

Junior Seminar II
Social Thought and Political Economy 392H
Tu/Th 11:15-12:30, Herter Hall 112
Fall 2008

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Office Hours: M 10-12 or by appointment
Herter Hall 19, Translation Center

This seminar is the second in the year long STEPC Junior Seminar sequence. Junior II focuses on major currents of political, social, and economic theories and its applications (i.e. Marx vs. Marxism, Keynes vs. Protectionism, the Chicago School of Economics vs. Neoliberalism, Communism vs. Socialism vs. Anarchism, etc), their implications and influences, cultural reactions and specificities, and the historical circumstances that gave rise to the theories and consequent movements of the 20th century (i.e. the Mexican Revolution, the Russian Revolution, fascism, anti-colonial and neo-colonial wars, etc). In Junior I you studied major driving forces behind the production of modernity as a Western *episteme* (the way we structure and decode the world). Junior II will pay particular attention to the complex ways in which the political, social, and cultural practices and philosophies of the 20th century relate to the contradictions and pitfalls of modernity.

As this is an interdisciplinary class, we will be bringing tools from various disciplines (i.e. economy, sociology, anthropology, political science, history, cultural studies, and literature), always paying special attention to the construction and reception of ideas in specific contexts, as well as to the relation of ideas and events with diverse populations, differentiated by class, race, gender, religion, geopolitics, and local politics allegiance. The objectives of this course are to prepare students:

1. To read primary texts while fostering a broad critical understanding of historical grounded texts and their persistence in contemporary case studies;
2. To know the main authors, intellectual and cultural lineages, and the relation of theory to historical contexts as both causal and consequential;
3. To relate learned abstract concepts to governmental policies, and their reformulations in resistant social actions;
4. To develop an awareness of key social theories and movements, and critically identify them in your personal experiences, memories, epistemologies, politics;
5. And to incorporate reflection and research on these topics to your independent learning.

The European tradition of social thought and political economy can be traced to early modern times although it has influenced later modern formations from the emergence of nations to the development of human rights to the rethinking of the world in our days, and makes one question if we can have a different theoretical framework to conceive the world and future political constructions. Concepts such as the individual, natural rights, civil rights, democracy, the state, the nation, are all rooted indistinctly within the incipience and development of liberal economies, capitalism, and globalization ranging from slavery to the launching of the press, both global trades. Therefore, our contemporary political structures are

intimately related to our economic configurations and in our contemporary global economy, the imagining of a government outside of the scaffold of a liberal bourgeois democracy is a significant challenge.

The readings in this course will provide an important background to understand our societies today and will empower students with enough critical tools to break down thought as it was rooted in historical contexts and their implications in society today, hoping to enable students to contest Eurocentric theories while learning (sub) alternative models.

I expect a lot from you and you should expect a lot from yourselves. This course is an advanced university course; it requires much reading, but mainly thinking and analysis. The reading of the material is necessary for any real discussion. Discussions are necessary for any real significant learning. Each class student must write a journal entry with the major concepts learned from the readings as well as the main argument of the required reading. Concepts in some texts will overlap, and the student must build up the terminology with their nuances as the class advances. In addition, you should include reflections on your historical, conceptual, and autobiographical ideas. This journal will serve as a terminology database, and it will help you understand how concepts change with time, and how previous arguments enable the formation of new ones. Furthermore, this journal will enrich your reading of any text. These journal entries must be printed and brought to class to write notes on them while hearing other student's reading and ideas on these texts.

Each student will serve as a co-facilitator-instructor of a class. Another will be the note taker of the class, to then post the notes on the course website. Our goal is to build a learning community where students work as learners and teachers, where theory is accessible, expandable, and practical for the students' own aspirations for social change and praxis. For this reason, you will have learning-partners to share your ideas and journals and peer edit your work. You will also write a 10 page final research assignment, and a great importance will be given to the process of writing: picking a topic, having a clear hypothesis, exposing a thesis statement, come with clear and working arguments, develop an outline and an annotated bibliography, write a paper draft and deliver a final version. Remember that I care much more about your learning than about your publication potential!!! So, just do your best and find an engaging topic that works for you, one that is comparative in nature and relevant for issues today. For research guidelines visit <http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/EngPaper/> and remember that plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Please visit the **UMASS Amherst Plagiarism Policy** at www.writingprogram.hfa.umass.edu/student_resources/plagiarism_policy.asp and be aware that you will get an "F" for the class if plagiarism occurs.

Attendance will affect your participation. I will accept only THREE (3) unexcused absences. Every absence after that will lower your final grade by a third of a letter. All excused absences MUST be accompanied by proper documentation (doctor's note, obituary, athletic department letters, etc).

I will not put rigid percentages on the assignments as people have different strengths and weaknesses, and I will measure your performance according to our goals and the learning that takes place in each student. I look forward to learning together and I hope you enjoy the class as much as I will!!!

STPEC Junior Seminar II
Reading and Assignments Schedule

Week 1

Tu. 9/2: Introduction

Th. 9/4: Present umbrella concepts. Recapitulate previous semester.

Smith, Andrea “Heteropatriarchy and the Three Pillars of White Supremacy: Rethinking Women of Color Organizing”. In *Color of Violence: The Incite! Anthology*.

Week 2

Tu. 9/9: 1848-1898: Empire and White Supremacy

Lao Montes. “The Reconfiguration of Empire: The Spanish-Cuban-American-Philippino War as a World Historical Event.” In *Revisiting the Colonial Question in Latin America*.

Th. 9/11: DuBois and Black Modernism

Du Bois. “Or Our Spiritual Strivings”; “Of the Dawn of Freedom”; “Of Mr. Booker T. Washington and Others”. In *The Souls of Black Folk*.

Week 3

Tu. 9/16: The Mexican Revolution

Wolf, Eric. “Mexico”. In *Peasant Wars of the Twentieth Century*.

Hodges, Donald. *Mexico: The End of the Revolution*.

Th. 9/18: Nation and Identity

Bartra, Roger. *The Cage of Melancholy: Identity and Metamorphoses in the Mexican Character*

Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origins and Spread of Nationalism*.

Chatterjee, Partha. “Whose Imagined Community?” *The Nation and Its Fragments*.

Week 4

Tu. 9/23: The Russian Revolution

Trotsky, Leon. “Dual Power” and “Conclusion”. In *The History of the Russian Revolution*.

Wolf, Eric. “Russia”. In *Peasant Wars of the Twentieth Century*.

Th. 9/25: Lenin and a Critique.

Luxemburg, Rosa. “The Nationalities Question”; “Fundamental Significance of the Russian Revolution”; and “Democracy and Dictatorship”. In *The Russian Revolution*.

Lenin, Vladimir. “An Urgent Political Question”, “What Can We Learn from the Resolution of the Third Congress of the R.S.D.L.P on a Provisional Revolutionary Government”, “What is a ‘Decisive Victory of a Revolution over Tsarism’?”, “The Abolition of the Monarchist System and the Republic”, and “‘Revolutionary Communes’ and the Revolutionary-Democratic Dictatorships of the Proletariat and the Peasantry”. In *Two Tactics of Social Democracy in the Democratic Revolution*.

Week 5 How to Choose a Topic (Instructor will hand in a list of topics)

Tu. 9/30: Surrealism and Revolution and a Critique of Europe.

Taminiaux, Pierre. "Breton and Trotsky: The Revolutionary Memory of Surrealism". In *Surrealism and its Others*.

Césaire, Aimé. *Notebook of a Return to the Native Land*.

Th. 10/2: Freud, Psychoanalysis, and a Bourgeois Thought.

Freud, Sigmund. *An Outline of Psychoanalysis*.

Ashis, Nandy. "The Savage Freud: The First Non-Western Psychoanalyst and the Politics of Secret Selves in Colonial India".

Week 6

Tu. 10/7: Pan Africanism and the Black Diaspora

James, C.L.R. *The History of Pan-African Revolt*. Pp. 102-150

Prashad. "Algiers". In *The Darker Nations*.

Th. 10/9: Indigenismo and Aprismo

Edwards McNicoll, Robert. "Intellectual Origins of Aprismo".

Mariategui, José Carlos. "The Problem of the Indian" and "The Problem of Land". In *Seven Interpretative Essays on Peruvian Reality*.

Week 7 Topic due in class

****Tuesday 10/14 – NO CLASS – Monday Schedule****

Th. 10/16: Gramsci, The Rise of Fascism and The Decay of the Communist Party.

Gramsci, Antonio. "On Intellectuals", "State and Civil Society", and "The Study of Philosophy". *Selection from the Prison Notebooks*.

Week 8 You will receive the instructor's feedback to your topics

Tu. 10/21: The Spanish Civil War and Anarchism

Bruckner, Noel. "The Good Fight: The Abraham Lincoln Brigade in The Spanish Civil War," 1984.

Peirats, Jose. "Repression and martyrs", "Spain in Flames", "The Tide of Revolution", "The Revolution in the Countryside", "From the Army of Africa to the Army of People", "The Last Bastion" *Anarchism and the Spanish Civil War*.

Graham, Helen. *The Spanish Civil War: A Very Short Introduction*. Ch. 2 and 3.

Th. 10/23: Nazism as a Case Study of Fascism

Riefenstahl, Leni. "The Triumph of the Will." 1935.

Mosse, George. *Nazi Culture: Intellectual, Cultural, and Social Life in the Third Reich*. Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press, 2003. Pages 1-38.

Week 9

Tu. 10/28: The Cold War and African Independence

Dangarembga, Tsitsi. "The Letter".

Okri, Ben. "A Prayer from The Living".

Fanon, Frantz. "The Pitfalls of National Consciousness". *The Wretched of the Earth*.

Th. 10/30: The Cuban Revolution

Césaire, Aimé. *Discourse on Colonialism*. Trans. by Pinkham, Joan. New York: Monthly Review Press, 2000. Pp. 31-78.

Raby. "Originality and Relevance of the Cuban Revolution". In *Democracy and Revolution: Latin America and Socialism Today*.

Week 10 Annotated bibliography due.

Tu. 11/4: Civil Rights, Malcolm X VS Martin Luther King JR.

Malcolm's "By Any Means Necessary".

Martin Luther King, "I Have a Dream".

Aronowitz, Stanley. "Toward Radicalism: The Death and Rebirth of the American Left".

Th. 11/6: AIM

Guerrero, Marie Anna Jaimes. "Civil Rights vs. Sovereignty: Native American Women in Life and Land Struggle".

Singh, Nikhil Pal. *Black is a Country*. TBA

Week 11

****Tuesday 11/11 – NO CLASS – Class is on Wednesday**

Wed. 11/12: The Feminist Movement

"The Combahee River Collective: A Black Feminist Statement."

Lorde, Audre. "The Master's Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master's House". In *Sister Outsider: Essays and Speeches*. Berkeley, CA: The Crossing Press, 1984. Pp. 110-114.

Mohanty. "Cartographies of Struggle: Third World Women and the Politics of Feminism".

Th. 11/13: The Vietnam War and the Antiwar Movement.

Ho Chi Minh, *Selected Writings 1920-1969*. Pp. 302-306.

Cluster, Dick. *They Should Have Served that Cup of Tea*. TBA

Week 12

Tu. 11/18: Prague and Paris, 68.

Zizek, "The Ambiguous Legacy of 68".

Foucault, Michel. "The Perverse Implantation" and "Method". In *The History of Sexuality*.

Th. 11/20: Deconstruction and Derrida

Derrida. "Sign, Structure, and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences." In *Jacques Derrida: Basic Writings*.

Week 13

Tu. 11/25th: Latin American Dictatorships, the Plan Condor.

Grandin "The Most Important Place in the World: Towards a New Imperialism". In *The Empire's Workshop*.

Prashad. "La Paz" in *The Darker Nations*

Documentary on the Plan Condor.

Week 14

Tu. 12/2: Reagan and Thatcher Free Trade and Neoliberalism

Harvey,

Raby, D.L.. "Democracy, Formal or Substantive: When Liberalism Becomes Counter-Revolutionary".

Th. 12/4: Social and Indigenous Movements

Bartra, Roger. "Tropical Kitsch in Blood and Ink".

Alvarez et al., "Introduction: The Social and the Political in Latin America". In *Cultures of Politics/Politics of Culture* "Re-visioning Latin American Social Movements".

Week 15

Tu. 12/9: The Bolivarian Revolution

Raby. "Hugo Chavez and the Bolivarian Revolution in Venezuela". In *Democracy and Revolution*.

Documentary, "The Bolivarian Revolution"

Th. 12/11: Visions of the Future from the New Left in Latin America

Raby, D.L.. "The Disinherited Left: From Dogmatic Orthodoxy to Romantic Anti-capitalism" and "The Way Forward: Democracy, Popular Power, and Revolution".

Required readings:

Alvarez, Sonia, Evelina Dagnino, and Arturo Escobar. Eds. "Introduction: The Social and the Political in Latin America". In *Cultures of Politics/Politics of Culture* "Re-visioning Latin American Social Movements". Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1998.

Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origins and Spread of Nationalism*. London and New York: Verso, 1996. Introduction. Pp. 1-12.

Aronowitz, Stanley. "Toward Radicalism: The Death and Rebirth of the American Left". In *Social Text*, Vol. 44, No. 3 (Autumn-Winter): 1995. Pp. 69-85.

- Ashis, Nandy. "Savage Freud: The First Non-Western Psychoanalyst and the Politics of Secret Selves in Colonial India". In *The Savage Freud and Other Essays on Possible and Retrievable Selves*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1995.
- Bartra, Roger. *The Cage of Melancholy: Identity and Metamorphoses in the Mexican Character*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers UP, 2002. Pp. 1-12; 17-21.
- . "Tropical Kitsch in Blood and Ink". In *Blood, Ink, and Culture: Miseries and Splendor of the Post-Mexican Condition*. Trans. Mark Alan Healey. Durham and London: Duke UP, 2002.
- Bruckner, Noel. "The Good Fight: The Abraham Lincoln Brigade in The Spanish Civil War," 1984.
- Césaire, Aimé. *Notebook of a Return to the Native Land*. Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press, 2001.
- . *Discourse on Colonialism*. Trans. by Joan Pinkham. New York: Monthly Review Press, 2000. Pp. 31-78.
- Chatterjee, Partha. *The Nation and Its Fragments*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1993.
- Cluster, Dick. *They Should Have Served that Cup of Tea*. New York: South End Press, 1999.
- "The Combahee River Collective: A Black Feminist Statement."
<http://www.feministezine.com/feminist/modern/Black-Feminist-Statement.html>
- Dangarembga, Tsitsi. "The Letter". *Women Writing Africa: The Southern Region*. New York: The Feminist Press at the City University of New York. Ed. By Daymond, M.J. et. al., 2005. Pp. 392-396.
- Derrida, Jacques. "Sign, Structure, and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences." In *The Structuralist Controversy: The Languages of Criticism and the Sciences of Man*. Eds. Richard Mackey and Eugenio Doneto. Baltimore and London: The John Hopkins University Press, 1999. Pp. 247-272.
- Du Bois, W.E.B. In *The Souls of Black Folk*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2007. <http://xroads.virginia.edu/~HYPER/DUBOIS/cover.html>
- Edwards McNicoll, Robert. "Intellectual Origins of Aprismo". *The Hispanic American Historical Review*, Vol. 23, No. 3 (Aug., 1943), pp. 424-440. Duke UP.
- Fanon, Frantz. "The Pitfalls of National Consciousness". *The Wretched of the Earth*. New York: Grove Press, 1965. Pp. 148-205.
- Foucault, Michel. *The History of Sexuality: An Introduction*. Pp. 36-49; 92-102.
- Freud, Sigmund. *An Outline of Psychoanalysis*. New York: Norton and Co., 1989. Part I and III.
- Graham, Helen. *The Spanish Civil War: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2005. Ch 2 and 3. pp. 21-67.
- Gramsci, Antonio. *Selection from the Prison Notebooks*. Trans. Quitnin Hoare New York: International Publishers, 1971.
- Grandin, Greg. "The Most Important Place in the World: Towards a New Imperialism". *The Empire's Workshop: Latin America, the United States and the Rise of the New Imperialism*. Pp. 52-86.

- Guerrero, Marie Anna Jaimes. "Civil Rights vs. Sovereignty: Native American Women in Life and Land Struggle". In *Feminist Genealogies, Colonial Legacies, Democratic Futures*. Eds. Jacqui Alexander and Chandra Mohanty. London: Routledge, 1996. Pp. 101-124.
- Ho Chi Minh. *Selected Writings 1920-1969*. Hanoi: Foreign Languages Publishing House, 1973.
- Hodges, Donald. *Mexico: The End of the Revolution*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group Inc., 2002. Pp. 127-150.
- James, C.L.R. *The History of Pan-African Revolt*. Chicago: Charles Kerr Publishing Co., 1995.
- Lao Montes, Agustin. "The Reconfiguration of Empire: The Spanish-Cuban-American-Philippino War as a World Historical Event." In *Revisiting the Colonial Question in Latin America*. Eds. Moraña, Mabel and Jáuregui, Carlos A. Frankfurt: Vervuert, 2008.
- Lenin, Vladimir. "Two Tactics of Social Democracy in the Democratic Revolution". Preface and Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4, 10. <http://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/1905/tactics/index.htm>
- Luxemburg, Rosa. *The Russian Revolution*.
<http://www.marxists.org/archive/luxemburg/1918/russian-revolution/index.htm>
- Malcolm X. "By Any Means Necessary". 1964. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WkTnUxLjO2E>
- Mariategui, José Carlos. *Seven Interpretative Essays on Peruvian Reality*. Trans. by Marjori Urquidi. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1971.
- Martin Luther King, "I Have a Dream". 1963. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PbUtL_0vAJk
- Mosse, George. *Nazi Culture: Intellectual, Cultural and Social Life in the Third Reich*. Trans. Salvator Attanasio. New York: Grosset and Dunlap, 1966. Pp. 1-38
- Okri, Ben. "A Prayer from The Living". *Under African Skies: Modern African Stories*. Larson, New York, 1993. Pp. 240-243.
- Peirats, Jose. *Anarchism and the Spanish Civil War*. London: Freedom Press, 1990. Ch. 2, 7, 10, 11, 12, 23, and 24.
- Prashad, Vijay. "La Paz" and "Algiers". In *The Darker Nations: A People's History of the Third World*. New York and London: The New Press, 2007.
- Raby, D.L. *Democracy and Revolution: Latin America and Socialism Today*. London: Pluto Press, 2006.
- Singh, Nikhil Pal. *Black is a Country: Race and the Unfinished Struggle for Democracy*. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 2005.
- Smith, Andrea "Heteropatriarchy and the Three Pillars of White Supremacy: Rethinking Women of Color Organizing". *Color of Violence: The Incite! Anthology*. Cambridge, MA: South End Press, 2006. Pp. 66-73.
- Taminiaux, Pierre. "Breton and Trotsky: The Revolutionary Memory of Surrealism". In *Surrealism and Its Others*. Yale French Studies, Number 109. Eds. Katherine Conley and Pierre Taminiaux. New Haven, CT: Yale UP, 2006.
- Trotsky, Leon. *The History of the Russian Revolution*. Vol. 1. <http://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/1930/hrr/>

Wolf, Eric. *Peasant Wars of the Twentieth Century*. Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 1999. Pp. 3-48; 51-99.

Zizek, Slavoj. "The Ambiguous Legacy of 68". <http://www.stwr.org/globalization/the-ambiguous-legacy-of-68.html>

Further reading

Denning, Michael. *The Cultural Front: The Laboring of American Culture in the Twentieth Century*. London, New York: Verso, 1996.

Du Bois, W.E.B. *Dusk of Dawn: An Essay toward an Autobiography of a Race Concept*.

Goldman, Emma. *Anarchism and Other Essays*. Port Washington NY: Kennikat Press, 1969.

Schorke, Carl. *Fin-De-Siecle Vienna: Politics and Culture*. New York : Vintage Books, 1981.

Stephens, Michelle. "Uprooted Bodies: Indigenous Subjects and Colonial Discourses in Atlantic American Studies". In *Imagining our Americas: Toward a Transnational a Transnational Frame (Radical Perspectives)*. Chapel Hill: Duke UP, 2007.