STPEC 391H
Social Thought & Political Economy (STPEC)
Fall 2015
Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:30 to 3:45 PM

Instructor: Graciela Monteagudo, PhD
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Email messages will be answered within 48 hours

Office Hours: Mondays 1:30 to 2:30 PM
Machmer Hall Room E-27C
Or email to set up Skype session

Course Overview and Structure

This seminar is the beginning of the yearlong STPEC Core Seminar sequence. Core Seminar 1, this course, focuses on major currents and applications of political, social, and economic theories and the context in which they rose. Through the reading and discussion of texts that were key to foundational Western thought as well as articulated critiques of these by postcolonial subjects, we will analyze the connection between cultural processes and power. Starting in the XVI Century, we will examine liberalism, historical materialism, anarchism, cultural studies, post-colonial theory, post structuralism, post modernism, and feminist-queer theoretical interventions. Throughout the course, our focus will be the understanding of how these theories relate to power constructions within societies and on a global scale, as we decode these texts as embodied manifestations of the cultural, economic, and class struggles of the time.

Attendance Policy

Because this class is based on our discussions attending every class is crucial. Make every possible effort to not skip classes as the theories we are analyzing build on each other. It would be hard to understand what comes next if you did not participate in the class discussions of the previous theories.

Excused Absences: If you are forced to miss all or part of a class period due to a known conflict, please email me in advance. If you are forced to miss a class due to an emergency (illness, family crisis, etc.), contact me as soon as possible.

Unexcused Absences: You are allowed 2 unexcused absences. More than 2 unexcused absences will result in the loss of a letter grade in the participation portion of your final grade.
Lateness: Arriving to class late is disruptive to the instructor and to other students, and puts you at a disadvantage during the class. Unless you have cleared it with me previously, each 2 classes you are late will count as an unexcused absence. Arriving to class more than 30 minutes late also counts as an absence.

Thanksgiving: Please plan to attend the Tuesday before Thanksgiving class.

Students with Disabilities

The University of Massachusetts Amherst is committed to providing an equal educational opportunity for all students. If you have a documented physical, psychological, or learning disability on file with Disability Services (DS), Learning Disabilities Support Services (LDSS), or Psychological Disabilities Services (PDS), please notify me within the first two weeks of the semester so that we may make appropriate arrangements: http://www.umass.edu/disability/procedures.pdf.

Class Dynamics

STPEC expect students to read before coming to class, and to engage in class discussions respectfully, thinking critically about your own perspective and maintaining openness to ideas and experiences that are in conflict with your own.

The content of this course will lead to a number of discussions about “hot topics” such as class, gender, and racial constructions. Students are expected to engage in these conversations sensitively and with openness to critique. If you feel you cannot speak in class, please talk with me privately after class and we will figure out strategies that might help.

Grading

Attendance and Participation 20%
MOODLE Responses/class presentations 30%
Midterm Paper 20%
Annotated Bibliography and abstract 5%
Oral Presentation 5%
Final paper 20%

A 94-100   A- 93-90   B+ 87-89   B 84-86   B- 80-83
C+ 77-79   C 74-76   C- 68-73   D+64-67   D 60-63   F below 60

Attendance and Participation (20%): This includes thoughtful comments and questions during class time to support discussion, contribution to small groups, and attendance. See above for attendance policy.
Four MOODLE Responses (30%): Students will write comments pertaining to their readings. Length should be one page (double spaced). When critiquing or appraising an argument, you are expected to use direct citations. Two of these responses can be, instead, presentations about the topic in a variety of formats (Powerpoints, spoken word, video, raps, etc.) due 9/24/15, 10/15/15, 11/5/15 and 11/24/15.

Midterm Paper (20%): The midterm paper is an analytical piece in which the student articulates his or her reaction to the readings assigned during the first part of the course. The student is expected to think about the different approaches of the authors, put them in conversation, and analyze them in context. At least three texts need to be analyzed in this way for this assessment. It should be 5-6 pages (double spaced, Times New Roman/Cambria font 12). Due 10/22/15.

Oral Presentation (5%): Student present their final paper to class. Students can use PowerPoints, show images, short videos, and sound. Presentations on 8/12/15 and 10/12/15.

Abstract, Annotated Bibliography (5%) and Final Paper (20%): The process for the final paper includes an abstract and an annotated bibliography, which must be presented two weeks before the final paper is due. Abstract and bibliography due 11/12/15. The paper itself should be 10-12 pages (double spaced, Times New Roman/Cambria font 12) and should demonstrate your ability to analyze texts, support your arguments with quotations from texts, and make broader connections with other materials of the course centered on a relevant theme of your choice. Later in the semester I will provide a rubric with more details. Final paper due 12/10/15.

Note on Lateness: Unless arrangements are made before the deadline, late papers will not be awarded credit.

Technology Policy

This class is inscribed within the Open Access model to education. No books have been assigned and all texts are posted online in Moodle. If you can annotate and underline texts online, you can bring your laptop to class for reference, but you cannot use the computer for any other task, except that of taking notes. Checking email, FB, twitter, etc., will amount to being absent from the class and will be graded accordingly. Attendance and participation amount to 30% of your overall grade.

Please turn your cell phone off during class.

Citations

Wikipedia can and should be used as a general reference. It is a great way to get acquainted with different authors and ideas, but it does not work as academic citation.
You can use the site but then you must check on the references and quote from the references read, not from the information supplied by Wikipedia.

When you cite an outside source, you must cite it in academically acceptable formats. This includes references to websites. Just the name of the author and the book is not sufficient, or mentioning that the text is online. If you do not know how to cite academically, you can consult the online guide by the American Anthropological Association, http://www.aaanet.org/pubs/style_guide.htm.

**Academic Honesty**

Please be aware that all of your submissions will be assessed by Turn-it-in for originality. DO NOT PLAGIARISE. That means no copy and pasting, and no paraphrasing. Any form of academic dishonesty (including but not limited to plagiarism from another student’s writing) will result in an automatic failure in this course, following UMass policies. In addition, UMass requests that instructors turn students to the University Academic Honesty Board for further academic discipline, a process that does not sound like fun for anybody involved.

Please read the Ombuds information here [http://www.umass.edu/ombuds/honesty.php/](http://www.umass.edu/ombuds/honesty.php/)

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**September 8**  -  Introductions and syllabus hand-out

**September 10**  -  Social Contract 1: Hobbes version
  [http://www.uwplatt.edu/~drefcins/254hobbess.html](http://www.uwplatt.edu/~drefcins/254hobbess.html) (selections Leviathan)

**Social Contract 2: Locke’s version**
  (selections Second treatise of Government)

**Social Contract 3: Rousseau’s version**
  [http://www.constitution.org/jjr/socon.htm](http://www.constitution.org/jjr/socon.htm)
  (selection of texts in Moodle)

**Recommended bibliography**


**September 15 – Enlightenment**
Immanuel Kant, “An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment?

Declaration of Independence
[http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration_transcript.html](http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration_transcript.html)

Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen
[http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/rightsof.asp](http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/rightsof.asp)

Early “feminist” critique of the Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen
Olympe de Gouge
[http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/d/293/](http://chnm.gmu.edu/revolution/d/293/)

**September 17 – Anarchism and the Social Contract**
Proudhon, Pierre-Joseph. 1863. The principle of federation and the need to reconstitute the party of revolution.

**September 22– Enlightenment as Eurocentrism**

**September 24 - – Original Accumulation of Capital**

**Video:** [http://critical-theory.com/marx-reloaded/](http://critical-theory.com/marx-reloaded/)

**Recommended bibliography**


http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1845/theses/theses.htm

******************************************FIRST MOODLE RESPONSE DUE TODAY******************************************

September 29 – The Paris Commune and the Dictatorship of the Proletariat


Recommended bibliography

October 1 - The Communist Manifesto

http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/index.htm

Video: Karl Marx and Marxian Economics: Masters of Money—Three Economists Who Changed the World (Umass silklibrary) in class

October 6 - Ideology

Recommended bibliography

October 8 – Vanguardism
Lenin, Vladimir. What is to be Done?  
http://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/download/what-itd.pdf (in Moodle)

Selection:
2. The spontaneity of the Masses and the Consciousness of the Social-Democrats, Pp. 16-25
3.5 The Working Class as Vanguard Fighter for Democracy, Pp. 47-58
4.3 Organization of Workers and Organization of Revolutionaries, Pp. 70-81
4.4 The Scope of Organizational Work, Pp. 81-85
5.3 What type of Organization do we require? Pp. 110-115

Film: October: The Ten Days that Shook the World (in class)
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k62eaN9-TLY&list=PLtjxTWjrtDJ_lyRdkh32pe-WFoPRm9xT

October 13 – No class, Monday Schedule

October 15 – History of the Russian Revolution


Recommended Readings
For a Leftist Critique of the Soviet Revolution
For an Anarchist critique
http://www.infoshop.org/AnarchistFAQAppendix4 (also in Moodle)

******************************SECOND MOODLE RESPONSE DUE TODAY******************************

October 20 – The Spanish Civil War
Selection: Chapter Five and Chapter Ten (in Moodle)
October 22 - Hegemony

And

Glossary of Terms, Hegemony, Pp. 422-424.

Recommended bibliography

**************************************************************************MIDTERM DUE TODAY**************************************************************************

October 27 – Double Consciousness

October 29 – The colonial subject talks back

November 3 - National Liberation Struggles
Selection: Concerning violence, Pp. 35-94

And


November 5 – Cuban Revolution
Film: Che, Part 1, 2008, 134 mins

**Recommended bibliography**


Farber, Samuel. The Future of the Cuban Revolution.

Primary documents: http://www.latinamericanstudies.org/cuban-revolution.htm

***********************THIRD MOODLE RESPONSE DUE TODAY***********************

**November 10 — Formation of Race, Gender, and Class in the US – Part 1**


**November 12 — Formation of Race, Gender, and Class in the US – Part 2**


***********************ABSTRACT AND ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE***************

**November 17 - Civil Rights Movement in the US**


Selection: The Origin of the Trouble, Pp. 53-76
The Boycott Begins, Pp. 77-90

**November 19 - Not so Peaceful Struggles for Civil Rights: Malcolm X**


Selections: Whatever is necessary to defend ourselves, Pp. 83-90
There is a worldwide revolution going on, Pp. 111-149
Film: Malcolm X, 1992, 202 mins (in class)

Audio Clip: Message to the grassroots

November 24 – Library – Class on research.

November 26 – Thanksgiving – No class. Enjoy the turkey and learn about the true history of Thanksgiving!

December 1 – Self-Defense: The Black Panthers


Selections: TBA

December 3 - Black Feminism

Audre Lorde. "I Am Your Sister: Black Women Organizing Across Sexualities" (Selections)

December 8 - Student Presentations

December 10 - Student Presentations

Bibliography


Lenin, Vladimir. 1901. What is to be Done? http://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/download/what-itd.pdf


