

**ANTH 214**  
*Culture & Power*  
Winter 2015  
Mondays, 12-3

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### Course Overview

Since the 1970s, social scientists and humanities scholars have been drawn to analyzing power relations between individuals and within the context of institutions. This was spurred by the translation of Michel Foucault's work on disciplinary power in the 1970s, but stretches back to the very beginning of sociology in the work of Gabriel Tarde, and extends throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, from Karl Marx to Sigmund Freud, from Max Weber to Norbert Elias. At the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, these many strands were pulled together to conceptualize how individuals come to exist through power relations, and how power is fundamental to social being.

In this course, we follow these 150 years of interest in power, and view them through the lens of early 21<sup>st</sup> century social theory, particularly those interested with non-human actors. Over the first few weeks of the course, we will consider how humans and non-humans interact and shape each other's capacities for power relations; this foundation will provide us with a basis for reading the work of more canonical theorists of power and the ways that they have addressed the non-human, the environmental, and the technological in their conceptions of society and power. How, we might collectively ask, does an attention to the non-human alter existing theories of power? And, moreover, how have foundational theories of power anticipated the recent turn to the non-human and its effects on the human?

Two caveats: because this course is intended as a close examination of dominant theories of power, the reading list is predominantly populated with the work of dead, white European men. This is not to imply that the only work on power that matters is that of white men, but rather that they have been foundational in establishing the terms of debate and that any engagement with theories of power necessarily must address this canon of thought. Moreover, since this course is intended for graduate students to gain fluency in existing theories of power, it will be split between class discussions and lecture; the writing assignments, rather than cater to individual student interests, will be highly directed so as to gauge students' in-depth understandings of the course material.

## Course Materials

Required texts and the course pack will be available at Literary Guillotine in downtown Santa Cruz.

Bennett, Jane

2010 *Vibrant Matter: A Political Ecology of Things*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Bourdieu, Pierre

1977 [1972] *Outline of a Theory of Practice*. R. Nice, transl. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Butler, Judith

1997 *The Psychic Life of Power: Theories in Subjection*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Chatterjee, Partha

1993 *The Nation and its Fragments: Colonial and Postcolonial Histories*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

Elias, Norbert

2000 [1939] *The Civilizing Process*. E. Jephcott, transl. Malden: Blackwell.

Foucault, Michel

1990 [1976] *The History of Sexuality*. R. Hurley, transl. Volume 1. New York: Vintage.

1995 [1975] *Discipline & Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. A. Sheridan, transl. New York: Vintage.

Freud, Sigmund

2000 [1905] *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality*. J. Strachey, transl. New York: Basic Books.

Hobbes, Thomas

1985 [1651] *Leviathan*. New York: Penguin Books.

Martin, Emily

1992 [1987] *The Woman in the Body: A Cultural Analysis of Reproduction*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press.

Mitchell, Timothy

1991 [1988] *Colonising Egypt*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Zizek, Slavoj

1992 *Looking Awry: An Introduction to Jacques Lacan through Popular Culture*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

## Assignments & Policies

Attendance, Participation & Presentation (23%) – Students are expected to attend all classes with the required material having been read. Two absences are allowed; each absence beyond the second will reduce the student's final grade by 10%. Students are required to bring two discussion questions to class for each meeting. Each week's worth of discussion questions is worth 2% (18% total) and must be posted 24 hours before class to the class's eCommons site. Additionally, students will lead class discussions of the texts (in pairs or trios as determined by enrollment, and with each group leading at least one week's discussion); this presentation is worth 5% and is treated as pass/fail. These presentations should move beyond summaries and pose discussion questions based on those provided by other students, review critiques of the work at hand, and compare the week's material with previous texts considered in class.

Field Reports (8 at 4% each; 32% total) – Students are expected to attend a colloquium talk each week during weeks 2-9, in Anthropology, the Center for Cultural Studies, or elsewhere on campus. Each field report should be 1-2 pages long and discuss the theory of power that is central to the colloquium speaker's presentation. These do not need to be thoroughly prepared documents, but should be sufficient enough to facilitate a class discussion.

Three Response Papers (15% each; 45% total) – Students will prepare three 4-5 page typed response paper to prompts provided by the instructor. The response papers must respond to the prompt, and there will correct and incorrect answers.

Policies:

**No late work will be accepted for credit.**

**All assignments must be turned in to receive a passing grade in the course.**

**If you are taking the course Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory, you must earn a B to receive a Satisfactory grade.**

Academic Integrity – Academic misconduct of any sort will not be tolerated. Evidence of plagiarism will result in an immediate failing grade in the course and actions as dictated by university policy regarding academic integrity on graduate students. For a description of the plagiarism review process, see:  
[http://www.ucsc.edu/academics/academic\\_integrity/graduate\\_students/](http://www.ucsc.edu/academics/academic_integrity/graduate_students/).

Style Matters: All submitted work should follow the guidelines set forth in the American Anthropological Association's style guide (available at [aaanet.org](http://aaanet.org)). All papers should be double-spaced, 12 point font, in Times New Roman, with 1 inch margins on all sides, and page numbers. Failure to meet these standards will result in a reduced grade.

Contacting Me: I **only** check my email between 8-11 PM on weekday mornings and during my office hours. I will always respond to emails within 24 hours, except for emails received on Fridays (which will be responded to on the following Monday). If you plan to stop by my office hours, please contact me ahead of time, either by email ([mwolfmey@ucsc.edu](mailto:mwolfmey@ucsc.edu)) or at my office telephone number (458-2365).

## Course Schedule

### **Week 1: What are we Describing when we Describe Power?**

Hobbes, Thomas

1985 [1651] *Leviathan*. New York: Penguin Books. [selections]

Tarde, Gabriel

1899 *Social Laws: An Outline of Sociology*. H.C. Warren, transl. New York: Macmillan Company. [course pack]

Whitehead, Alfred North

1985 [1978] *Process and Reality*. New York: Free Press. [selections, in course pack]

### **Week 2: What Counts in Power Relations? (e.g. Chemicals, Landscapes, Insects, Microbes and Machines)**

Ingold, Tim

2000 *Perception of the Environment: Essays in Livelihood, Dwelling and Skill*. New York: Routledge. [selections, in course pack]

Latour, Bruno

1999 [1993] Give Me a Laboratory and I Will Raise the World. *In The Science Studies Reader*. M. Biagioli, ed. Pp. 258-275. New York: Routledge. [course pack]

Lovell, Anne M.

2006 *Addiction Markets: The Case of High-Dose Buprenorphine in France*. *In Global Pharmaceuticals: Ethics, Markets, Practices*. A. Petryna, A. Lakoff, and A. Kleinman, eds. Pp. 136-170. Durham: Duke University Press. [course pack]

Mitchell, Timothy

2002 *Rule of Experts: Egypt, Techno-Politics, Modernity*. Berkeley: University of California Press. [selections, in course pack]

Smith, Merritt Roe, and Leo Marx, eds.

1994 *Does Technology Drive History? The Dilemma of Technological Determinism*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. [selections, in course pack]

Strathern, Marilyn

1996 *Cutting the Network*. *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute* 2(3):517-535. [course pack]

### **Week 3: Technology, Society, and Relationality**

Elias, Norbert

2000 [1939] *The Civilizing Process*. E. Jephcott, transl. Malden: Blackwell. Parts 1, 3 & 4; Part 2 can be skimmed.

#### **Week 4: Bodies, Machines, and Physicality**

*Response Paper #1 due*

Bennett, Jane

2010 *Vibrant Matter: A Political Ecology of Things*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.

Martin, Emily

1992 [1987] *The Woman in the Body: A Cultural Analysis of Reproduction*. Boston, MA: Beacon Press. [selections]

Marx, Karl

1992 [1975] *Early Writings*. R. Livingstone and G. Benton, transl. New York: Penguin. [selections, in course pack]

#### **Week 5: Bureaucracy and the Logics of Consolidation**

Bourdieu, Pierre

1977 [1972] *Outline of a Theory of Practice*. R. Nice, transl. New York: Cambridge University Press. [selections]

Weber, Max

1978 *Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretive Sociology*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. [selections, in course pack]

#### **Week 6: Symbol, Politics, Hegemony**

Gramsci, Antonio

1971 *Selections from the Prison Notebooks*. Q. Hoare and G.N. Smith, transl. New York: International Publishers. [selections, in course pack]

Zizek, Slavoj

1992 *Looking Awry: An Introduction to Jacques Lacan through Popular Culture*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

#### **Week 7: Discipline, Between Body, Symbol and Society**

*Response Paper #2 due*

Althusser, Louis

1971 *Lenin and Philosophy and Other Essays*. B. Brewster, transl. New York: Monthly Review Press. [selections, in course pack]

Foucault, Michel

1990 [1976] *The History of Sexuality*. R. Hurley, transl. Volume 1. New York: Vintage.

1995 [1975] *Discipline & Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. A. Sheridan, transl. New York: Vintage. [Parts 1-3]

Freud, Sigmund

2000 [1905] *Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality*. J. Strachey, transl. New York: Basic Books.

#### **Week 8: The Experimental Conditions of Power**

Chatterjee, Partha

1993 *The Nation and its Fragments: Colonial and Postcolonial Histories*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. [selections]

Mitchell, Timothy

1991 [1988] *Colonising Egypt*. Berkeley: University of California Press. [selections]

### **Week 9: From Subject to Subjectivity**

Brown, Wendy

1993 Wounded Attachments. *Political Theory* 21(3):390-410. [course pack]

Butler, Judith

1997 *The Psychic Life of Power: Theories in Subjection*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. [selections]

### **Week 10: Futures of Power**

Deleuze, Gilles

1995 [1990] *Negotiations*. M. Joughin, transl. New York: Columbia University Press.

Deleuze, Gilles, and Felix Guattari

1987 [1980] *A Thousand Plateaus*. B. Massumi, transl. Volume 2. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, MN. [selections, in course pack]

### **Final Exam Week**

*Response Paper #3 due* by March 19<sup>th</sup> at noon