

Political Science 504. Theoretical Approaches to Policy and Governance

This course encourages a careful reading of three of the most important, widely discussed and debated works of philosophy of the last quarter of the 20th century that raise questions about the epistemologies that govern the study of politics: Richard Rorty's Philosophy and the Mirror of Nature, Hans-Georg Gadamer's Truth and Method, and Jurgen Habermas's The Theory of Communicative Action: Volume I. Thus the course also serves as an introduction to central issues in analytic philosophy, hermeneutics, and critical theory. Richard Bernstein's overview, Beyond Objectivism and Relativism, is also required, as is a take-home final examination and one oral presentation in class. The four required texts referred to above are all available for purchase at the Circle Center bookstore.

Weeks 1-2 I. Introduction and overview

Required: Bernstein, Beyond Objectivism and Relativism

Weeks 3-6 II. Analytic Philosophy

Required: Rorty, Philosophy and the Mirror of Nature

Recommended

1. Works Referred to in the Text
 - P.F. Strawson, Individuals,
 - _____ , The Bounds of Sense
 - George Pitcher, A Theory of Perception,
 - D.M. Armstrong, Perception and the Physical World,
 - _____ , A Materialist Theory of Mind
 - John Dewey, The Quest for Certainty
 - _____ , Experience and Nature
 - John Locke, Essay Concerning the Understanding
 - Wilfrid Sellars, Science, Perception, and Reality,
 - _____ , Science and Metaphysics
 - Rene Descartes, Discourse on Method
 - _____ , Meditations
 - Willis Doney, Descartes: Critical Essays
 - Michael Hooker, Descartes: Critical and Interpretive Essays
 - Gilbert Ryle, The Concept of Mind
 - Jerome Shaffer, Philosophy of Mind
 - O.P. Wood and George Pitcher, Ryle: Critical Essays
 - Thomas Kuhn, The Structure of Scientific Revolutions ,
 - _____ , The Essential Tension
 - Israel Scheffler, Science and Subjectivity
 - Ludwig Wittgenstein, Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus
 - _____ , The Philosophical Investigations
 - George Pitcher, The Philosophical Investigations: Critical Essays

Hilary Putnam, Mind, Language, and Reality
 _____, Meaning and the Moral Sciences
 _____, Realism With a Human Face

Richard Popkin, History of Skepticism From Erasmus to Descartes
 Alfred N. Whitehead, Science and the Modern World, Process and Reality
 George Kline, A.N. Whitehead: Essays on his Philosophy
 David Hume, Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding
 Ian Hacking, The Emergence of Probability
 _____, Why Does Language Matter to Philosophy?
 Thomas Nagel, The View From Nowhere
 Martin Heidegger, The Question Concerning Technology
 _____, Introduction to Metaphysics
 _____, Being and Time
 _____, The End of Philosophy
 Bertrand Russell, Our Knowledge of the External World
 Jerry Fodor, The Language of Thought
 Donald Davidson, Inquiries Into Truth and Interpretation
 _____, and G. Harman, Semantics of Natural Language
 _____, and Jaakko Hintikka, Words and Objections: Essays on Quine
 W.V. Quine, Word and Object
 _____, From a Logical Point of View
 _____, Ontological Relativity and Other Essays Ways of Paradox
 Michael Dummett, Frege's Philosophy of Language,
 _____, Logical Basis of Metaphysics
 A.J. Ayer, Language, Truth and Logic
 P. Feyerabend, Against Method
 _____, and G. Maxwell, Mind, Matter and Method
 Clifford Geertz, The interpretation of Culture
 Karl-Otto Apel, Understanding and Explanation
 _____, Analytic Philosophy and the Geisteswissenschaften
 _____, Charles S. Peirce: From Pragmatism...
 Michael Oakeshott, Rationalism in Politics...

2. Additional Works by Rorty

The Linguistic Turn
The Consequences of Pragmatism
Contingency, Irony and Solidarity
Objectivity, Relativism and Truth: Volume I

3. Commentaries

Richard J. Bernstein, The New Constellation, ch.8-9 Thomas McCarthy, Ideals and Illusions, chap.1 and "Postscript" to chap. 1.
 William G. Weaver, "Richard Rorty and the Radical Left", Virginia Law Review, vol.78, pp.729-57.
 Nancy Fraser, "Solidarity or Singularity?: Richard Rorty Between Romanticism and Technocracy", in Unruly Practices, pp. 93-110.
 Alan R. Malachowski, ed., Reading Rorty: Critical Responses to Philosophy and the Mirror of Nature (and Beyond).

Weeks

7-10 III. Hermeneutics

Required: Hans-Georg Gadamer, Truth and Method

Recommended

1. Works Referred to in the Text

John Stuart Mill, The Logic of the Moral Sciences David Hume, Treatise on Human Nature

Wilhelm Dilthey, Introduction to the Human Sciences

Wilhelm Dilthey, Poetry and Experience

F. Schleiermacher, Hermeneutics: The Handwritten Manuscripts

Georg Hegel, Phenomenology of Spirit ,

_____, Logic

Charles Taylor, Hegel

St. Thomas Aquinas, Summa Theologica

Thomas Reid, The Philosophical Works

Immanuel Kant, Critique of Judgment

_____, Critique of Pure Reason

_____, Critique of Practical Reason

_____, Metaphysics of Morals

Edmund Husserl, Logical Investigations

_____, The Crisis of European Sciences...

Henri Bergson, Creation Evolution

F. Schiller, On the Aesthetic Education of Man

J. Huizinga, Homo Ludens: The Play Element in Culture

J.G. Droysen, Outline of the Principles of History

Georg Misch, The Dawn of Philosophy

Plato, The Collected Dialogues of Plato

Aristotle, Politics

Aristoteles, et al, The Ethics of Aristotle

Wilhelm Humboldt, Philosophy of Language

E.D. Hirsch, Validity in Interpretation

2. Additional Works by Gadamer

Philosophical Hermeneutics

Reason in the Age of Science

"The Problem of Historical Consciousness", in Paul Rabinow and William M. Sullivan, Interpretive

Social

Science: A Reader

3. Commentaries

Lawrence Schmidt, The Epistemology of H.G. Gadamer Kathleen Wright, Festivals of Interpretation

George Warnke, Gadamer: Hermeneutics, Tradition.

H.J. Silverman, Gadamer and Hermeneutics

Joel Weisenheimer, Gadamer's Hermeneutics: A Reading of Truth and Method

Richard Palmer, Hermeneutics: Interpretive Theory in Dilthey, Heidegger, and Gadamer

Jurgen Habermas, A Review of Gadamer's Truth and Method, in Fred R. Dallmayr and Thomas A. McCarthy, Understanding and Social Inquiry, pp.335-63
 Seyla Benhabib and Fred Dallmayr, The Communicative Ethics Controversy
 Jack Mendelsen, "The Habermas-Gadamer Debate", New German Critique 18 (1979), pp.44-73.
 Dieter Misgeld, "Critical Theory and Hermeneutics: The Debate Between Gadamer and Habermas", in John O'Neil, On Critical Theory, pp. 164-83.
 Martin Jay, "Should Intellectual History Take a Linguistic Turn?: Reflections on the Habermas-Gadamer Debate", in Dominick LaCapra and Steven L. Kaplan, Modern European Intellectual History, pp.86-110.

Weeks 11-14 III. Critical Theory

Required

Jurgen Habermas, The Theory of Communicative Action: Volume I

Recommended

1. Works Referred to in the Text

Stephen Toulmin, The Uses of Argument
 _____, Human Understanding
 _____, et. al., Introduction to Reasoning
 Jean Piaget, Principles of Genetic Epistemology
 R. Horton and R. Finnegan, Modes of Thought
 E. Evans-Pritchard, Witchcraft, Oracles, and Magic Bryan Wilson, Rationality
 A. MacIntyre, Against the Self-Image of the Age
 R.W. Rieber, Body and Mind
 I.C. Jarvie, Rationality and Relativism
 _____, and J. Agassie, Rationality: The Critical View
 Karl Popper, Objective Knowledge
 _____, and J.C. Eccles, The Self and its Brain Arthur Danto, Analytical Philosophy of Action Max
 Weber, Economy and Society
 _____, The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism
 H.H. Girth and C. Wright Mills, From Max Weber
 Anthony Giddens, Social Theory and Modern Society Studies in Social and Political Theory
 _____, Central Problems in Social Theory
 I. Lakatos, The Methodology of Scientific Research Programs
 _____, and A. Musgrave, Criticism and the Growth Knowledge
 Peter Winch, The Idea of Social Science
 _____, "Understanding a Primitive Society", in
 Dallmayr and McCarthy, Understanding and Social Inquiry, pp.159-88.
 Alfred Schutz, Collected Papers
 _____, The Phenomenology of the Social World
 Harold Garfinkel, Studies in Ethnomethodology
 M. Brand and D. Walton, Action Theory
 Ludwig Wittgenstein, On Certainty
 J.L. Austin, How to do Things With Words
 John Searle, Speech Acts
 G. Evans and J. McDowell, Truth and Meaning
 M. Kreckel, Communicative Acts and Shared Knowledge
 W. Schluchter, The Rise of Western Rationalism
 Hans Blumenberg, The Legitimacy of the Modern Age
 Max Horkheimer, Eclipse of Reason
 Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno, Dialectic of Enlightenment
 Theodor Adorno, Negative Dialectics

Susan Buck-Morss, The Origin of Negative Dialectics
Georg Lukacs, History and Class Consciousness

2. Additional Works by Habermas

On the Logic of the Social Sciences
Knowledge and Human Interests
Communication and the Evolution of Society
Moral Consciousness and Communicative Action
Justification and Application

3. Commentaries

Thomas McCarthy, The Critical Theory of Jürgen Habermas
Richard Bernstein, Habermas and Modernity
John Thompson and David Held, Habermas: Critical Debates
John Thompson, Critical Hermeneutics
David Rasmussen, Reading Habermas
Alessandro Ferrara, "A Critique of Habermas' Diskursethik", *Telos*, no. 64 (Summer 1985), pp. 45-74.
Isaac D. Balbus, Marxism and Domination, chap.6.
_____, "Habermas and Feminism: (Male) Communication and the Evolution of (Patriarchal) Society", New Political Science (Winter 1984), pp.27-47.
Nancy Fraser, "What's Critical About Critical Theory?: The Case of Habermas and Gender" in Seyla Benhabib and Drucilla Cornell, Feminism as Critique, pp.31-56.
Iris Marion Young, "Impartiality and the Civic Public", in Benhabib and Cornell, Feminism as Critique, pp.57-76.

Week 15 **PARTY!**

Other Overviews

Richard Bernstein, The Restructuring of Social and Political Theory
Jürgen Habermas, On the Logic of the Social Science
David Braybrooke, Philosophy of Social Science
Fred R. Dallmayr and Thomas A. McCarthy, Understanding and Social Inquiry
Karl-Otto Apel, Understanding and Explanation
Gerard Radnitzky, Contemporary Theories of Meta-Science
Paul Rabinow and William M. Sullivan, Interpretive Social Science: a Reader
Josef Bleicher, Contemporary Hermeneutics ,
_____, The Hermeneutic Imagination
Zygmunt Bauman, Hermeneutics and Social Science
David Held, Introduction to Critical Theory
Martin Jay, The Dialectical Imagination

Works in Feminist Theory

The following works have helped shape my reading of the required texts:

Susan Bordo, The Flight to Objectivity
Nancy Chodorow, The Reproduction of Mothering
Dorothy Dinnerstein, The Mermaid and the Minotaur
Carol Gilligan, In a Different Voice
Evelyn Fox Keller, Gender and Science
Sandra Harding and Merrill B. Hintikka, Discovering Reality