



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Critical Theories of Culture - 54354

Last update 19-07-2018

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Cultural Studies-Individual Graduate Prog.

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Carola Hilfrich

Coordinator Email: carola.hilfrich@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Mondays

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Carola Hilfrich

Course/Module description:

In this seminar, we study critical theories of culture, focusing on traditional approaches to the cultural genetics of power through notions of domination/resistance and authenticity/commodification, and more recent approaches claiming a more complex texture of innovation, creativity, and restructured power relations. We question the role of theory and criticism in contemporary understandings of culture, examine tensions between the theory and practice of culture, and consider how cultural theory impacts methodologies of cultural research.

Course/Module aims:

Enable students to apply critical thought to cultural analysis

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- *Combine various paradigms of critical thought*
- *Critically analyze specific cultural practices, objects, or institutions*
- *Discuss possibilities and limitations of cultural theory*
- *Adapt theoretical concepts to specific situations or locations of culture*
- *Question the relations of cultural theory and praxis/practice*

Attendance requirements(%):

100 %

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lectures, debate, close reading, written responses, class presentations, final paper

Course/Module Content:

First Semester

1. Introduction

*2. Stuart Hall, "Cultural Studies and its Theoretical Legacies," in: Cultural Studies, ed. by L. Grossberg, C. Nelson, P. Treichler. London:Routledge 1992: 277-294
<https://tac091.files.wordpress.com/2008/12/hallcsterericallegacies.pdf>*

3. Karl Marx, "Introduction to the Critique of Political Economy (in Hebrew), Henri

Lefebvre, Marxism (excerpts, in Hebrew)

4. Karl Marx, "Alienated Labor" (in Hebrew)

5. Rosalind Gill and Andy Pratt, "In the Social Factory? Immaterial Labor, Precariousness, and Cultural Work," *Theory, Culture & Society*, Vol. 25 (7-8), December 2008: 1-30 , <http://tcs.sagepub.com/content/25/7-8/1.full.pdf+html?ijkey&eq;GxL5m.cIE6fj2&keytype&eq;ref&siteid&eq;sptcs>

Andrew Ross, "The New Geography of Work. Power to the Precarious?," *ibid*, 31-49 <http://tcs.sagepub.com/content/25/7-8/31.full.pdf+html?ijkey&eq;1mS7xmnFwT7vM&keytype&eq;ref&siteid&eq;sptcs>

6. Karl Marx, "The Fetishism of Commodities and the Secret Thereof, Capital; William Pietz, "The Problem of the Fetish I, II," *Res* 9, Spring 85: 5-17, and *Res* 13, Spring 87: 23-46

7. Catharine A. MacKinnon, "Feminism, Marxism, Method and the State: An Agenda for Theory" *Signs* 7,3 (1982):514-544

Arjun Appadurai, "The Thing Itself," *Public Culture* 2006 18 (1): 15-22

8. Sigmund Freud, "Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego" (in Hebrew)

9. Judith Butler, "Critically Queer," *GLQ* Vol.1, 17-32, <http://faculty.georgetown.edu/irvinem/theory/JudithButler-CriticallyQueer-1993.pdf>
"Disidentification," at <http://enculturation.net/files/QueerRhetoric/queerarchive/disid.html>

10. Theodor W. Adorno and Max Horkheimer, "The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception (in Hebrew)

11. Scott Lash and Celia Lury, *Global Culture Industry*, Cambridge: Polity Press 2007 (excerpts)

12. Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks* (in Hebrew); , Homi Bhabha, "Remembering Fanon. Self, Psyche and the Colonial Condition," (&eq;Foreword to *Black Skin, White Masks*, pp. vii-xxv)

13. Jamaica Kincaid, "In History," *Callaloo*, Vol. 20 (1), Winter 1997: 1-7

14. Conclusion

Second Semester:
Forthcoming

Required Reading:
see above

Additional Reading Material:

- Agger, Ben, *Cultural Studies as Critical Theory*, London and New York: Routledge 1992
- Azzmanova, Alben, "Crisis? Capitalism is Doing Very Well. How is Critical Theory?," *Constellations* 21, no. 3 (2014): 351-365
- Bhabha, Homi, "The Commitment to Theory," *Locations of Culture*, London and New York: Routledge 1994, 19-39
- Bourdieu, Pierre, "Structures, Habitus, Power: Basis for a Theory of Symbolic Power," in *Culture / Power / History*, edited by N.B.Dirks, G.Eley, S.B.Ortner. Princeton: Princeton University Press 1994: 155-199
- Jonathan Culler, Introduction: "What's the point?," in *The Point of Theory. Practices of Cultural Analysis*, edited by M. Bal and I. E. Boer, New York: Continuum 1994: 13-17
- Douglas, Mary, *How Institutions Think*. London: Routledge and K.Paul 1987
- Godzich, Wlad, "Foreword: 'The Tiger on the Paper Mat.'" In *Paul de Man: The Resistance to Theory*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press 1986, ix-xviii
- Gramsci, Antonio, *Selections from the Prison Notebooks*, edited and translated by Q. Hoare and G.N. Smith, New York: International Publishers 1971
- גרמשי, אנטוניו, על ההגמוניה. מבחר מתוך "מחברות הכלא", תל אביב: רסלינג 2005
- Grossberg, Lawrence, "The Conversation of Cultural Studies," *Cultural Studies* 23, no. 2 (2009): 177-182
- Gunster, Shane, *Capitalizing on Culture: Critical Theory for Cultural Studies*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press 2004
- Hall, Stuart (Ed.), *Culture, Media, Language: Working Papers in Cultural Studies, 1972-79*, London: Hutchinson and CCCS 1981
- "Cultural Studies: Two Paradigms," in *Culture / Power / History*, edited by N.B.Dirks, G.Eley, S.B.Ortner. Princeton: Princeton University Press 1994: 520-538
- Hesmondhalgh, David, "What Cultural, Critical, and Communication Might Mean: Why Cultural Studies is a Bit Like Rave Culture," *Communication & Critical/Cultural Studies* 10, Nos 2/3 (September 2013): 280-284
- Marianne Hirsch, "Masking the Subject: Practicing Theory," in *The Point of Theory. Practices of Cultural Analysis*, edited by M. Bal and I. E. Boer, New York: Continuum 1994: 109-124
- Jameson, Frederic *Postmodernism, or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism*, Duke University Press 1991
- Kellner, Douglas, *Critical Theory, Marxism, and Modernity*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press 1989
- "Toward a Critical Media/Cultural Studies," in: *Media/Cultural Studies: Critical Approaches*, ed. by Rhonda Hammer and Douglas Kellner, New York: Peter Lang 2009: 5-24
- Nelson, Cary and Dilip Parameshwar Gaonkar, *Disciplinary and Dissent in Cultural Studies*, New York: Routledge 1996
- Ono, Kent A., "Critical: A Finer Edge," *Communication & Critical/Cultural Studies* 8, no. 1 (March 2011): 93-96
- Rasmussen, David, "Critical Theory Then and Now," *The Journal of Speculative Philosophy* 26, no. 2 (2012): 291-298

Turner, Graeme, *British Cultural Studies*, London and New York: Routledge 1996
Williams, Raymond, "Conclusion," *Culture and Society 1780-1950*, London: Chatto and Windus, 1967: 295-338
----- Keywords. *A Vocabulary of Culture and Society*, Oxford University Press 1985

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 50 %
Presentation 25 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 25 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:

none