

Psychology, Culture, & Society

Psyc 6400-01

Monday & Wednesday 2-3:40

Melson 104

General Information

Professor: John L. Roberts, Ph.D.

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Office Hours: 9am-Noon Monday/Wednesday &

9am-1pm Tuesday and by appointment

Course Description

An intensive exploration of the effects of culture on psychological life that works with recent ideas on the interrelationship of history, culture, and the psychological. The course draws upon theory and research approaches derived from feminism, qualitative research paradigms, cultural studies, discursive analysis, psychoanalysis and critical theory.

Course Objectives

Students will develop and express understanding of the reciprocal relationship between psychology and culture.

Required Texts

Texts will consist of required books, and other materials (i.e., book chapters, essays, etc.) on electronic reserve, and/or handed out in class. The required books are as follows:

Civilization and Its Discontents – Sigmund Freud

The Things of the World: A Social Phenomenology – James Aho*

Damaged Life: The Crisis of the Modern Psyche – Tod Sloan*

How to Read Lacan – Slavoj Zizek

On the Genealogy of Morals (Vintage, Kauffman, Trans.), Friedrich Nietzsche

Psychiatric Power – Michel Foucault

Social Constructionism (2nd Ed.) – Vivien Burr

Critical Race Theory: An Introduction – Richard Delgado & Jean Stefancic

Time and the Other – Emmanuel Levinas

Course Format

The course is a seminar, and will be primarily based around class discussion with student presentations/discussion facilitation. As such, students will be expected to be consistently and thoroughly prepared by reading all of the assignment material, coming to class with questions and issues in mind, and participating actively in discussion. If a student is not adequately prepared (has not done the reading), he/she cannot meaningfully contribute to our discussion. “Seminar” derives from the Latin *seminarium*, meaning “seed plot.” Ideally, we will all learn from each other, and that our time together will be fertile ground for the exchange of perspectives and the growth of understanding.

Course Requirements & Expectations

Attendance: It is vital that you attend all class meetings unless there is a very good reason for you not being present. In a seminar, we are all teachers and when someone is absent the teaching suffers. In my experience, more the three (3) absences will likely result in diminished understanding and engagement.

Participation/Facilitation: Because the seminar format requires consistent participation from its members, a significant portion of the grade will be based on weekly reading assignments – in the form of discussion. Each student will facilitate class discussion or present on relevant material at least once during the term. When in class, please do turn off phones and/or other distracting electronics. If there is an urgent need to use one's phone, please use a mute setting.

Research Paper: It is expected that each student will complete a written fifteen to twenty (15-20) page (double-spaced, 1 inch margin, APA style, etc.) research paper. The paper will examine some dimension of psychology, culture, and society pursuant to the student's interest. *Papers are due on May 7.*

Academic Honesty: Students are responsible for upholding the University's honor code.

Other Student Rights & Responsibilities: Students should carefully review information here:

http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

It contains important material pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.

Evaluation

Grading is collaborative; we will have a conversation concerning what grade is appropriate. Here is a suggested breakdown of grading:

Participation: 50 %

Final Paper: 50 %

Course Schedule & Topoi

Readings for focused group discussion are in **bold**.

1/8 No Class – UWG closed for Winter Weather

1/10 Introduction

1/15 No Class – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

1/17 Psychology & the Social: **Hacking, from Historical Ontology, 1-26, 99-114**; Foucault, from Abnormal, 55-79.

- 1/22 Social Phenomenology: **Aho, The Things of the World: A Social Phenomenology, 1-70.**
- 1/24 Social Phenomenology: **Aho, The Things of the World: A Social Phenomenology, 71-148.**
- 1/29 Culture, Materialism & Ideology: Marx, from The German Ideology, Volume One, 162-183; **Althusser, "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses," 127-177.**
- 1/31 Psyche & the Crisis of Modernization: **Sloan, Damaged Life: The Crisis of the Modern Psyche, 1-66.**
- 2/5 Psyche & the Crisis of Modernization: **Sloan, Damaged Life: The Crisis of the Modern Psyche, 67-146.**
- 2/7 Culture & the Unconscious: **Freud, Civilization & Its Discontents (entire book).**
- 2/12 The Subversion of the Subject: **Fink, from The Lacanian Subject: Between Language and Jouissance, 35-79; Lacan, 75-81; Fink, "Reading 'The Subversion of the Subject,'" 106-128.**
- 2/14 Ideology & Divided Subjectivity: **Zizek, How to Read Lacan, 1-60; Zizek, from The Sublime Object of Ideology, 55-84.**
- 2/19 Zizek Film
- 2/21 Ideology & Divided Subjectivity: **Zizek, How to Read Lacan, 61-130; Zizek, from The Sublime Object of Ideology, 87-129.**
- 2/26 Power, Subjectivity, & Metaphysics: **Nietzsche, The Genealogy of Morals (First & Second Essays), 24-96; Foucault, "Nietzsche, Genealogy, History," 351-369.**
- 2/28 Power, Subjectivity, & Metaphysics: Nietzsche, The Genealogy of Morals (Third Essay), 97-163; **Heidegger, 53-112.**
- 3/5 Film: *Chomsky-Foucault Debate*
- 3/7 Power/Knowledge, Discipline, & Psychiatry: **Foucault, Psychiatric Power, 1-18, 38-92; Foucault, Psychiatric Power, 19-38, Foucault, from Discipline & Punish, 195-228.**
- 3/12 Power/Knowledge, Discipline, & Psychiatry: **Foucault, Psychiatric Power, 93-121, 143-173; Foucault, Psychiatric Power, 123-142, 173-199.**

- 3/14 Biopower: **Foucault, 1-25; Patton, "Power and Biopower in Foucault," 102-114; Sugarman, "Neoliberalism and Psychological Ethics," 103-116.**
- 3/19 No Class – Spring Break
- 3/21 No Class – Spring Break
- 3/26 Social Constructionist Psychology: **Burr, Social Constructionism, Chapters 1-4.**
- 3/28 Social Constructionist Psychology: **Burr, Social Constructionism, Chapters 5-8.**
- 4/2 Psychopathology and the Modern Subject: **Levin, 21-76; Bracken, 38-59; Cushman, 599-610; Hacking, 67-88.**
- 4/4 Gender, Feminism, & Identity: **Butler, Gender Trouble, Chapter 1; Foucault, from The History of Sexuality, An Introduction: Volume 1, 3-12.**
- 4/9 Gender, Feminism, & Identity: **Butler, Gender Trouble, Chapter 3, sections I, II, & IV; Young, 27-45.**
- 4/11 Feminism & Nomadic Subjects: **Braidotti, from Nomadic Subjects, Chapters 4-6; Haraway, 149-201; Chanter, Chapter 4.**
- 4/16 Theory & Race: **Delgado & Stefancic, Critical Race Theory: An Introduction, 1-66.**
- 4/18 Theory & Race: **Delgado & Stefancic, Critical Race Theory: An Introduction, 67-136.**
- 4/23 Postcolonialism & Liberation Psychology: Fanon, from Black Skin, White Masks, 83-108; **Martín-Baró, from Writings for a Liberation Psychology, 17-46, 198-220; Watkins & Shulman, from Toward Psychologies of Liberation, 23-48.**
- 4/25 Subjectivity, Ethics & the Other: **Levinas, Time & the Other, 29-120; Barnard, "Diachrony, Tché, and the Ethical Subject in Levinas and Lacan," 160-181.**
- 4/30 Technology & Selfhood: **Turkle, from Alone Together, 151-210.**

Syllabus is subject to change (like people)

