

Unit of Study Outline

Unit of Study

Phil 2644 Critical Theory: From Marx to Foucault, Semester 2, Dr John Grumley

Description

The idea of critical theory emerged from a dissatisfaction with the perceived limits of traditional philosophy: it attempted to go beyond the alleged impasses of philosophy and actually change the world. This course will consider various phases in the history of this project from Marx to the Frankfurt School to Habermas before finally looking at an alternative reading of critique in Foucault. It will examine both the innovations and weaknesses of these various formulations in their historical context as well as considering contemporary efforts to review and reanimate the idea of critical theory.

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: 11-1pm Tues McRae Room, 418
Tutorial: 2-3pm Tues Carslaw Tut Room 451
3-4pm Tues Carslaw Tut Room 452

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 Concept of Critique

Week 2 Marx –Four Versions of Critical Theory

Week 3 Marx's Departure from Philosophy

Week 4 Marx- Alienation as Philosophical Critique

Week 5 Between Philosophy and Science

Week 6 Frankfurt School: Initial Programme

Week 7 Frankfurt School: Traditional and Critical Theory

Week 8 The Survival of Philosophy

Week 9 Habermas: From Hegel to Kant

Week 10 Habermas: Communicative Interaction and Philosophy as Translator

Week 11 Habermas: Theory and Practice revisited

Week 12 Foucault: Enlightenment as Critique

Week 13 Habermas/Foucault Debate and Beyond

Lecture Summaries available at:

<http://www.criticaltheoryusyd.blogspot.com>

Assessment Schedule

Tutorial Attendance mark

One 2, 000 Take-Home Essay (Late Sept)

One 2, 000 word Essay (Early Nov)

Tut Paper 500 words

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

Tucker, R. *The Marx/Engels Reader* Norton Press, 1982

Horkheimer, M. *Critical Theory: Selected Essays* (New York: Herder and Herder, 1972)

Marcuse, H. 'Philosophy and Critical Theory' *Negations: Essays in Critical Theory* (London: Allen Lane. 1968)

Habermas, J. 'Between Philosophy and Science: Marxism as Critique' *Theory and Practice* (Boston, Beacon Press, 1973)

Habermas, J. 'Philosophy as Stand-In and Interpreter' *Moral Consciousness and Communicative Action* (Cambridge, Massachusetts, MIT, 1990)

Foucault, M. 'What is Enlightenment?' *The Foucault Reader* (ed) Rabinow, P. New York, Penguin, 1984)

- Foucault, M 'Critical Theory/Intellectual History' *Michel Foucault: Politics, Philosophy Culture Interviews and Other Writings 1977-1984* Ed Kritzman, L.D. (London, Routledge, 1988)
- Foucault, M. *The Essential Works Vol 1: Ethics, Subjectivity and Truth* The New Press, New York, 1997
- Foucault, M. "Society Must be Defended' *Lectures at the College De France 1975-1976* Picador, New York ,2003
- Foucault, M. *The Hermeneutics of the Subject: Lectures at the College de France 1981-82*
- Bubner, R. *Essays in Hermeneutics and Critical Theory* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1988)
- Jacoby, R. *Dialectic of Defeat: Contours of Western Marxism* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1981)
- Berman, R. A. *Modern Culture and Critical Theory: Art, Politics and the Legacy of the Frankfurt School* (Madison, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin Press, 1989)
- Kellner, D. *Critical Theory, Marxism and Modernity* (Oxford: Polity Press, 1989)
- Geuss, R. *The Idea of a Critical Theory: Habermas&the Frankfurt School* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981)
- Held, D. *Introduction to Critical Theory: Horkheimer to Habermas* (London, Hutchinson, 1980)
- Kompridis, N. *Critique and Disclosure: Critical Theory between Past and Future* Cambridge, MA, MIT Press, 2006
- Landry, L. Y, *Marx and the Postmodern Debates: An Agenda for Critical Theory* Praeger, Westport, Connecticut, 2000
- Wellmer, A. *Critical Theory of Society* (New York, Herder and Herder, 1971)
- Rasmussen, D. M. *The Handbook of Critical Theory* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1996)
- Bronner, S. *Of Critical Theory and Its Theorists* (Oxford: Blackwell, 1994)
- Bronner, S. *Reclaiming the Enlightenment: Towards a Politics of Radical Engagement* (New York, Columbia University Press, 2004)
- Hoy, D. C& McCarthy T. *Critical Theory* (Oxford, Blackwell, 1994)
- Calhoun, C. *Critical Social Theory* (Oxford, Blackwell, 1995)
- Kelly, M. *Critique and Power: Recasting the Foucault/Habermas Debate* (Boston: MIT, 1995)
- Habermas, J. *The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity* (Oxford: Polity Press, 1987)
- O'Neill, J. (Ed) *On Critical Theory* (London: Heinemann, 1977)
- Bernstein, J. *Recovering Ethical Life: Jürgen Habermas and the Future of Critical Theory* (London: Routledge, 1995)
- McCarthy, T. *The Critical Theory of Jürgen Habermas* (London: Hutchinson, 1978)
- Roderick, R. *Habermas and the Foundations of Critical Theory* (London: MacMillan, 1986)
- Dubiel, H. *Theory and Politics: Studies in the Development of Critical Theory* (Cambridge, MA: MIT, 1985)

- Jay, M. *The Dialectical Imagination: A History of the Frankfurt School and the Institute of Social Research, 1923-1950* (Little Brown and Company, Boston, 1973)
- Han, B. *Foucault's Critical Project* (Stanford, CA, Stanford University Press, 2002)
- Lemert, C. C. & Gillan, G. *Michel Foucault: Social Theory as Transgression* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1982)
- Bernauer, J. *Michel Foucault's Force of Flight: Towards and Ethics of Thought* (New York: Humanities, Press, 1990)
- Simons, J. *Foucault and the Political* (London, Routledge, 1995)
- Racevskis, K. *Michel Foucault and the Subversion of the Intellect* (Ithaca, Cornell University Press, 1983)
- Brudney, D. *Marx's Attempt to Leave Philosophy* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1998)
- Prokopczyk, C. *Truth and Reality in Marx and Hegel: A Reassessment* (Amherst: University of Massachusetts, 1980)
- Schmidt, J (Ed) *What is Enlightenment: Eighteenth-Century Questions and Twentieth-Century Questions* University of California, Berkeley, 1996

Staff Contact Information

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