Universität Wien WS 2011/12

210056 SE BAK10/G3/G2: SESPezialisierungsseminar: Reading Gramsci (engl.)
Ort: Hörsaal 2 (A218), NIG 2.Stock

Course Outline

Dr Peter D. Thomas
PeterD.Thomas@Brunel.ac.uk

Office: B0202 (Universitätsstraße 7, 2nd floor)
Sprechstunden: Monday 24.10.11, 11:00-13:00; Thursday 17.11.11, 14:00-16:00; Monday 21.11.11, 11:00-13:00; Monday 12.12.11, 11:00-13:00

Inhalte/Contents

The seminar provides students with a detailed introduction to Gramsci's *Prison Notebooks*, in their historical and political context. The seminar will read Gramsci's texts in the chronological order of their composition, and according to thematic groupings. Themes studied include hegemony, ideology, state and civil society, passive revolution, the intellectuals, the subaltern, Marxism and the philosophy of praxis and the modern prince.

Methoden/Methods

The seminar is run as a 'block seminar'. Attendance at all sessions is obligatory. Students are expected to prepare thoroughly the reading prior to each seminar and to engage actively in seminar discussions. Each seminar will begin with a brief introductory lecture on the historical and political background of Gramsci's writings, and key concepts and themes from the assigned readings. The main mode of work of the seminar will consist in close reading and discussion of the text of the *Prison Notebooks*, supplemented by reference to the most important critical literature.

Ziele/Aims

The aims of the course are
i) to provide students with a thorough understanding of the structure and main themes of Gramsci's *Prison Notebooks*.
ii) To provide students with an awareness of the main critical literature
iii) to develop critical reading skills through intensive engagement with selected texts.
iv) to develop discussion and presentation skills
v) to develop research essay writing skills

Art der Leistungskontrolle/Assessment

i) Attendance at all sessions, preparation of readings and active participation in discussion.
ii) Individual or group presentation on central concepts of the *Prison Notebooks*, to be decided in consultation with the lecturer. Submission of 2 page presentation outline (20%).
iii) Final research essay – 4000 words (80%). Essay topics to be decided in consultation with lecturer/selected from list of suggested topics (to be distributed).

Written feedback on research essays will be provided by the lecturer.
Literatur/Reading

NB.
References are provided to the critical edition of Gramsci’s *Prison Notebooks*, according to the internationally accepted standard of citation in Gramscian studies. The number of the notebook is preceded by ‘Q’ (= Quaderno/Notebook). It is followed by the number of the individual note, which is preceded by ‘§’. Thus, e.g., Q 11, §27 refers to the 27th note of Gramsci’s 11th notebook.

As the note references are standardised, students can use the English, German or Italian critical editions of the *Prison Notebooks*. The English edition currently contains only notebooks 1-8; in the case of texts from other notebooks, the German or Italian editions should be consulted. Where these are unavailable, students can consult the IGS Concordance table, which provides references for most notes available in one of the English Gramsci anthologies: http://www.internationalgramscisociety.org/resources/concordance_table/anthologies.html

Primary Reading


Selected Secondary Reading


Selected entries from *Das historisch-kritische Wörterbuch des Marxismus* (Argument-Verlag) and *Dizionario gramsciano* (Carocci)
9:00-9:30: Introduction to course

9:30-10:15: Lecture – Gramsci before the Prison Notebooks

Background reading: Frank Rosengarten, ‘An Introduction to Gramsci’s Life and Thought’: <http://www.internationalgramscisociety.org/about_gramsci/biography.html>
Chronology of Gramsci’s Life: <http://www.internationalgramscisociety.org/about_gramsci/chronology.html>


11:00-11:15: Break

11:15-12:00: Lecture – The Structure of the Prison Notebooks


12:00-12:30: Discussion of texts – Theses on Feuerbach, ‘Preface’ to Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy

12:30-13:30: Lunch

13:30-14:15: Lecture – Passive Revolution


14:15-15:00: Discussion of texts – Q 1, §44; Q 1, §47; Q 1, §48. Q 3, §40; Q 4, §57; Q 8, §2; Q 8, §25; Q 8, §36; Q 8, §236; Q 13, §7; Q 15, §15; Q 15, §17; Q 15, §62.

(See the guide to references under ‘Literatur/Reading’ in course outline)

15:00-15:15: Break

15:15-16:00: Lecture – Integral State, Political Society and Civil Society


16:00-16:45: Discussion of texts – Q 1, §47; Q 1, §150; Q 4, §38; Q 4, §49; Q 6, §10; Q 6, §24; Q 6, §65; Q 6, §85; Q 6, §86; Q 6, §87; Q 6, §88; Q 8, §2; Q 8, §130; Q 8, §142; Q 8, §187; Q 9, §133; Q 10II, §15; Q 13, §11; Q 13, §18; Q 13, §23.

Information for the Block Seminars on the 18.11.2011 and 09.12.2011, including details of student presentations, will be distributed on FR 21.10.2011.
9:00-9:45: Lecture – Civil and Political Hegemony


9:45-10:00: Discussion of texts and student presentations – Q 1, §44; Q 1, §48; Q 3, §48; Q 4, §46; Q 6, §10; Q 6, §24; Q 6, §87; Q 6, §81; Q 6, §88; Q 6, §136; Q 7, §9; Q 7, §16; Q 7, §35; Q 7, §83; Q 8, §48; Q 8, §86; Q 8, §142; Q 8, 191; Q 10I, §7; Q 10I, §12; Q 10II, §6; Q 10II, §12; Q 10II, §15; Q 10II, 41x; Q 12, §1; Q 13, §14; Q 13, §18; Q 13, §23; Q 13, §37; Q 14, §68; Q 19, §24; Q 22, §13; Q 29, §3.

11:00-11:15: Break

11:15-12:00: Lecture – East and West, North and South

Background reading: Trotsky, ‘The New Economic Policy of Soviet Russia and the Perspectives of the World Revolution’

12:00-12:45: Discussion of texts and student presentations – Q 1, §44; Q 1, §61; Q 2, §90; Q 3, §90; Q 6, §10; Q 7, §16; Q 7, §25; Q 8, §185; Q 11, §20; Q 11, §46; Q 14, §68; Q 22, §13.

12:45-13:45: Lunch

13:45-14:30: Lecture – War of Position, War of Movement: the ‘Revolution in Permanence’

Background reading: Marx and Engels, ‘Address of the Central Committee to the Communist League [Ansprache der Zentralbehörde an den Bund der Kommunisten vom März 1850]’

14:30-15:15: Discussion of texts and student presentations – Q 6, §138; Q 7, §16; Q 7, §24; Q 8, §52; Q 10I, §7; Q 10I, §9; Q 10I, §12; Q 10II, §12; Q 11, §20; Q 13, §1; Q 13, §7; Q 13, §24; Q 13, §26.

15:15-15:30: Break

15:30-16:15: Lecture – Hegemonic Apparatus


16:15-17:00: Discussion of texts and student presentations – Q 1, §48; Q 1, §77; Q 3, §48; Q 3, §49; Q 4, §12; Q 4, §38; Q 6, §81; Q 6, §87; Q 6, §136; Q 6, §137; Q 7, §33; Q 7, §80; Q 7, §83; Q 8, §2; Q 8, §179; Q 10II, §12; Q 11, §29; Q 13, §37; Q 15, §13; Q 19, §24; Q 25, §5.
FR 09.12.2011, 09.00-16.30
Ort: Hörsaal 2 (A218), NIG 2.Stock

9:00-9:45: Lecture – Anti-Croce and Anti-Bukharin


9:45-11.00: Discussion of texts and student presentations – Q 4, §3; Q 4, §11; Q 4, §24; Q 4, §25; Q 4, §37; Q 4, §40; Q 7, §47; Q 8, §27; Q 8, §39; Q 8, §204; Q 8, §208; Q 8, §220; Q 8, §224; Q 8, §235; Q 8, §240; Q 10I, ‘Introduction’; Q 10I, §4; Q 10I, §6; Q 10I, §7; Q 10I, §8; Q 10I, §9; Q 10I, §10; Q 10I, §11; Q 10II, §2; Q 10II, §6ii; Q 10II, §31; Q 15, §61; Q 16, §9.

11.00-11.15: Break

11:15-12:00: Lecture – Towards a Philosophy of Praxis


12:00-12:45: Discussion of texts and student presentations – Q 4, §28; Q 5, §127; Q 7, §33; Q 7, §35; Q 8, §61; Q 8, §198; Q 8, §220; Q 8, §232; Q 8, §235; Q 11, §12-§70; Q 16, §2; Q 16, §3; Q 16, §9

12:45-13:45: Lunch

13:45-14:30: Lecture – The Intellectuals


14:30-15:15: Discussion of texts and student presentations – Q 1, §49; Q 4, §3; Q 4, §33; Q 4, §49; Q 7, §1; Q 10I, §1; Q 10II, §41.iv; Q 11, §12; Q 11, §13; Q 12, §1-§3; Q 13, §7; Q 15 §4.

15:15-15:30: Break

15:30-16:15: Lecture – The Modern Prince


16:15-17:00: Discussion of texts and student presentations – Q 3, §48; Q 5, §127; Q 8, §37, Q 13, §1-§2; Q 13, §5-§8; Q 13, §10-§11; Q 13, §14; Q 13, §17-§18; Q 13, §21; Q 13, §23; Q 13, §25; Q 13, §33; Q 13, §36; Q 14, §13; Q 14, §34; Q 14, §70; Q 25, §2; Q 25, §5; Q 29, §1-§7.