

Department of Sociology & Anthropology, BGU

Course: Foundations of Critical Sociology

Level and status: 4 credit points M.A. obligatory seminar (for the track Critical Social Studies; elective for others)

Prior requirements: None

Lecturer: Prof Uri Ram

Taught: 2009/10, 2010/11

Course description:

This seminar deals with the foundations of critical sociology and the main ideas and concepts of critical social thinkers, from the Enlightenment period until the post-modern era. The seminar focuses on the development of critical thought in the German speaking academia. The learning is based on reading of primary texts and their analysis and interpretation in class meetings. The main topic it addresses is the tension between rationalization and emancipation in modernity. We start with Plato as a point of reference and move from there to Kant, Hegel, Marx, Weber, Lukacs, Freud, Horkheimer, Adorno, Benjamin, Marcuse, Habermas and Honneth.

Course requirements: students are required to be present in class meetings, read and prepare the material and the assignments (10% of grade), offer class presentations (10%), present paper proposal and submit on time the final written work.

Grade: final written work (80% of grade)

Course schedule and reading list:

Fall Semester:

Plato – the "cave metaphor" from The Republic.

Kant, Emmanuel. Selections from Foundation for Future Metaphysics; What is Enlightenment; Ideas for a Universal History from a Cosmopolitan Point of View.

Hegel, G. F. Selections from Introduction to the History of Philosophy; "Master and Slave" chapter, from The Phenomenology; from the Philosophy of History;

Marx K. and Engels F. "Alienated Labor" from Economic & Philosophical Manuscripts; chapter "the fetishism of commodities" from The Capital; The Communist Manifesto.

Lukacs, George. History and Class Consciousness: Studies in Marxist Dialectics (selections).

Weber, Max. On rationalization, selections from *Economy and Society*; selections from *The Protestant Ethics and the Spirit of Capitalism*.

Spring Semester:

Freud, Zygmunt. *Civilization and its Discontents*.

Benjamin, Walter. "On the Concept of History".

Horkheimer, Max. "Traditional Theory and Critical Theory".

Horkheimer, Max and Adorno Theodor. *Selections from the Dialectics of Enlightenment*.

Horkheimer, Max and Adorno Theodor. *Selections from "Culture Industry"*.

Marcuse, Herbert. *Selections from One Dimensional Man*; from *Eros and Civilization*

Habermas, Jurgen. *Selections from Theory and Praxis*; from *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere*.

Honneth, Axel. *Selections from The Struggle for Recognition*.

Additional readings:

Abromeit, John, W. Mark Cobb. 2003. *Herbert Marcuse: A Critical Reader*. Routledge.

Adorno, Theodor. 1990. *Negative Dialectics*. Routledge.

Ameriks, Karl. 2000. *The Cambridge Companion to German Idealism*. Cambridge UP.

Arato, Andrew and Eike Gabhardt. 1982. *The Essential Frankfurt School Reader*. Continuum.

Aschroeder, William R. 2005. *Continental Philosophy: A Critical Approach*. Blackwell.

Bidet, Jacques and Stathis Kouvelakis. 2009. *Critical Companion to Contemporary Marxism* (Historical Materialism Book Series). Haymarket Books.

Bowie, Andrew. 2003. *Introduction to German Philosophy*. Polity Press.

Burrow, J.W. 2000. *The Crisis of Reason: European Thought 1848-1914*. Yale University Press.

Craig, Edward. 2005. *The Shorter Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. Routledge.

Critchly, Simon & William R. Schroeder eds. 1998. *A Companion to Continental Philosophy*. Blackwell.

Delacampagne Christian and Malcolm B. DeBevoise. 2001. *A History of Philosophy in the Twentieth Century*. Johns Hopkins University Press.

Delanty, Gerard. 2006. *The Handbook of Contemporary European Social Theory*. Routledge.

Habermas, Jurgen. 1971. *Knowledge and Human Interest*. Beacon Press.

Habermas, Jurgen. 1973. *Legitimation Crisis*. Beacon Press.

Habermas, Jurgen. 1973. *Theory and Practice*. Beacon Press.

Habermas, Jurgen. 1979. *Communication and the Evolution of Society*. Beacon Press.

- Habermas, Jurgen. 1984 & 1987. *The Theory of Communicative Action*. Vol I & II. Beacon Press.
- Habermas, Jurgen. 1990. *The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity: Twelve Lectures*. MIT Press.
- Habermas, Jurgen. 1991. *On the Logic of the Social Sciences*. MIT Press.
- Habermas, Jurgen. 1994. *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere*. MIT Press.
- Habermas, Jurgen. 2000. *The Inclusion of the Other*. MIT Press.
- Habermas, Jurgen. 2006. *The Divided West*. Polity Press.
- Harvey, David. 2010. *A Companion to Marx's Capital*. Verso.
- Held, David. 1980. *Introduction to Critical Theory: Horkheimer to Habermas*. University of California Press.
- Honneth, Axel. 2009. *Pathologies of Reason: On the Legacy of Critical Theory*. Columbia University Press
- Honneth, Axel. *The Critique of Power: Reflective Stages in a Critical Social Theory*.
- Honneth, Axel. *The Struggle for Recognition: The Moral Grammar of Social Conflicts*. MIT Press.
- Hunn, Tom. 2004. *The Cambridge Companion to Adorno*. Cambridge University Press.
- Iggers, Georg. 1968. *The German Conception of History*. Wesleyan University Press.
- Jarvis, Simon. 1998. *Adorno: A Critical Introduction*. Routledge.
- Jay, Martin. 1973. *The Dialectical Imagination: A History of Frankfurt School..* Little, Brown.
- Kellner, Douglas. 1989. *Critical Theory, Marxism, and Modernity*. Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Kolakowski, Leszek. 2008. *Main Currents of Marxism: The Founders - The Golden Age - The Breakdown*. W. W. Norton & Company.
- Levine, Donald N. C. 1995. *Visions of the Sociological Tradition*. The University of Chicago Press.
- Lieberson, Henry. 1988. *Fate and Utopia in German Sociology 1970-1923*. MIT Press.
- Lukacs, Georg. 1971. "History and Class Consciousness." Pp. 46-82 in *History and Class Consciousness*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press
- Marcuse, Herbert. 1968. *Negations*. Penguin.
- Marcuse, Herbert. 1972. *Studies in Critical Philosophy*. Beacon
- Marx, Karl. 1993. *Grundrisse: Foundations of the Critique of Political Economy*. Penguin Classics.
- McLellan, David. 2007. *Marxism after Marx* (4th Edition). Palgrave Macmillan.
- Meja, Volker, Dieter Misgeld, Nico Stehr eds. 1990. *Modern German Sociology*, Columbia University Press.
- Nedelmann Birgitta and Piotr Sztompka. 1993. *Sociology in Europe: In Search of Identity*. Walter De Gruyter
- O'Connor, Brian. 2000. *The Adorno Reader*. Wiley-Blackwell.
- Outhwaite, William. 1994. *Habermas: A Critical Introduction*. Polity Press.
- Pinkard, Terry. 2002. *German Philosophy 1760-1860: The Legacy of Idealism*. Cambridge University Press.
- Popkin, Richard ed. 1999. *The Columbia History of Western Philosophy*. New York: MJF Books.
- Sinnerbrink, Robert. 2007. *Understanding Hegelianism*. Acumen.

Solomon, Robert C. and Kathleen M. Higgins. 2003. *The Age of German Idealism: Routledge History of Philosophy*. Volume 6.
Taylor, Charles. 1979. *Hegel and Modern Society*. Cambridge University Press.
Taylor, Charles. 2008. *Hegel*. Cambridge University Press.