Hiscon-119

The Politics of Recognition

Introduction
Our course examines questions and issues surrounding the politics of recognition—and does this in three parts: First, we ask questions concerning the images of ourselves and their relation to the other, the other within the self, selves within the other, and others and selves within community. Secondly, we ask questions concerning of the geopolitical, political, cultural, and ethical dispositions involving the politics of recognition. Thirdly, we ask questions concerning the politics of difference.

This course requires submission of one 2-page paper, one conference presentation, and one final 8-12 page essay on a topic of the student’s choosing.

Trajectory of the Course

Weeks 1-3 we will open up questions concerning the politics of recognition. What is the subject, the self, and its relation to politics? Who is the other, what is its political relation to the self? Is the subject a center, a locus, a unit, a one? Or is it decentered and multiple, a mobile horizon of dark properties and desires?—and what are the political consequences of our answer? We will ask and address questions about our values, the self, the other, and the other in the self?

Weeks 4-6 we will deepen our examination of the politics of recognition by turning towards questions involving contemporary geopolitics, empire, the state, and the war on terror. We will also begin to sketch a framework for critique (defined as an exposition of the internal limits of a given concept, question, or issue).

Week 7-8 we will begin to move from questions of critique now to questions about engineering. We will ask and address questions about the self-images involved in political thought and practices, about values, and about the limits and possibilities for transcending limits on the transvaluation of values. We will open up the question of the politics of difference.

Weeks 9-10 will bring the course to a conclusion with an in-class conference, and then submission of the final essay.

Goal of the Course
This course situates the study of the politics of recognition in the context of questions involving the viability of the practice a politics of difference. Careful attention to the themes of this course, as well as maintaining an open, contemplative, and analytical disposition, will result in an understanding of political, economic, cultural, and ethical stakes involved.
Course Requirements

A. Students are asked to attend all classes, arriving prepared to present on and/or discuss the readings for that day – there are roughly 100 pages of reading each week. The readings for each week are listed in their order of course emphasis; students are encouraged to read course material in the order in which it is listed.

B. The grade breakdown is as follows: (1) Participation 30% (2) Essay One 20% (3) Final Essay (8-12 pages) 50%

Required Texts

Jean Laplanche, Essays on Otherness, Routledge, 1999
Carl Schmitt, The Concept of the Political, University of Chicago Press, 1996
--- Political Theology: Four Chapters on the Concept of Sovereignty, University of Chicago Press, 1973
Alain Badiou, Ethics: An Essay on the Understanding of Evil, Verso, 2001
Gilles Deleuze, Nietzsche & Philosophy, Columbia University, 1983

All other required selections are found at speculativematerialism.com (e) or through online link (URL).

Five Keys to Success in this Course

i. Doing assigned reading ahead of time, taking notes when something strikes you as necessary; returning to those notes and/or key passages from the reading periodically.

ii. Attending class on time, prepared, often; passively or actively participating in class.

iii. Bringing readings and notes on readings to class.

iv. Preparing for assignments ahead of time; beginning work on assignments ahead of time; submitting assignments on time; taking pride in your work as an artist does with her art.

v. Searching for the kernels of true light in a barrage of dark sunshine. (optional)
Class Schedule

I. What is Recognition?

A. Week 1. Subjectivity, Decenterment, Multiplicities

Required
- Jean Laplanche, The Unfinished Copernican Revolution, from Essays on Otherness, Routledge, 1999 (pgs. 52-83)

Recommended
- “A Special Form of Outer Darkness”, Radical Philosophy, Volume No. 159, January/February 2010
- Jean Laplanche, “Time and the Other”, from Essays on Otherness, Routledge, 1999 (pgs. 234-259)
- Seduction, Translation, and the Drives, Institute of Contemporary Arts, 1992 (pg. 3-89; 161-223) (e)
- Sigmund Freud, Beyond the Pleasure Principle, WW Norton 1961
- Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego, WW Norton 1959
- Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis, WW Norton 1921 (esp. see Ch. XXV “Anxiety”)
- Inhibitions, Symptoms, and Anxiety, WW Norton, 1921
- “Analysis Terminable and Interminable” (1937)
- “Constructions in Analysis” (1937)

Itinerary
01/06. Introduction to the course
01/08. The decentered subject; introduction to the speculative method

A. Week 2. An Introduction to Political Community (Molar & Molecular)

Required
- Gilles Deleuze & Félix Guattari, Micropolitics and Segmentarity, from A Thousand Plateaus: Capitalism & Schizophrenia, University of Minnesota Press, 1987
- Jean Laplanche, Implantation, Intromission, from Essays on Otherness, Routledge, 1999 (pgs. 133-137)

Recommended
- Benjamin Lozano, Bergsonism, Zone Books, 1988 Chapter 1 (e)
- “A Special Form of Outer Darkness”, Radical Philosophy, Volume No. 159, January/February 2010
- Jean Laplanche, “Time and the Other”, from Essays on Otherness, Routledge, 1999 (pgs. 234-259)
-- Life & Death in Psychoanalysis, John Hopkins University Press, 1985
-- Seduction, Translation, and the Drives, Institute of Contemporary Arts, 1992 (pg. 3-89; 161-223) (e)
Sigmund Freud, Beyond the Pleasure Principle, WW Norton 1961
-- Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego, WW Norton 1959
-- Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis, WW Norton 1966 (esp. see Ch. XXV “Anxiety”)
-- Inhibitions, Symptoms, and Anxiety, WW Norton, 1921
-- “Analysis Terminable and Interminable” (1937)
-- “Constructions in Analysis” (1937)

Itinerary
01/13. Questions of method, methods of questioning
01/15. An abstract exercise on political community (Lars Von Trier’s Dogville)

C. Week 3. Seduction and Persecution, Community and the Self

Required
-- “Notes on Afterwardsness” (pgs. 260-265)

Recommended
-- Life & Death in Psychoanalysis, John Hopkins University Press, 1985
-- Seduction, Translation, and the Drives, Institute of Contemporary Arts, 1992 (pg. 3-89; 161-223) (e)
Sigmund Freud, Beyond the Pleasure Principle, WW Norton 1961
-- Group Psychology and the Analysis of the Ego, WW Norton 1959
-- Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis, WW Norton 1966 (esp. see Ch. XXV “Anxiety”)
-- Inhibitions, Symptoms, and Anxiety, WW Norton, 1921
-- “Analysis Terminable and Interminable” (1937)
-- “Constructions in Analysis” (1937)

James Surowiecki, “Greater Fools”, The New Yorker, July 5th 2010,
http://www.newyorker.com/talk/financial/2010/07/05/100705ta_talk_surowiecki

Itinerary
01/20. No class – MLK day
01/22. No class

II. Politics, the State, Otherness, Critique

A. Week 4. The Sovereign, the Subject, Emergency, Exception

Required
Carl Schmitt, Political Theology: Four Chapters on the Concept of Sovereignty, University of Chicago Press, 1973 (chapters 1 & 2)
Thomas Hobbes, Chapter 1 “Of the State of Men Without Civil Society” in De Cive,
http://socserv.mcmaster.ca/econ/ugcm/3ll3/hobbes/hobbes
YouTube Video: Grand Theft Auto 4 Video Review
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkbZxaNCww
Proclamation 7463: Declaration of National Emergency By Reason of Certain Terrorist Attacks
Military Order of Nov. 13th 2001: Detention, Treatment, and the Trial of Certain Non-Citizens in War
http://www.fas.org/irp/offdocs/eo/mo-111301.htm
Authorization for Use of Military Force, September 14th 2001

Recommended
Memo from Office of Legal Counsel to Deputy Counsel to the President: The President’s Constitutional Authority to Conduct Military Operations Against Terrorists and Nations Supporting Them, September 25, 2001* http://www.justice.gov/olc/warpowers925.htm
Agreement Between the United States and Cuba for the Lease of Lands for Coaling and Naval stations, February 23rd 1903, http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/diplomacy/cuba/cuba002.htm
The Detainee Treatment Act, Division A Title X of the DOD Appropriations Bill 2006 http://www.legislationline.org/upload/legislations/4d/0e/7374e99d914558e9c75a6e939af4.pdf
Military Commissions Act (October 2006)* http://www.law.georgetown.edu/faculty/nkk/documents/MilitaryCommissions.pdf

Itinerary
01/27. The State of Emergency, the Sovereign Exception
01/29. Laura Poitras’ The Oath

B. Week 5. Politics, the Political, the Other, and Critique (part I of II)

Required
Carl Schmitt, *The Concept of the Political*, University of Chicago Press, 1996
Judith Shklar, “The Liberalism of Fear”, pg. 21-38 (e)

**Recommended**

**Itinerary**
02/03. Geopolitics, the Political, Critique of the Universal
02/05. Sebastian Junger and Tim Hetherington’s, *Restrepo*

**C. Week 6. Politics, the Political, the Other, and Critique (part II of II)**

**Required**

**Recommended**
Benjamin Lozano, “George W. Bush as a Reader of Badiou as a Reader of Saint Paul” (2007) (e)

**Itinerary**
02/10. Geopolitics, the Political, Critique of the Particular (Victimhood, Rescue, Fidelity)
02/12. Essay One Due. Recap

**III. Multiplicity, Becoming, Affirmation, Joy**

**A. Week 7. From Critique to Transvaluation**

**Required**
Gilles Deleuze, *Nietzsche & Philosophy*, Columbia University, 1983 (Chapters 1 and 4)

**Recommended**
Gilles Deleuze, *Logic of Sense*, Columbia University, 1990

**Itinerary**
02/17. No class – President’s Day
02/19. The Question of moving from Critique to Engineering

**B. Week 8. Becoming, Nomadic Distribution**

**Required**

**Recommended**
Gilles Deleuze, *Logic of Sense*, Columbia University, 1990

**Itinerary**
02/24. Becoming-Other: Towards a Politics of Difference
02/26. Nomadic Thought: Towards a Politics of Difference

**C. Weeks 9-10. In Class Conference: The Politics of Recognition**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>03/03 Panel 1</th>
<th>03/05 Panel 2</th>
<th>03/10 Panel 3</th>
<th>03/12 Panel 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
