

Unit of Study Outline

Unit of Study

Phil 2632 Theories of Modernity 2, Semester 2, Dr John Grumley

Description

The story of 19th century theories of modernity is largely one of the ascent of Western bourgeois civilisation, its values and meta-narratives. The catastrophes of the first half of the 20th century forced a fundamental re-evaluation of bourgeois illusions reflected in the work of Weber, The Frankfurt School, Foucault and Habermas. In this course we will see how these thinkers responded to the intellectual and practical challenges of the new epoch. We will be especially interested in the accounts of the new constellation of social, political and cultural forces that emerged after the Second World War. What, if anything, could be salvaged from the wreckage? In the works of Foucault and Habermas we will also canvass in an indirect way some of the main ingredients of the debate over post-modernity.

Broad Objectives and Generic Skills

1. To learn reading and writing skills specific to philosophy but which also have a wider relevance and application across other disciplines and everyday life
2. To gain knowledge of the history of philosophy, to interpret texts and identify key issues and debates.
3. To apply this theoretical knowledge to orientation in the contemporary world
4. To promote interpersonal and oral presentation skills in the tutorial context

Learning Commitments and Contact

One two hour lecture, one tutorial per week

Learning Situations

One two hour lecture, one tutorial per week
Lecture: 10-12 noon Thurs Latin 1 S224
Tutorial:
12noon-1pm Ross St Tut Room
2—3pm Ross St Tut Room

Learner Preparation

12 credit points in junior philosophy courses.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Student should improve their analytical and critical abilities in philosophical work both written and oral.

2. A deeper knowledge 20th century critical reflection on modern societies.
3. A more acute awareness of the dynamics of modern world.
4. An increased awareness of the way in which human understanding and reflection is conditioned by history and culture.

Unit of Study Outline

Week 1 Introduction: The Changing Face of Modernity
Week 2 Weber: The Problematic of Rationalisation
Week 3 Weber: The Task of the Modern Subject
Week 4 Weber: The Struggle of the Gods and its Problems
Week 5 Frankfurt School- The Fully Administered Society
Week 6 Frankfurt School: The Dialectic of Enlightenment
Week 7 Frankfurt School: The Culture Industry Thesis in Critical Perspective
Week 8 Foucault: Genealogy and the Madness of Reason
Week 9 Foucault The Carceral Society
Week 10 Foucault: Critical Perspective and Normative Tensions
Week 11 Habermas and His Predecessors: Understanding Cultural Rationalisation
Week 12 Habermas: Modernity the Incomplete Project
Week 13 Habermas: Learning by Disaster or Liberal Apologist?

Lecture summaries will be available on the following website:
<http://theoretiesofmodernity.blogspot.com>

Assessment Schedule

Tutorial Attendance mark
One 2,000 Take-Home Essay (Late Sept)
One 2,500 word Essay (Early Nov)

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the theft of intellectual property. The Academic Board of the University of Sydney has defined plagiarism as 'presenting another person's ideas, findings or work as one's own by copying or reproducing the work without due acknowledgement of the source'. The most common form of plagiarism is presenting written work that contains sentences, paragraphs or longer sections from published work without acknowledgement. In other cases, students reproduce portions of the work of another student and present it as their own. Using the structure of another's argument is a form of plagiarism, even if the wording is changed.

The Department of Philosophy encourages students to think for themselves. In assessing your work we look for evidence of your understanding and capacity for independent thought, so we are always disappointed to discover plagiarism. Our disappointment is only mitigated by the delight of successful detection: academics have very sensitive antennae and derivative phrasing will swiftly alert our suspicions. Plagiarism from the internet, in particular, is absurdly easy to detect.

The Department's first responsibility is educative, and where plagiarism seems to arise from poor referencing practices or lack of confidence, we will alert you to the problem and suggest strategies for

improvement. Regardless of the reasons for it, plagiarised work is never acceptable, and may fail because it does not meet the requirements of academic merit.

Late Work

In those cases where work is accepted late (without a satisfactory excuse), marks may be deducted, to ensure fairness to students who do get their work in on time.

Attendance Policy

Attendance at all lectures and tutorial is obligatory.

Appeals

Students seeking a review of assessment marks should in the first instance see the unit co-ordinator and, if not satisfied, then the Philosophy II/III Coordinator Michael McDermott

Unit of Study Readings

General Reading

- Polanyi, K. *The Great Transformation* Beacon Press, Boston, 1957
Hobsbawm, E. *The Age of Revolution* Sphere Books, London, 1973
Laslett, P. *The World We have Lost*, Methuen, 1965
Chadwick, Q. *The Secularization of the European Mind in the Nineteenth Century*, Cambridge, 1975
Fritzsche, P. *Stranded in the Present: Modern Time and the Melancholy of History*, Harvard University Press, 2004
Berman, M. *All That is Solid Melts Into Air* New York, 1982
Gumbrecht, H.U. 'A History of the Concept "Modern"' *Making Sense in Life and Literature*, University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1992
Coser, R.L. *In Defense of Modernity: Role Complexity and Individual Autonomy* Stanford University Press, 1991
Jervis, J. *Exploring the Modern: Patterns of Western Culture and Civilisation*, Blackwell, Oxford, 1998
Pippin, R.B. *Modernism as a Philosophical Problem*, Oxford, 1991
Turner, C. 'The Coherence of the Concept of Modernity' in *Modernity and Politics in the Work of Max Weber* Routledge, London, 1992, Chapter 1
Habermas, J. *The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity* Polity, Cambridge, 1987
Touraine, A. *Critique of Modernity* Blackwell, 1995
Giddens, A. *The Consequences of Modernity* Polity, Cambridge, 1990
Wagner, P. *A Sociology of Modernity* Routledge, 1994
Wagner, P. *Theorizing Modernity* Sage, London, 2001
Wagner, P. *A History and Theory of the Social Sciences: Not All that is Modern Melts Into Air* Sage, London, 2001
Szakoczi, A. *The Genesis of Modernity* Routledge, 2002
Heller, A. *A Theory of Modernity*, Blackwell, 1999
Bauman, Z. *Liquid Modernity*, Polity, 2000
Rose, M.A. *The Post-Modern and the Post-Industrial: A Critical Analysis* Cambridge University Press, 1991
Yack, B. *The Fetishism of Modernities* University of Notre Dame Press, 1997
MacFarlane, A. *The Riddle of the Modern World* MacMillan, London, 2000

Goody, J. *Capitalism and Modernity: The Great Debate* Polity, 2004
Hardt, M & Negri, A. *Empire* Harvard University Press, 2000
Lash, S. *Another Modernity* Blackwell, 1999

Weber

Weber, M. 'Science as a Vocation' and 'Politics As a Vocation'
From Max Weber Routledge & Kegan Paul, London, 1947
Weber, M. *The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism* Allen & Unwin, 1976
Weber, M. *General Economic History* Transaction Books, 1981 Part Four

Kalberg, S. (Ed) *Max Weber: Readings and Commentary on Modernity* Blackwell, Oxford, 2005-06-16
Kim, S H. *Max Weber's Politics of Civil Society* Cambridge University Press, 2004
Whimster, S & Lash, S. *Max Weber, Rationality and Modernity*
(Selection of essays: some on our theme)
Sayer, D. *Capitalism and Modernity: An Excursus on Marx and Weber* Routledge, 1991
Szakolczai, A. *Max Weber and Michel Foucault: Parallel Life Works* Routledge, Part 1&2 1998
Turner, C. *Modernity and Politics in the Work of Max Weber* Routledge, London, 1992
Löwith, K. *Max Weber and Karl Marx* Allen & Unwin, London, 1982
Scaff, L A. *Fleeing The Iron Cage* University of California Press, 1989
Turner, B S. *Max Weber: From History to Modernity* Routledge, 1992
Schluchter, W. *The Paradoxes of Modernity* Stanford University Press, 1996

The Frankfurt School

Adorno, T & Horkheimer, M. *Dialectic of Enlightenment* Stanford, 2002
Horkheimer, M. *Eclipse of Reason* Continuum, 1974
Adorno T W *Minima Moralia* NLB, London, 1974

Jay, M. *The Dialectical Imagination* Heinemann, London, 1973 Ch 6&8
Wiggerhaus, R. *The Frankfurt School: Its History, Theories and Political Significance* MIT, 1994
Müller-Dooan, S. *Adorno: A Biography* Polity Cambridge. 2005
Habermas, J. *The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity* Polity, Cambridge, 1987, Ch 5
Bernstein, J.M. *Adorno: Disenchantment and Ethics* Cambridge University Press, 2001
Cook, D. *The Culture Industry Revisited* Rowman & Littlefield, 1996
Rabinbach, A. *In the Shadow of Catastrophe: German Intellectuals between Apocalypse and Enlightenment* University of California Press, Chapter 5, 1997

Foucault

Foucault, M. *Discipline and Punish* Penguin, London, 1977
Foucault, M. *The History of Sexuality* Vol 1, Penguin, 1978
(Ed) Kritzman L D, *Michel Foucault: Politics, Philosophy and Culture* Interviews and Other Writings 1977-84, Routledge, 1988

Miller, J. *The Passion of Michel Foucault* Simon & Schuster, 1993
Rajchman, J., *Michel Foucault: The Freedom of Philosophy* Columbia University Press, 1985
Dumm, T L. *Michel Foucault and the Politics of Freedom* Sage 1996, Chs 3, 4
Honneth, A. *Critique of Power*, M I T , 1992
Bernauer, J. *Michel Foucault's Force of Flight: Towards an Ethics of Thought*, Humanities Press, 1992
Simons, J. *Foucault and the Political* Routledge, 1995
Szakolczai, A. *Max Weber and Michel Foucault: Parallel Life Works* Routledge, Part 1&3 1998
Hain, B. *Foucault's Critical Project* Stanford, 2002

Habermas

Habermas, J. *The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity* Polity Press, 1987
'Conceptions of Modernity: A Look back at Two Traditions.' In *The Postnational Constellation* MIT, 2001
Honneth, A. *Critique of Power*, M I T, 1992
Arato, A, & Cohen, J *Civil Society and Political Theory* M I T, 1992, Ch8
Holub, RC, *Jurgen Habermas Critic In the Public Sphere* Routledge, 1991, Ch 6
Johnson, P. *Habermas: Rescuing the Public Sphere* Routledge, 2006
Chambers, S. *Reasonable Democracy* Cornell Uni Press 1996, Ch 9
White, S K. *Cambridge Companion to Habermas* 1996, Chs11,12
Bernstein, J. M. *Recovering of Ethical Life: Jürgen Habermas and the Future of Critical Theory* Routledge, 1995
Passerin d'Entreves, M and Benhabib, S(Ed) *Habermas and the Unfinished Project of Modernity* MIT, Chapters 2, 9

Staff Contact Information

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