloucester, MA: Peter Smith, pp. 3-44 (note that this reading is also quite relevant to the reading on Karl Marx in Week 6).

*Boas, Franz (1965 [1911]). *The Mind of Primitive Man*. New York: Free Press, pp. 137-148, 180-225.

*Balibar, Etienne (1991). Is There a “Neo-Racism”? In Etienne Balibar and Immanuel Wallerstein, *Race, Nation, Class: Ambiguous Identities*. London: Verso, pp. 17-28.

Recommended:

Benedict, Ruth (1934). *Patterns of Culture*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, esp. pp. 1-44.

Carroll, John B., ed. (1956). *Language, Thought, and Reality: Selected Writings of Benjamin Lee Whorf*. Cambridge, MA: M.I.T. Press, esp. pp. 207-219.

Stocking, George W., Jr. (1968). *Race, Culture, and Evolution: Essays in the History of Anthropology*. New York: Free Press.

3 December: Final Paper due