

391H Core Seminar I
Social Thought and Political Economy (STPEC)
Tu / Thu 2:30 - 3:45, Dickinson Room # 210
Spring 2016

Instructor: Shakuntala Ray

Office Hours: Tuesdays 4:00- 5:00 at E-30 Machmer, or by appointment.

Email: shakuntalaray5@gmail.com



Graffiti in Kochi, Kerala, India by anonymous artist, 2015.

[Email Policy: I reply within 24 hours. I am less available during weekends; unless there is an emergency, I get back after the weekend. I check email after nine in the morning and before nine in the evening.]

Course Description

This seminar is the beginning of the year long STPEC Junior Seminar sequence. 391H Core I focuses on major currents and applications of political, social, and economic theories and the historical circumstances that gave rise to these theories up to the 19th Century. Through the

reading and discussion of key foundational Western texts and some postcolonial non-Western contemporaries from the 16th century on, we will be able to recognize the driving forces behind the production of modernity as a Western *episteme* (the way we organize and learn the world today). We will pay particular attention to the complex ways in which these political, social, and cultural practices and philosophies relate to the contradictions and pitfalls of modernity and are related to power constructions within societies. We will study some of the politico-philosophical-experiential foundations of liberal, radical, feminist and anti-colonial worldviews paying attention to the ways in which ideologies and consciousness are constructed in historical contexts, and then contested through social movements (i.e. the rise of modern-colonial-capitalist-patriarchal systems and various forms of resistance). As this is an interdisciplinary class, we will be bringing in analytic tools from various disciplines—i.e. economy, sociology, anthropology, political science, history, cultural studies, literature—but always paying attention to the historical construction and reception of ideas.

The **objectives** of this course are to prepare students:

1. To engage with primary texts while fostering a broad critical understanding of historically 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 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, the everyday and your politics;
5. And to incorporate reflection and research on these topics to your independent learning.

Expectations:

This is a 4-credit honors course. The material and workload are thus set with high standards. You can expect to be assigned about 150- 200 pages of reading weekly. You **MUST** bring your texts to class -- either in print or on your computers. You will have to come to class having read and

prepared questions for discussion directly related to the text. I expect you to **search beyond the assigned material**¹ on your own initiative and based on your own interests, to find background information and contemporary examples that help explain the readings.

Additionally, you will need to bring **1) in-class STPEC notebook for class-work** (with detachable sheets), **2)** as well as regularly contribute to **an online homework discussion forum**. Students must prepare at least 2 discussion questions and 1 definition of major concepts for each class. These must be posted on the “Homework Discussion” forum any time *before* class commences at 2:35pm. In addition, you should include reflections on historical, conceptual, and autobiographical ideas. This forum will also 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. **If you do not come prepared to class, you will be counted as absent.** **3)** Lastly, you will contribute any two outside sources that you think connect to these readings and post them on the **online blog for this class**. Our goal is to build a learning community where students work as learners and teachers, where theory is accessible, and practical for students’ own aspirations for social change and praxis. For this reason, you will also be teamed up with learning partners who will peer edit your final work. The above assignments will factor into **your participation grade**.

Reading response papers: Write 2 reading response papers. You are expected to turn the first one on 02 /11, and the second one on 04/11. The reading response paper should be 3 pages long (double -spaced), critical pieces containing your reactions to issues raised from the readings. The purpose of the reading response papers is to help you understand the main argument of the text and develop your criticisms of it. In your paper, write about the main arguments presented and one or two themes that strike you as interesting or challenging. An exemplary outline might address any of the following (not all):

- a) What are the major themes and issues discussed in the readings?
- b) Do you agree with the main arguments presented and why?
- c) What are the weaker points in the various arguments? What would make them stronger?

¹ Wikipedia is good place to start for your own personal reading, but does not count as a serious academic source. You must cite proper academic sources in your papers and assignments.

- d) Were you surprised by any of the issues raised by the readings?
- e) What was the single most interesting thing you read and why?
- f) What questions came up for you and why?

You will hand me a **hard copy** of this on the given due dates. *No late papers will be accepted.*²

You can email me an attachment in case you cannot make it to class that day. The onus is on you to reach these to me on time.

Co-facilitation of a class session: As part of our commitment to a participatory classroom each student is expected to co-facilitate part of class session *once* in the semester. A sign-up sheet will be passed around the first week of the semester so that everyone can sign-up. This is not a formal lecture. The student should prepare to present for *8-9 minutes* and lead the class in meaningful discussion on the session topic. The presentation should include *overarching discussion questions* and some points of synthesis from other readings or your own interests/research. For example, you might want to provide some quotes or note some themes that strike you and that you would like the group to discuss. The format of the presentation is open to the student. Creativity and interactive presentations are encouraged and additional resources can be used as necessary. On the day of your presentation please arrive early to write your questions/quotes on the board or come prepared with handouts etc.

Analytical Papers: Write two (2) papers that analyze and compare at least three of the texts from the syllabus. The due date for paper #1 is 03/11, and for paper #2 it is 05/05. The first paper should be 5-6 pages and the second should be 10-11 pages long. They show your ability to analyze texts, support your arguments textually, and make broader connections with other texts and themes of the course. You should demonstrate clear ideas and present your own thoughts and original analysis. You should choose a manageable theme that corresponds to your interests. You should cite multiple sources including at least three from the course. You are encouraged to use outside sources of your own as well. I will provide more instructions during the course. I do not accept late papers since they disrupt grading and return policies. Each day a paper is late, I will

² I do not accept late papers since they disrupt class schedule and get in the way of return policies. Often, such lateness also results in unfairness for all students in general.

deduct 2 points from the overall grade. In case you have an emergency, please provide appropriate documentation and valid reasons. In such extreme cases, do realise that your work may not be returned along with others and it may take time to sort out grades.

Technology: Please make sure your phones are switched off and that you use your laptops and other devices only if they add to the class discussion and is related to learning for this class. The use of laptop and technology for browsing content not related to the course will result in an absence for that day.

Grading Criteria

Attendance and Participation 20%

Co-facilitating a class session 5%,

Reading response papers (4 times 5%)

Analytical papers (2 times 25%)

Peer responses and edits 5%

A 94-100 points, **A-** 93-90 points, **B+** 87-89 points, **B** 84-86 points, **B-** 80-83 points, **C+** 77-79 points, **C** 74-76 points, **C-** 68-73 points, **D+** 64-67 points, **D** 60-63 points, and **F** below 60 points. The minimal grade to approve the course is C+.

For research guidelines visit <http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/EngPaper/> and please remember that plagiarism is a serious academic offense. Please visit the **UMASS Amherst**

Writing Program Student Plagiarism Policy at

www.writingprogram.hfa.umass.edu/student_resources/plagiarims_policy.asp and be aware that you will get an F for the class if plagiarism occurs.

All readings and a copy of this syllabus are updated in MOODLE. Please keep checking moodle for updates and changes -- it is possible that some readings might be tweaked or refreshed given how the class is progressing and what I think needs to be added or subtracted. **It is very important that you are able to use MOODLE to access required course readings.** If you are unsure about how to use MOODLE or are encountering problems, please visit the

MOODLE help section on the OIT webpage:

(<http://www.oit.umass.edu/support/moodle/a-quick-tour-moodle-students>).

If you are still unable to use MOODLE please contact me immediately.

Attendance will affect your participation. This is not an online course, and therefore your presence and punctuality are required. I will accept only THREE (3) unexcused absences. Every absence after that will lower your final grade by three points. All excused absences **MUST** be accompanied by proper documentation (doctor's note, obituary, athletic department letters, etc). You will be evaluated in the course based on the quality and care of your written work combined with your attendance and participation. Your grades will not be based on your beliefs or whether you agree with the perspectives presented in class. If you have concerns, please talk with me privately first. FERPA law restricts me from discussing your grades in public or over email.

Classroom civility: This class will raise some difficult questions and engage with several complex issues and topics. I expect us to engage each other respectfully and to understand/accept the nature of this space built upon debate and intellectual exchange. If you feel you cannot speak in class, please talk with me privately so we can figure out more fruitful strategies. The University's Code of Classroom Civility are available here: <http://bit.ly/umass-civility>

Communication with the instructor: You are encouraged to meet with the instructor during office hours to chart your learning and progress in this class. You are required to have **at least one such meeting during the semester.**

Reading Schedule:

Week One: Introduction: Modernity and Unthinking Eurocentrism

Tuesday 01/19:

Introduction and syllabus: Discussing "Modernity"

Thursday 01/21:

1) Quijano, Anibal. 2000. Coloniality of Power, Eurocentrism and Latin America. *Neplanta: Views from the South* 1(3): 533-580.

<https://www.unc.edu/~aescobar/wan/wanquijano.pdf>

2) Mignolo, Walter. 2011. *The Darker Side of Western Modernity: Global Futures, Decolonial Options (Latin America Otherwise)*. Duke University Press Books, Short excerpts from p. 39-

49. http://www.macba.cat/PDFs/walter_mignolo_modernologies_eng.pdf

Week Two: Social Contract Theory

Tuesday 01/26:

Hobbes, Thomas. 1651. *Leviathan*, Selections. Sovereign State

<http://www.uwplatt.edu/~drefcins/254hobbess.html> (selections *Leviathan*).

Locke, John. 1689. *Second Treatise of Government*, Selections. Constitutional Government

<http://faculty.tamuc.edu/jherndon/documents/LockeSecondTreatiseSelections.pdf>

Thursday 01/28: 1) Rousseau, Jean Jacques. 1762. *The Social Contract*, selections.

<http://www.constitution.org/jjr/socon.htm> (selection of texts TBA)

Recommended bibliography

Bobbio, Norberto. 1993. Introduction. *In Thomas Hobbes and the Natural Law Tradition*.

Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Locke, John and Peter Laslett. 1988. Introduction. *In Two Treatises of Government*. Pp. New

York: Cambridge University Press.

Week Three: Enlightenment [Last day of Add Drop on 02/01]

Tuesday 02/ 02:

1) Kant, Immanuel. 1784. "An Answer to the Question: what is Enlightenment?"

<http://www.columbia.edu/acis/ets/CCREAD/etscc/kant.html>

2) Declaration of Independence

http://www.archives.gov/exhibits/charters/declaration_transcript.html

3) Declaration of the Rights of Man and citizen

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/18th_century/rightsof.asp

Thursday 02/04: 1) Pateman, Carol. 1988. *The Sexual Contract*. California: Stanford University Press, p 1-18.

<http://www.feministes-radicales.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/Carole-Pateman-The-Sexual-Contract.pdf>

Week Four: Enlightenment

Tuesday 02/09: W. Mills, Charles. 1997. *The Racial Contract*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, Ch. 1 (p 9-40).

https://sites.sas.upenn.edu/educationglobal/files/ebooksclub-org__the_racial_contract.pdf

Thursday 02/11:

1) Said, Edward. 1979. Introduction. *In Orientalism*. Pp. 1-28. New York: Vintage Books.
https://sites.evergreen.edu/politicalshakespeares/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2014/12/Said_full.pdf

Recommended reading: Dubois, Laurent. 2006. "An Enslaved Enlightenment : Rethinking the Intellectual History of the French Atlantic." Vol 31, Issue 1. (p. 1-14)

Week Five Marx

Tuesday 02/16: Monday schedule Holiday!

Thursday 02/18: Marx

Marx, Karl. [1848] 2000. *The Communist Manifesto*. Marx/Engels Internet Archive (marxists.org)
<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/pdf/Manifesto.pdf>

Recommended reading: Hobsbawm, Eric. 2011. *How to Change the World*. New Haven: Yale University Press, p 3-14 and 101-120.

http://ouleft.org/wp-content/uploads/How_to_Change_the_World_Hobsbawm.pdf

Week Six More Marx

Tuesday 02/23: Marx

- 1) Marx, Karl., [1844] 1978. "Wage Labour and Capital" *in* *The Marx-Engels Reader*. Robert Tucker, ed. New York: Norton and Co. Pp. 203-217.
- 2) Marx, Karl. [1844] 1978. "On Estranged Labor" *in* *The Marx-Engels Reader*. Robert Tucker, ed. New York: Norton and Co. Pp. 70-81.
- 3) Draper, Hal. 1962. *Marx and the Dictatorship of the Proletariat*. *New Politics* 1 (4).
<https://www.marxists.org/archive/draper/1962/xx/dictprolet.html>

Thursday 02/25: Weber

- 1) Weber, Max. [1930] 2005. *The Protestant Ethic and Spirit of Capitalism*. New York: Taylor and Francis E -library, pgs 1-13, 102-124.

<http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/jhamlin/1095/The%20Protestant%20Ethic%20and%20the%20Spirit%20of%20Capitalism.pdf>

Week Seven: Original Accumulation and Sexual Division of Labor

Tuesday 03/02:

- 1) Federici, Silvia. 2004. *Caliban and the Witch*. Brooklyn, NY: Autonomedia pgs 61- 132.
<https://libcom.org/files/Caliban%20and%20the%20Witch.pdf>

Thursday 03/04:

- 2) Mies, Maria. 1986. *Patriarchy and Accumulation on a World Scale: Women in the International Division of Labor*. New Jersey: Zed Books Ltd, pgs 112-142.
<https://armexploitednations.net/lib/pat&accum.pdf>

Recommended bibliography

Marx, Karl. 1909. The Secret of Primitive Accumulation. *In Capital*. – Vol 1, Chapter 26 .
Chicago: Charles H. Kerr, Selections

<http://www.econlib.org/library/YPDBooks/Marx/mrxCpA26.html#Part%20VIII,%20Chapter%2026>

Marx, Karl. [1844] 1978. *Theses on Feuerbach*. *In The Marx-Engels Reader*. Robert Tucker, ed. Pp. 143-145. New York: Norton and Co.

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

Week Eight: Ideology

Tuesday: 03/9

Marx, Karl and Frederick Engels. [1845] 2002. *Karl Marx and Frederick Engels from The German Ideology*. *In Cultural Resistance Reader*. Stephen Duncombe, ed. Pp. 41-49. New York: Verso.

Recommended reading: Williams, Raymond. 1994. *Base and Superstructure*. *In Culture/Power/History: A Reader in Contemporary Social Theory*. Nicholas B. Dirks, Geoff Eley, and Sherry B. Ortner, eds. Pp. 585-60. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Thursday 03/11: Vanguardism

Lenin, Vladimir. 1902. What is to be Done?

<http://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/download/what-itd.pdf> (in Moodle)

1)

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

Week Nine Spring Break!

Week Ten: Russian Revolution

Tuesday 03/22:

Trotsky, Leon. [1932] 1957. The History of the Russian Revolution. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. (ebrary)

The Conquest of the Capital – Chapter 24, Volume 3, eBook: Pp. 764-792

The Capture of the Winter Palace – Chapter 25, Volume 3, eBook: Pp. 793-818 Conclusions – Volume 3, eBook: Pp. 869-874

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/works/download/hrr-vol3.pdf>

Recommended Readings

For a Leftist Critique of the Soviet Revolution

Luxemburg, Rosa. [1922] 1940. The Problem of Dictatorship. *In* The Russian Revolution. New York: Workers Age Publishers.

Thursday 03/24: 1) **Hegemony** ; Gramsci, Antonio. 2000. Hegemony, Relations of Force, Historical Block. *In* The Antonio Gramsci Reader: Selected Writings 1916-1935. David Forgacs, ed. Pp. 189- 221. New York: New York University Press. And Glossary of Terms, Hegemony, Pp. 422-424.

Gramsci, Antonio. 1975. The Prison Notebooks. New York: Columbia University Press. Excerpts.

Week Eleven: Other perspectives

Tuesday 03/29: Hall, Stuart.1986. “Importance of Gramsci for the Study of Race and Ethnicity.”
http://pages.ucsd.edu/~rfrank/class_web/ES-200A/Week%202/Hall-Gramsci.pdf

Thursday 03/31: 2) Hall, Stuart. 1996. The Problem of Ideology: Marxism without Guarantees. *In* Stuart Hall: Critical Dialogues in Cultural Studies. David Morley and Kuang –Hsing Chen, eds. Pp. 24-45. New York: Routledge.

Week Twelve : Other Perspectives

Tuesday 04/05) Nietzsche, Friedrich. [1886] 2002. Beyond Good and Evil. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
<http://www.holybooks.com/wp-content/uploads/Nietzsche-Beyond-Good-and-Evil.pdf>

Thursday 04/07) :1)Hobsbawm, Eric. 1989. Age of Empire. New York: Vintage Books, p.56-83
<https://libcom.org/files/Eric%20Hobsbawm%20-%20Age%20Of%20Empire%201875%20-%201914.pdf>

Week Thirteen Colonial subject

Tuesday 04/12: Fanon, Frantz. 1986. 2008. Black Skin, White Masks. London: Pluto Press, 1-27, 61- 81, 164-174.
http://abahlali.org/files/_Black_Skin__White_Masks__Pluto_Classics_.pdf

Thursday 04/ 14: 2) Fanon, Frantz. 1963. The Wretched of the Earth. “ Violence in the International Context.” New York: Grove Press, 35-95.

Week Fourteen: Resistance

Tuesday 04/19) C. Scott, James. 1990. Domination and Arts of Resistance. New Haven: Yale University Press, pgs, 1-44. https://libcom.org/files/scott_dominationandresistance.pdf

Thursday 04/21) Gandhi, Mahatma. 1910. Hind Swaraj.
<http://www.soilandhealth.org/03sov/0303critic/hind%20swaraj.pdf>

Week Fifteen

Tuesday 04/ 26) Last day Reflections.

Final Papers: May 5th

Bibliography:

Chen, Kuan-Hsing., and David Morley, eds. *Stuart Hall: Critical Dialogues in Cultural Studies*. New York: Routledge, 1996. Print.

Draper, Hal. "Marx and the Dictatorship of the Proletariat." *New Politics* 1 (4), 1962.

Duncombe, Stephen., ed. *Cultural Resistance Reader*. New York: Verso, 2002. Print.

Fanon, Frantz. *The Wretched of the Earth*. Trans. Richard Philcox. New York: Grove Press, 2004. Print.

Fanon, Frantz. *Black Skin, White Masks*. Trans. Charles L. Markmann. London: Pluto Press, 2008. Print.

Federici, Silvia. *Caliban and the Witch*. Brooklyn, NY: Autonomedia, 2004. Print.

Forgacs, David., ed. *The Antonio Gramsci Reader: Selected Writings 1916-1935*. New York: New York University Press, 2000. Print.

Gandhi, Mahatma. "Hind Swaraj." *Indian Opinion*, Gujarat, 11th and 18th Dec, 1909. Print.

Gramsci, Antonio. *The Prison Notebooks*. Trans. Joseph A. Buttigieg and Antonio Callari. New York: Columbia University Press, 1992. Print.

Hall, Stuart. "Importance of Gramsci for the Study of Race and Ethnicity." *Journal of Communication Inquiry* 10: 5, 1986. Print.

Hobbes, Thomas. "Leviathan." University of Wisconsin Platteville, n.d. Web. 19 Jan. 2016 <<http://www.uwplatt.edu/~drefcins/254hobbess.html>> .

Hobsbawm, Eric. *Age of Empire*. New York: Vintage Books, 1989. Print.

Kant, Immanuel. "An Answer to the Question: what is Enlightenment?" *Constitution Society*, n.d. Web. 19 Jan. 2016 <<http://www.constitution.org/jjr/socon.htm>>.

Lenin, Vladimir. "What is to be Done?," *The Marxists Internet Archive*. 2010. Web. Jan 19. 2016. <<https://www.marxists.org/archive/lenin/works/download/what-itd.pdf>>.

Locke, John. "Second Treatise of Government." *Constitution Society*, n.d. Web. Jan 19. 2016. <<http://faculty.tamuc.edu/jherndon/documents/LockeSecondTreatiseSelections.pdf>> .

Marx, Karl. "The Communist Manifesto." *The Marxists Internet Archive*. 2010. Web. Jan 19. 2016. <<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/pdf/Manifesto.pdf>>.

Mies, Maria. *Patriarchy and Accumulation on a World Scale: Women in the International Division of Labor*. New Jersey: Zed Books Ltd, 1986. Print.

Mignolo, Walter. *The Darker Side of Western Modernity: Global Futures, Decolonial Options (Latin America Otherwise)*. Durham: Duke University Press Books, 2011. Print.

Mills, Charles W. *The Racial Contract*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1997. Print.

Nietzsche, Friedrich. *Beyond Good and Evil*. Trans. Judith Norman. Cambridge, London: Cambridge University Press, 2002. Print.

Pateman, Carol. *The Sexual Contract*. California: Stanford University Press, 1988. Print.

Quijano, Anibal. "Coloniality of Power, Eurocentrism and Latin America." *Neplanta: Views from the South* 1(3), 2000.

Rousseau, Jean Jacques. *The Social Contract*. *Constitution Society*. n.d. Web. Jan 19. 2016 <<http://www.constitution.org/jjr/socon.htm>>.

Said, Edward. *Orientalism*. New York: Vintage Books, 1979. Print.

Scott, James C. *Domination and Arts of Resistance*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1990. Print.

Trotsky, Leon. *The History of the Russian Revolution*. Trans. Max Eastman. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 1960.

Tucker, Robert., ed. *The Marx-Engels Reader*. New York: Norton and Co., 1978. Print.

U.S. Const., art. 1, sec.1. Print.

Weber, Max. *The Protestant Ethic and Spirit of Capitalism*. Trans. Talcott Parsons. New York: Taylor and Francis e-Library, 2005.

