

CONTEMPORARY MARXIST THEORY

This course will provide an overview of 20th-century Marxist, neo-Marxist, and post-Marxist social theory. Among the questions to be addressed are: Does Marxism provide an adequate theoretical foundation for the critique and transformation of capitalist society? What are the critical theoretical alternatives within and beyond Marxism? What are the limitations of Marxism as a theory of human liberation and how have other radical theories addressed these limitations? How does critical social theory inform sociological research and political practice?

COURSE READINGS (asterisk indicates required reading)

WEEK 1. INTRODUCTION (January 9)

No readings

WEEK 2. THE ORIGINS OF WESTERN MARXISM (January 16)

- *Peter Gay, *The Dilemma of Democratic Socialism: Eduard Bernstein's Challenge to Marx*, chapters 6-8.
- *Georg Lukacs, *History and Class Consciousness*, pp. 1-26, 83-110.
- *Carl Boggs, *Gramsci's Marxism*, chapters 1-3.
- Eduard Bernstein, *Evolutionary Socialism*.
- Lucio Colletti, "Bernstein and the Marxism of the Second International," in *From Rousseau to Lenin*.
- Andrew Arato and Paul Breines, *The Young Lukacs and the Origins of Western Marxism*.
- Gareth Stedman Jones, "The Marxism of the Early Lukacs," in *New Left Review*, eds., *Western Marxism: A Critical Reader*.
- Andrew Feenberg, *Lukacs, Marx, and the Sources of Critical Theory*.
- Istvan Meszaros, *Lukacs' Concept of Dialectic*.
- Martin Jay, *Marxism and Totality: The Adventures of a Concept from Lukacs to Habermas*.
- Antonio Gramsci, *Selections from the Prison Notebooks*, especially pp. 5-14, 123-205, 321-343.
- Joseph Femia, *Gramsci's Political Thought*.
- Ann Showstack Sassoon, ed., *Approaches to Gramsci*.
- Chantal Mouffe, ed., *Gramsci and Marxist Theory*.
- Christine Buci-Glucksmann, *Gramsci and the State*.
- G. D. H. Cole, *A History of Socialist Thought*, Vol. 3.

WEEK 3. THE FRANKFURT SCHOOL AND CRITICAL THEORY (January 23)

- *David Held, *Introduction to Critical Theory*, introduction and chapters 1-8.
- Martin Jay, *The Dialectical Imagination*.
- Phil Slater, *The Origin and Significance of the Frankfurt School*.
- Perry Anderson, *Considerations on Western Marxism*.
- Goran Therborn, "The Frankfurt School," in *New Left Review*, eds., *Western Marxism: A Critical Reader*.
- Max Horkheimer, *Critical Theory*.
- Max Horkheimer and Theodore Adorno, *The Dialectic of Enlightenment*.
- Theodore Adorno et al., *The Positivism Debate in German Sociology*.
- Theodore Adorno, *Negative Dialectics*.
- Theodore Adorno, *Prisms*.
- Walter Benjamin, *Illuminations*.
- Herbert Marcuse, *Reason and Revolution*.
- Herbert Marcuse, *Negations*.
- Herbert Marcuse, *Eros and Civilization*.

Herbert Marcuse, *An Essay on Liberation*.
Albrecht Wellmer, *Critical Theory of Society*.

WEEK 4. HABERMAS' RECONSTRUCTION OF HISTORICAL MATERIALISM (January 30)

- *David Held, *Introduction to Critical Theory*, chapters 9-14.
- *Jurgen Habermas, *Knowledge and Human Interests*, appendix.
- *Jurgen Habermas, *Theory and Practice*, chapter 6.
- *Jurgen Habermas, *Communication and the Evolution of Society*, chapter 4 (sections 1-5).
- *Jurgen Habermas, *Toward a Rational Society*, chapter 6.
- *Jurgen Habermas, *Legitimation Crisis*, part 2.
- Thomas McCarthy, *The Critical Theory of Jurgen Habermas*.
- John B. Thompson and David Held, eds., *Habermas: Critical Debates*.
- Craig Calhoun, ed., *Habermas and the Public Sphere*.
- Tom Rockmore, *Habermas on Historical Materialism*.
- Steven K. White, *The Recent Work of Jurgen Habermas*.

WEEK 5. STRUCTURALIST MARXISM AND ITS CRITICS (February 6)

- *Val Burris, "Marxism and Structuralism," *Current Perspectives in Social Theory*, Vol. 2, 1981.
- *Robin Blackburn and Gareth Stedman Jones. "Louis Althusser and the Struggle for Marxism," in Dick Howard and Karl Klare, eds., *The Unknown Dimension*.
- *Louis Althusser, *For Marx*, pp. 87-111, 200-218.
- *Nicos Poulantzas and Ralph Miliband, "The Problem of the Capitalist State," in Robin Blackburn, ed., *Ideology in Social Science*.
- *Douglas V. Porpora, "The Role of Agency in History: The Althusser-Thompson-Anderson Debate," *Current Perspectives in Social Theory*, Vol. 6, 1985.
- Ted Benton, *The Rise and Fall of Structural Marxism*.
- Norman Geras, "Althusser's Marxism: An Account and an Assessment," *New Left Review*, No. 71, 1972.
- E. P. Thompson, *The Poverty of Theory*, pp. 193-295.
- Perry Anderson, *Arguments within English Marxism*, chapters 1-3.
- Bob Jessop, *Nicos Poulantzas: Marxist Theory and Political Strategy*.
- Simon Clarke et al., *One-Dimensional Marxism: Althusser and the Politics of Culture*.
- Louis Althusser, *Lenin and Philosophy and Other Essays*, pp. 127-186.
- Louis Althusser, *Essays in Self-Criticism*.
- Nicos Poulantzas, *Political Power and Social Classes*.
- Nicos Poulantzas, *Classes in Contemporary Capitalism*.
- Nicos Poulantzas, *State, Power, Socialism*.

WEEK 6. ANALYTICAL MARXISM AND RATIONAL-CHOICE THEORY (February 13)

- *Erik Olin Wright, "What is Analytical Marxism?" *Socialist Review*, No. 89/4, 1989.
- *Jon Elster, "Marxism, Functionalism, and Game Theory," *Theory and Society*, Vol. 11, 1982.
- *John Roemer, "New Directions in the Marxian Theory of Exploitation and Class," in John Roemer, ed., *Analytical Marxism*.
- *Ronald A. Kieve, "From Necessary Illusion to Rational Choice? A Critique of Neo-Marxist Rational-Choice Theory," *Theory and Society*, Vol. 15, 1986.
- *Ellen Meiksins Wood, "Rational Choice Marxism: Is the Game Worth the Candle?" *New Left Review*, No. 177, 1989.
- *Erik Olin Wright, "Class Analysis, History and Emancipation," *New Left Review* No. 202, 1993.
- Tom Mayer, *Analytical Marxism*.
- Erik Olin Wright, *Classes*, especially chapters 1-4.
- Erik Olin Wright, *Class Counts*.

- Andrew Levine and Erik Olin Wright, "Rationality and Class Struggle," *New Left Review*, No. 123, 1980.
- G. A. Cohen, "Reply to Elster on 'Marxism, Functionalism, and Game Theory,'" *Theory and Society*, Vol. 11, 1982.
- G. A. Cohen, "Reconsidering Historical Materialism." *Nomos*, Vol. 26 (Marxism), 1983.
- G. A. Cohen, *Karl Marx's Theory of History: A Defense*.
- John Roemer, *A General Theory of Exploitation and Class*.
- John Roemer, ed., *Analytical Marxism*.
- Jon Elster, *Making Sense of Marx*.
- Adam Przeworski, *Capitalism and Social Democracy*.
- Michael A. Lebowitz, "Is 'Analytical Marxism' Marxism?" *Science and Society*, Vol. 52, No. 2, 1988.
- Alan Carling, "Rational Choice Marxism," *New Left Review*, No. 160, 1986.
- Philippe Van Parijs, "Functionalist Marxism Rehabilitated: A Comment on Elster," *Theory and Society*, Vol. 11, 1982.
- John E. Roemer, "Methodological Individualism and Deductive Marxism," *Theory and Society*, Vol. 11, 1982.
- Johannes Berger and Claus Offe, "Functionalism versus Rational Choice?" *Theory and Society*, Vol. 11, 1982.

WEEK 7. THE MARX-WEBER DEBATE (February 20)

- *Wolfgang J. Mommsen, "Capitalism and Socialism: Weber's Dialogue with Marx," in Robert J. Antonio and Ronald M. Glassman, eds., *A Weber-Marx Dialogue*.
- *Douglas Kellner, "Critical Theory, Max Weber, and the Dialectics of Domination," in Robert J. Antonio and Ronald M. Glassman, eds., *A Weber-Marx Dialogue*.
- *Anthony Giddens, *A Contemporary Critique of Historical Materialism*, Introduction.
- *Erik Olin Wright, "Giddens Critique of Marxism," *New Left Review*, No. 138, 1983.
- *Val Burris, "The Neo-Marxist Synthesis of Marx and Weber on Class," in Norbert Wiley, ed., *The Marx-Weber Debate*.
- Reinhard Bendix, "Inequality and Social Structure: A Comparison of Marx and Weber," *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 39, No. 2, 1974.
- Bryan S. Turner, *For Weber*.
- Karl Loewith, *Max Weber and Karl Marx*.
- Johannes Weiss, *Weber and the Marxist World*.
- John Lewis, *Max Weber and Value-Free Sociology: A Marxist Critique*.
- Max Weber, "Socialism," in J. Eldridge, ed., *Max Weber: The Interpretation of Reality*.
- Randall Collins, "Weber's Last Theory of Capitalism," in *Weberian Sociological Theory*.
- Frank Parkin, *Marxism and Class Theory: A Bourgeois Critique*.
- Raymond Murphy, "Exploitation or Exclusion?" *Sociology*, Vol. 19, No. 2, 1985.
- J. M. Barbalet, "Social Closure in Class Analysis: A Critique of Parkin," *Sociology*, Vol. 16, No. 4, 1982.

WEEK 8. POST-STRUCTURALISM AND POST-MARXISM (February 27)

- *Ernesto Laclau and Chantal Mouffe, "Interview," *Socialist Review*, No. 55, 1982.
- *Norman Geras, "Post-Marxism?" *New Left Review*, No. 163, 1987.
- *Ernesto Laclau and Chantal Mouffe, "Post-Marxism Without Apologies," *New Left Review*, No. 166, 1987.
- *Norman Geras, "Post-Marxism: A Rejoinder," *New Left Review*, No. 169, 1988.
- *Michael Rustin, "Absolute Voluntarism: Critique of a Post-Marxist Concept of Hegemony," *New German Critique*, No. 43, 1988.
- *Barbara Epstein, "Rethinking Social Movement Theory," *Socialist Review*, Vol. 20, No. 1, 1990.

Barry Adam, "Postmarxism and the New Social Movements." *Canadian Review of Sociology and Anthropology*, Vol. 30, 1993.
 Ernesto Laclau and Chantal Mouffe, *Hegemony and Socialist Strategy*.
 Ellen Meiksins Wood, *The Retreat From Class*.
 Nicos Mouzelis, "Marxism or Post-Marxism?" *New Left Review*, No. 167, 1988.
 Cary Nelson and Lawrence Grossberg, eds., *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*, especially chapters by Mouffe, Patton, and Fields.
 Gavin Kitching, *Rethinking Socialism*.
 Les Johnson, *Marxism, Class Analysis and Socialist Pluralism*.
 Scott Lash and John Urry, *The End of Organized Capitalism*.
 Peter Dews, *Logics of Disintegration: Post-Structuralist Thought and the Claims of Critical Theory*.
 Bryan D. Palmer, *Descent into Discourse: The Reification of Language and the Writing of Social History*.

WEEK 9. POSTMODERNISM (March 6)

*Michael Rosenthal, "What Was Postmodernism?" *Socialist Review*, Vol. 22, No. 3, 1992.
 *George Ritzer, *Postmodern Social Theory* (chapters 1, 3-6, 9, 12).
 *Pauline Marie Rosenau, *Post-Modernism and the Social Sciences* (chap. 1,7,8).
 Jean-Francois Lyotard, *The Postmodern Condition*.
 Jean Baudrillard, *The Mirror of Production*.
 Jean Baudrillard, *For a Critique of the Political Economy of the Sign*.
 Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*.
 Michel Foucault, *Madness and Civilization*.
 Alex Callinicos, *Against Postmodernism: A Marxist Critique*.
 Steven Best and Douglas Kelner, *Postmodern Theory*.
 Roy Boyne and Ali Rattansi, eds., *Postmodernism and Society*.
 Terry Eagleton, "Capitalism, Modernism and Postmodernism," *New Left Review*, No. 152, 1985.
 Fredric Jameson, "Postmodernism, or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism," *New Left Review*, No. 146, 1984.
 Fredric Jameson, "Marxism and Postmodernism," *New Left Review*, No. 176, 1989.
 David Harvey, *The Condition of Postmodernity*.
 Jurgen Habermas, *The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity*.
 Anthony Giddens, *The Consequences of Modernity*.
 Bryan S. Turner, ed., *Theories of Modernity and Postmodernity*.
 Andrew Ross, ed., *Universal Abandon? The Politics of Postmodernism*.
 Linda Hutcheon, *The Politics of Postmodernism*.
 Douglas Kellner, *Critical Theory, Marxism, and Modernity*.
 Michael Ryan, *Marxism and Deconstruction: A Critical Articulation*.
 Barry Smart, *Foucault, Marxism and Critique*.

WEEK 10. FEMINISM, MARXISM, POSTMODERNISM (March 13)

*Zillah Eisenstein, "Constructing a Theory of Capitalist Patriarchy and Socialist Feminism," in Karen V. Hansen and Ilene J. Philipson, eds., *Women, Class and the Feminist Imagination*.
 *Heidi Hartmann, "The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism: Towards a More Progressive Union," in Lydia Sargent, ed., *Women and Revolution*.
 *Jane Humphries, "Class Struggle and the Persistence of the Working-Class Family" in Anthony Giddens and David Held, eds., *Class, Power, Conflict*.
 *Iris Young, "Beyond the Unhappy Marriage: A Critique of the Dual Systems Theory," in Lydia Sargent, ed., *Women and Revolution*.
 *Sandra Harding, "What is the Real Material Base of Patriarchy and Capital?" in Lydia Sargent, ed., *Women and Revolution*.
 *Jane Flax, "Postmodernism and Gender Relations in Feminist Theory," in Linda J. Nicholson, ed., *Feminism/Postmodernism*.
 Val Burris, "The Dialectic of Women's Oppression: Notes on the Relationship Between Capitalism and Patriarchy," *Berkeley Journal of Sociology*, 1982.
 Michele Barrett, *Women's Oppression Today*.

Annette Kuhn and AnnMarie Wolpe, eds., *Feminism and Materialism*.
Zillah Eisenstein, ed., *Capitalist Patriarchy and the Case for Socialist
Feminism*.
Alison M. Jaggar, *Feminist Politics and Human Nature*.
Rosemary Tong, *Feminist Thought: A Comprehensive Introduction*.
Nancy Fraser, *Unruly Practices: Power, Discourse, and Gender in Contemporary
Social Theory*.
Jane Flax, *Thinking Fragments: Psychoanalysis, Feminism and Postmodernism in
the Contemporary West*.
Patricia Hill Collins, *Black Feminist Thought*.
Lise Vogel, *Marxism and the Oppression of Women*.