

LLILAS/MAS Gramscian Thought and Subaltern Struggles
Wednesdays 2:00-5:00 pm, SRH-320
(Last updated 10-14-16)

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Office Hours: Wednesdays 1:00-2:00 pm in LLILAS (By Appointment only)

Course Description

Antonio Gramsci is considered to be one of the most important theorists of the early 20th century. His writings have been used to study politics and culture, social relations, and the relationship between social movements and states in multiple contexts around the globe. This course will study the primary writings of Antonio Gramsci as well as select texts by neo-Gramscian scholars that have applied his theoretical insights to understand diverse conjunctures primarily in Central, South, and North America. Many advanced students have come across some of Gramsci's key ideas; few however, have had the opportunity to engage Gramsci's writings. The goal of this course is to engage key Gramscian texts in English translation and to learn how to apply Gramscian theory and methods – with all of their limitations- to advanced projects in the social sciences and humanities. The course is particularly geared toward thinking about the possibilities and limits of using Gramsci's theoretical concepts, method, and philosophy of “social science” to study issues related to subaltern populations in the Americas.

Required Books

1. Bieler Andreas and Adam David Morton, eds. *Images of Gramsci: Connection and Contentions in Political Theory and International Relations* Routledge/Ripe Studies in Global Political Economy New York and London Routledge 2006
2. Forgacs, David, ed. *The Antonio Gramsci Reader*. New York: New York University Press, 2000.
3. Gonzales, Alfonso. *Reform without Justice: Latino Migrant Politics and the Homeland Security State* New York City Oxford University Press 2014.
4. Hanchard, Michel George. *Orpheus and Power: The Movimento Negro of Rio De Janeiro and Sao Paulo, Brazil, 1945-1988* Princeton New Jersey Princeton, New Jersey 1994.
5. Hoare Quintin and Geoffrey Nowell Smith, ed. *Selections from the Prison Notebooks of*

Antonio Gramsci New York International Publishers 2005.

6. Morton, Adam David. *State and Revolution in Modern Mexico* Boulder Co.: Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2011.

7. Srivastava Neelam and Baidik Bhattacharya. "The Postcolonial Gramsci." *Routledge Research in Postcolonial Literatures* (2012).

8. (Optional) Tucker, Robert C., ed. *The Marx and Engels Reader 2nd Edition* New York, NY: W W Norton & Co Inc, 1978.

Requirements

Participation (30 points)

Students are required to participate in course discussions and are expected to attend all the course sessions. Participation will be evaluated based upon the student's contributions to class discussion and presentations. Each student will be required to facilitate select reading assignments during a designated number of weeks depending on the class size. Students must turn in a response to the readings for the day that they chose or are assigned to facilitate discussion as well as a list of questions for classroom discussion. The response and discussion questions must be turned 12 hours before the start of class. The last day of class each student will also be expected to conduct a brief informal presentation (10-15 minutes each) that elaborates on the ways that Gramscian theory could be used to illuminate aspects of their research. Clearly they will also be asked to discuss the limits of Gramscian theory and a way to address such limitations with respect to their projects.

Outline (30 points)

In preparation for the final paper each student will have to develop an outline. Each outline should contain a research question, argument, and proposed method. Moreover, there should be a theoretical section that discusses how Gramscian theory could or could not illuminate aspects of their project. Outlines are due at the beginning of class on week 10.

Final Paper (40 points)

Students will be required to submit a final paper that discusses how they could potentially use a Gramscian framework to advance an aspect of their MA thesis or PhD dissertation. Students could also make the case why Gramscian theory does not provide away to move forward. The final paper is due at the beginning of class on week 15 during the last class session.

Points and Letter Grades

Letter grades will be assigned on papers even though on Blackboard grades will show up as numeric values. To alleviate confusion, the following list provides the point totals for letter

grades.

A +	10	C+	7.75
A	9.5	C	7.5
A-	9	C-	7.25
B+	8.75	D+	6.75
B	8.5	D	6.5
B-	8.25	D-	6.25
		F	5

COMPLIANCE WITH AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT: In accordance with the terms and spirit of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, your instructor will cooperate with Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) to make reasonable accommodations for students. If you have a disability, please register with SSD as soon as possible. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone), or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd>.

RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY: By UT Austin policy, students must notify the instructor of a pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If students must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, I will give them an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Rules and Class Room Etiquette

Absences and Tardiness

More than two unexcused absences will result in the student being asked to drop the course or in the student failing.

Electronic Devices.

I will not permit the use of laptops, cell phones, or voice recorders in this course.

Tentative Reading Schedule

- CV Indicates articles or readings are available electronically on Canvas
- GR Indicates The Gramsci Reader
- SPN Indicates Selections from the Prison Notebooks

Unit I: Gramsci: Marxist Militant and Intellectual

1. The Foundation (8/26)
 - Hall, Stuart “Gramsci and US” CV
 - Forgacs, Intro, Note to Text, and Chronology GR
 - Marx, Karl. Selections from Preface to the Critique of Political Economy. In *The Marx and Engels Reader 2nd Edition*
 - Mark, Karl. Theses on Feuerbach. In *The Marx and Engels Reader 2nd Edition*

- (Recommended) Lenin, Vladimir. Ch. 1 of The State and Revolution (Selections) CV
2. Gramsci the Marxist Militant (9/2)
- Part One: Writings 1916-1926
- I Socialism and Marxism 1917-1918
 - II Working-Class Education and Culture GR
 - III Factory Councils and Socialist Democracy GR
 - IV Communism 1919-24 GR
 - V Fascist Reaction and Communist Strategy 1924-1926 GR

Unit II: Gramsci the Incarcerated Intellectual

3. Introduction to the Prison Notebooks Selections (9-9)
- Preface SPN
 - Introduction SPN
 - I Problems of History and Culture SPN
 1. The Intellectuals
 2. On Education
 3. Notes on Italian History
4. II. Notes on Politics (9-16)
- The Modern Prince SPN
5. The State and Civil Society SPN (9-23)
6. Americanism and Fordism SPN (9-30)
7. The Philosophy of Praxis SPN (10/7)
1. The Study of Philosophy
 2. Problems of Marxism

Unit III: Gramsci and the Social Sciences

8. The Crisis of Marxism (10/14)
- Foucault, Michele, “Governmentality” CV
 - Laclau Ernesto and Mouffe Chantel, Intro to “Post Marxism Without Apologies.” CV
 - Optional Interview with Mouffe Chantel (In Spanish) CV
 - Ives, Peter. “Language, Agency, and Hegemony: A Gramscian Response” In Images of Gramsci
9. Gramsci, Globalization and International Relations (10/21)
- Rupert, Mark. “Reading Gramsci in the Era of Globalizing Capitalism.” In Images of Gramsci
 - Cutler, Clair. “Gramsci, Law, and the Culture of Global Capitalism.” In Images of Gramsci

- Robinson, William “Gramsci and Globalization: From Nation-State to Transnational Hegemony.” In *Images of Gramsci*

10. Gramsci and Comparative Politics/Sociology (10/28)

- Morton, Adam David. *State and Revolution in Modern Mexico* Boulder Co: Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2011.

Unit IV Race, Subaltern Studies, and the De-colonial Critique

11. Gramsci and the Subaltern I (11/4)

- Wilderson, Frank. Gramsci’s Black Marx, “Wither the Slave in Civil Society.” CV
- Hall, Stuart. “Gramsci’s Relevance for the Study of Race and Ethnicity.” CV
- Srivastava and Bhattacharya. Intro “The Post-Colonial Gramsci.” In *The Post Colonial Gramsci*
- “Interview with Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak.” In *The Post Colonial Gramsci*

Final Paper Outlines Due!

12. Gramsci and the Subaltern II (11/11)

- Green, Marcus. “Gramsci Can not Speak: Presentations and Interpretations of Gramsci’s Concept of the Subaltern.” CV
- Mignolo, Walter. “Mariategui and Gramsci in “Latin” America: Between Revolution and Decoloniality.” In *The Post Colonial Gramsci*
- Burgos, Raul, “The Gramscian Intervention in the Theoretical and Political Production of the Latin American Left” CV
- Husein, Cherine. “Interlude: The Many Images of Antonio Gramsci” and “Edward Said and Revitalizing Gramsci Project of Counterhegemony: Laying Theoretical Foundations” CV

13. Gramsci and Social Movements in Brazil (11/18)

- Hanchard, Michael. *Orpheus and Power: The Movimento Negro of Rio De Janeiro 1945-1998*. Princeton University Press 1996.

14. Gramsci and Immigration Politics in the US (11/25)

- Gonzales, Alfonso. *Reform without Justice: Latino Migrant Politics and the Homeland Security State* New York City Oxford University Press 2014

15. Final Thoughts/ Student Presentations (12-2)

- Chatterjee, Partha. “Gramsci in the Twenty-First Century” in *The Post Colonial Gramsci*
- Gonzales, Alfonso. “Nuestro Gramsci: Notes on Antonio Gramsci’s Theoretical and Ontological Relevance for Latino Politics, Culture, and Society” CV

Final Papers Due!