

THEORIES OF CULTURAL STUDIES

PhD in Cultural Studies

Department of Humanities & Social Sciences
Yıldız Technical University

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Course Description:

This course presents the students with an overview of classical and contemporary theories in cultural studies. The evolution of social & cultural theory from the eighteenth century onwards will be analyzed with reference to major themes during the term. The aim will be to understand and make sense of 'cultural theory' together with 'social theory' that seems to follow a different historical and thematic trajectory when compared to political theory, sociological theory or history of philosophy.

During the lecture we will attempt to comprehend the views of major theorists, their relation to other theories and the way in which certain concepts are covered and analyzed in their theories. Among the major themes that are relevant to our discussion with regards to social & cultural theory will be society, community, individual, culture, structure, agency, modernity, postmodernity and globalization.

As this is a must course for the PhD program it is an essential obligation and extremely important for the students to do all readings for each week before coming to class. All students are expected to attend each session and participate as much as possible to the discussions in class.

Grading System:

Final Take-Home Exam: 50%

Assignment: 20%

Presentation: 30%

Final Take Home Exam:

The take home examination will be about 6 to 8 pages long. The students will answer specific questions by analyzing one or more theories/theorists covered in class. The papers will be returned in 4-5 days.

Assignment:

There will be one assignment in one week about 1 to 3 pages long. The assignment will be in the form of a mini take-home examination and will include the answer of a single comprehensive question due to be returned in 48-hours.

Presentation:

Each student will pick up a theory/theorist at the beginning of the term and make a presentation of one specific article or a combination of more than one article. The maximum duration for each presentation will be 20 minutes. The aim will be to **clearly summarize and review** the relevant readings in the light of all what we have seen in class so far. The presentation material as a text will also be presented at the end.

Schedule:

Week 1 - *The Roots of Social Theory*

Key Thinkers: Comte, Spencer, Saint-Simon

S6 (1-6), **R2** (1-41)

Week 2 - *Classical Theories I*

Key Thinker: Marx

A3, S4, R2 (43-75), **M2**

Week 3 - *Classical Theories II*

Key Thinker: Durkheim

R2 (76-111), **M4, S8** (97-127)

Week 4 - *Classical Theorists III*

Key Thinkers: Weber & Simmel

S9 (22-36), **K1, S1, R2** (112-188)

Week 5 - *The Heritage of Hermeneutics and Social Action*

Key Thinkers: Dilthey, Weber, Gadamer & Goffman

S8 (128-170), **O1, S6** (58-73)

Week 6 - *Critical Theory*

Key Thinkers: Adorno, Horkheimer, Benjamin, Freud, Fromm & Marcuse

E2 (17-52), **C2, K3, A1, A2, B4**

Week 7 - *After Marx: Ideology and Hegemony*

Key Thinkers: Lukacs, Althusser & Gramsci

S8 (194-224), **S6** (37-57), **W1** (190-204), **F**

Week 8 - *Structuralism & Poststructuralism*

Key Thinkers: Saussure, Levi-Strauss, Barthes, Lacan & Derrida

S7 (116-139), **M5** (92-127), **B1** (39-80), **S6** (97-132), **C3** (67-90)

Week 9 - Critical Modernity: History, Subjectivity & Power

Key Thinkers: Habermas & Foucault

G2, P1, M3, S5, O2, R1

Week 10 - Theories of Structuration: Between Structure & Agent

Key Thinkers: Bourdieu & Giddens

S6 (133-150), E2 (122-154), S2, R4, B5, C1, G1

Week 11 - British Culturalism

Key Thinkers: Arnold, Leavis, Thompson, Williams & Hoggart

W1 (11-136), S7 (18-60), M5 (1-56), L, W3, W2, H4

Week 12 - The Birmingham School, Cultural Studies & Beyond

Key Thinkers: Hall, Hebdige, Morley, Willis & Gilroy

S6 (151-166), K2, R5, W1 (137-189), H1, H3, W4, G3

Week 13 - Feminism, Post-feminism and Queer Theory

Key Thinkers: Kristeva, Irigaray, Butler

S7 (140-174), W1 (235-280), B1 (121-155), S6 (202-213), E1, S3, M1

Week 14 - Postmodernism & Cultural Theory

Key Thinkers: Debord, Baudrillard, Harvey, Jameson, Bauman, Beck

S6 (214-247), S7 (192-224), M5 (164-202), R3, D, B2, H2, B3,

Week 15 - General Discussion & Evaluation

Reading List:

A1 Theodor W. Adorno & Max Horkheimer, "The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception" in *The Cultural Studies Reader* 2nd edition (Simon During, ed.) London: Routledge, 1999, 31-41.

A2 Theodor W. Adorno, "Culture Industry Reconsidered" in *Popular Culture: A Reader* (Raiford Guins and Omayra Zaragoza Cruz, eds.) London: Sage, 2005, 103-108.

A3 Robert J. Antonio, "Karl Marx" in *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Major Social Theorists: Volume I Classical Social Theorists* (George Ritzer & Jeffrey Stepnisky, eds.) Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011, 115-164.

B1 Peter Barry, *Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory*. 2002.

B2 Jean Baudrillard, "Simulacra and Simulations" in *The New Social Theory Reader* (Steven Seidman & Jeffrey. C. Alexander, eds.) London: Routledge, 2008, 229-234.

B3 Ulrich Beck, "The Cosmopolitan Perspective" in *The New Social Theory Reader* (Steven Seidman & Jeffrey. C. Alexander, eds.) London: Routledge, 2008, 325-334.

B4 Walter Benjamin, "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction" in *Popular Culture: A Reader* (Raiford Guins and Omayra Zaragoza Cruz, eds.) London: Sage, 2005, 96-102.

B5 Christopher G.A. Bryant & David Jary, "Anthony Giddens" in *The Blackwell Companion to Major Contemporary Social Theorists* (George Ritzer, ed.) Oxford: Blackwell, 2003, 247-273.

C1 Craig Calhoun, "Pierre Bourdieu" in *The Blackwell Companion to Major Contemporary Social Theorists* (George Ritzer, ed.) Oxford: Blackwell, 2003, 274-309.

C2 Craig Calhoun and Joseph Karaganis, "Critical Theory" in *Handbook of Social Theory* (George Ritzer & Barry Smart, eds.) London: Sage, 2003, 179-200.

C3 Nick Couldry, *Inside Culture: Re-imagining the Method of Cultural Studies*. London: Sage, 2007.

D Guy Debord, "The Commodity as Spectacle" in *Popular Culture: A Reader* (Raiford Guins and Omayra Zaragoza Cruz, eds.) London: Sage, 2005, 109-114.

E1 Anthony Elliott, "Sexualities: Social Theory and the Crisis of Identity" in *Handbook of Social Theory* (George Ritzer & Barry Smart, eds.) London: Sage, 2003, 428-438.

- E2** Anthony Elliott, *Contemporary Social Theory: An Introduction*. London: Routledge, 2009.
- F** David Forgacs, "National-Popular: Genealogy of a Concept" in *The Cultural Studies Reader* 2nd edition (Simon During, ed.) London: Routledge, 1999, 209-219.
- G1** Anthony Giddens, "Modernity and Self-Identity: Self and Society in the Late Modern Age" in *The New Social Theory Reader* (Steven Seidman & Jeffrey. C. Alexander, eds.) London: Routledge, 2008, 354-361.
- G2** Anthony Giddens, "Jürgen Habermas" in *The Return of Grand Theory in the Human Sciences* (Quentin Skinner, ed.) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994, 121-139.
- G3** Paul Gilroy, "Postcolonial Melancholia" in *The New Social Theory Reader* (Steven Seidman & Jeffrey. C. Alexander, eds.) London: Routledge, 2008, 427-434.
- H1** Stuart Hall, "What is this 'Black' in Black Popular Culture?" in *Popular Culture: A Reader* (Raiford Guins and Omayra Zaragoza Cruz, eds.) London: Sage, 2005, 285-293.
- H2** David Harvey, "The Condition of Postmodernity" in *The New Social Theory Reader* (Steven Seidman & Jeffrey. C. Alexander, eds.) London: Routledge, 2008, 235-242.
- H3** Dick Hebdige, "Subculture" in *Popular Culture: A Reader* (Raiford Guins and Omayra Zaragoza Cruz, eds.) London: Sage, 2005, 355-371.
- H4** Richard Hoggart, *The Uses of Literacy*. London, Penguin, 1958.
- K1** Stephen Kalberg, "Max Weber" in *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Major Social Theorists: Volume I Classical Social Theorists* (George Ritzer & Jeffrey Stepnisky, eds.) Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011, 305-372.
- K2** Douglas Kellner, "Cultural Studies and Social Theory: A Critical Intervention" in *Handbook of Social Theory* (George Ritzer & Barry Smart, eds.) London: Sage, 2003, 395-409.
- K3** Douglas Kellner, "The Frankfurt School" in *Cultural Theory: Classical & Contemporary Positions* (Tim Edwards, ed.) London: Sage, 2007, 49-68.
- L** F. R. Leavis, "Mass Civilization and Minority Culture" in *Popular Culture: A Reader* (Raiford Guins and Omayra Zaragoza Cruz, eds.) London: Sage, 2005, 33-38.
- M1** Angela McRobbie, "Jackie: An Ideology of Adolescent Femininity" in *Popular Culture: Past and Present* (Bernard Waites, Tony Bennett & Graham Martin, eds.) London: Routledge, 1982, 263-284.
- M2** Karl Marx, "The Fetishism of Commodities and the Secret Thereof" in *Popular Culture: A Reader* (Raiford Guins and Omayra Zaragoza Cruz, eds.) London: Sage, 2005, 89-95.

M3 Tim May and Jason Powell, "Foucault: Interpretive Analytics and the Constitution of the Social" in *Cultural Theory: Classical & Contemporary Positions* (Tim Edwards, ed.) London: Sage, 2007, 123-140.

M4 Tara Milbrandt and Frank Pearce, "Émile Durkheim" in *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Major Social Theorists: Volume I Classical Social Theorists* (George Ritzer & Jeffrey Stepnisky, eds.) Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011, 236-282.

M5 Andrew Milner and Jeff Browitt, *Contemporary Cultural Theory: An Introduction* (third edition). London: Routledge, 2002.

O1 William Outhwaite, "Hans-Georg Gadamer" in *The Return of Grand Theory in the Human Sciences* (Quentin Skinner, ed.) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994, 21-39.

O2 William Outhwaite, "Jürgen Habermas", in *The Blackwell Companion to Major Contemporary Social Theorists* (George Ritzer, ed.) Oxford: Blackwell, 2003, 228-246.

P1 Mark Philp, "Michel Foucault" in *The Return of Grand Theory in the Human Sciences* (Quentin Skinner, ed.) Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994, 65-82.

R1 Paul Rabinow, "Introduction" in *The Foucault Reader* (Paul Rabinow, ed.) New York: Vintage, 2010, 3-29.

R2 George Ritzer, *Sociological Theory* (eighth edition). New York: McGraw-Hill, 2011.

R3 George Ritzer, Douglas Goodman & Wendy Weidenhoft, "Theories of Consumption" in *Handbook of Social Theory* (George Ritzer & Barry Smart, eds.) London: Sage, 2003, 410-427.

R4 Derek Robbins, "Framing Bourdieu" in *Cultural Theory: Classical & Contemporary Positions* (Tim Edwards, ed.) London: Sage, 2007, 141-158.

R5 Chris Rojek, "Stuart Hall and the Birmingham School" in *Cultural Theory: Classical & Contemporary Positions* (Tim Edwards, ed.) London: Sage, 2007, 69-82.

S1 Lawrence A. Scaff, "Georg Simmel" in *The Wiley-Blackwell Companion to Major Social Theorists: Volume I Classical Social Theorists* (George Ritzer & Jeffrey Stepnisky, eds.) Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011, 205-235.

S2 John Scott, "Giddens and Cultural Analysis: Absent Word and Central Concept" in *Cultural Theory: Classical & Contemporary Positions* (Tim Edwards, ed.) London: Sage, 2007, 83-106.

S3 Steven Seidman, "From Identity to Queer Politics: Shifts in Normative Heterosexuality" in *The New Social Theory Reader* (Steven Seidman & Jeffrey C. Alexander, eds.) London: Routledge, 2008, 396-403.

- S4** Peter Singer, *Marx: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000.
- S5** Barry Smart, "Michel Foucault" in *The Blackwell Companion to Major Contemporary Social Theorists* (George Ritzer, ed.) Oxford: Blackwell, 2003, 207-227.
- S6** Philip Smith, *Cultural Theory: An Introduction*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2001.
- S7** John Storey, *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture: An Introduction*. London: Routledge, 2012.
- S8** Alan Swingewood, *A Short History of Sociological Thought* (second edition). London: Macmillan, 1991.
- S9** Alan Swingewood, *Cultural Theory and the Problem of Modernity*. New York: Macmillan, 1998.
- W1** David Walton, *Introducing Cultural Studies: Learning Through Practice*. London: Sage, 2008.
- W2** Raymond Williams, *The Country and the City*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1973.
- W3** Raymond Williams, " 'Culture' and 'Masses' " in *Popular Culture: A Reader* (Raiford Guins and Omayra Zaragoza Cruz, eds.) London: Sage, 2005, 25-32.
- W4** Paul Willis, "The Motor-Bike and Motor-Bike Culture" in *Cultural Theory: Classical & Contemporary Positions* (Tim Edwards, ed.) London: Sage, 2007, 284-293.