

Department of Sociology & Anthropology, BGU

Course: Expressive Culture

Level and status: 4 credit points M.A. elective seminar.

Prior requirements: None

Lecturer: Dr. Esmail Nashif

Taught: 2009/10

Course description:

The aim of this course is to revisit the interfaces between the socio-material production processes and the generation of meaning process. We will approach these interfaces by locating the theoretical and the empirical positionalities of the expressive culture in different western intellectual traditions, though our main focus will be on Marxism and phenomenology. Anthropology will be the site of testing these intellectual traditions for it has been a laboratory of a kind, in which the expressive material culture has been explored by the different anthropological traditions.

Course requirements: students are required to be present in class meetings, read, prepare the material and actively participate in the discussions (10% of grade), home exam by the end of the first semester (30%), presenting a research proposal, submit the final written paper on time.

Grade: final written paper (60%).

Course Schedule and the reading list:

First Semester:

1- Introduction:

2- The question of matter:

Marx, K., 1993 [1939]. *Grundrisse: Foundations of the critique of political economy (rough draft)*. London: Penguin, pp. 81-111.

3- The question of expression:

Lefebvre, H., 2005, *Marxism*. Tel-Aviv: Resling, pp. 62-116.

4- The turn of Luckacs:

Lukacs, G., 1997 [1922]. *History and Class Consciousness: Studies in Marxist dialectics*. Cambridge, M.A.: The MIT Press, pp. 83-110.

5- Frankfurt again:

Horkheimer, M., & Adorno, W. T., 1998 [1944]. *Dialectic of Enlightenment*. N.Y.: Continuum, pp. 120-167.

6- Field trip to a factory.

7- The matter and the sign:

Volosinov, V.N., 1973. *Marxism and the Philosophy of Language*. Cambridge, M.A.: Harvard University Press, pp. 9-41.

8- The first possible critique:

Baudrillard, J., 2005. *Simulacra and Simulation*. Tel-Aviv: Hakibbutz Hamiohad, pp. 7-46.

9- Example: Music.

Attali, J., 1985. *Noise: The political economy of music*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, pp. 3-20.

10- The second possible critique:

Zizek, S., 1989. *The Sublime Object of Ideology*. London: Verso, pp. 11-53.

11- Example: Space, buildings, and paintings.

Jameson, F., 2002. *Postmodernism or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism*. Tel-Aviv: Resling, pp. 15-75.

12- Mid-way summary: Visiting the Mall, or tracing the spectacle?

Debord, G., 2001. *Society of the Spectacle*. Tel-Aviv: Babel, theses 1-53.

Second semester:

1- Anthropological foundation I:

Malinowski, B., 2004. *Sex and Repression in Savage Society*. Tel-Aviv: Resling, pp. 109-159.

2- Anthropological foundations II:

Mauss, M., 2005. *The Gift: The form and reason for exchange in archaic societies*. Tel-Aviv: Resling, pp.33-90.

3- Anthropological foundations III:

Levi-Strauss, C., 1992 [1964]. *The Raw and the Cooked: Introduction to a science of mythology*. London: Penguin, pp. 35-65.

4- Contemporary anthropology of the matter I:

Kondo, K. D., 1990. *Crafting Selves: Power, gender, and discourses of identity in a Japanese workplace*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, pp. 49-115.

5- Contemporary anthropology of the matter II:

Nashif, E., 2008. *Palestinian Political Prisoners: Identity and community*. London: Routledge, pp. 38-71.

6- A trip: Observing the material, or who is Tel-Aviv?

Wagner, N. 2006. Balconies, cats and antennas too. In A.

Hailbruner, and M. Levin (eds.) *The Israeli City: The Hebrew City?*

Tel-Aviv: Resling, pp. 141-158.

Yaqubi-Wollak, K., 2006. Double Exposure – A Tel-Avivian Roof.

In A. Hailbruner, and M. Levin (eds.) *The Israeli City: The Hebrew*

City? Tel-Aviv: Resling, pp. 159-166.

7- Presentations of students' research projects.

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10- The material as a socio historical action:

Richardson, M., 2003. Being-in-the-Market Versus Being-in-the-Plaza: Material culture and the construction of social reality in Spanish America. In S. M. Low & D. Lawrence-Zuniga (eds.) *The Anthropology of Space and Place: Locating culture*. London: Blackwell, pp. 74-91.

11- Conclusion.