

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, weekly 1-2 page memos (beginning with week 4) and one oral presentation in class. The four required texts referred to above are all available for purchase at the Circle Center bookstore.

Weeks 1-3 I. Introduction and overview

Required: Bernstein, Beyond Objectivism and Relativism

Weeks 4-7 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
D.M. Armstrong, A Materialist Theory of Mind
John Dewey, The Quest for Certainty
John Dewey, Experience and Nature
John Locke, Essay Concerning Understanding
Wilfrid Sellars, Science, Perception, and Reality
Rene Descartes, Discourse on Method
Rene Descartes, Meditations
Willis Doney, Descartes: Critical Essays
Michael Hooker, Descartes: Critical and Interpretative 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
Thomas Kuhn, The Essential Tension
Israel Scheffler, Science and Subjectivity

Ludwig Wittgenstein, Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus
 Ludwig Wittgenstein, The Philosophical Investigations
 George Pitcher, The Philosophical Investigations: Critical Essays
 Hilary Putnam, Mind, Language, and Reality
 Hilary Putnam, Meaning and the Moral Sciences
 Hilary Putnam, Realism With a Human Face
 Richard Popkin, History of Skepticism From Erasmus to Descartes
 Alfred N. Whitehead, Science and the Modern World
 Alfred N. Whitehead, 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 8-11 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 Mendelsohn, "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 12-15 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

Between Fact and Norm
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 Jurgen 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.

Other Overviews

Richard Bernstein, The Restructuring of Social and Political Theory
Jurgen 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