

Course Outline

**Knowledge, Culture and Modernity
SO 2011 - Autumn, 1998
Frederic Vandenberghe and Kirsten Campbell**

Tuesday, 10-12, LC 262

Rating: 20 credits

Teaching: weekly 2 hour lecture + weekly seminar

Assessment: one 3000 word essay (50%) plus a 2 hour seen examination (50%).

Two deadlines for the essay have been set: an advisory one (4 December 1998) and a formal departmental one (18 January 1999). Students who hand in essays by the advisory deadline will be given feedback by 16 December, but they will not be allowed to resubmit their essays. All essays should be submitted via Joan Morris (room SS146) following the normal procedures for the submission of coursework.

The exam paper will be given out during the last lecture of the module.

Aims:

SO2011A will present a theoretical overview of sociological and feminist accounts of the relationship between knowledge, culture and modernity. It will assess emergent accounts within this wider context and consider their relevance to the study of the contemporary social structure. The module will also serve as a foundation for a more specialised treatment within Level 3 modules.

Objectives:

By the end of this module students should be able to identify a series of key themes and theories relating to the study of Culture, knowledge and modernity. They should have an overview of the area and to be able to critically assess the relative theoretical and political significance of such accounts. They should also have read through and discussed a number of significant texts in this area.

Lecture Schedule:

Section One: Introduction

- 1 Introduction (Honorary guest speaker: Prof. Alan Irwin)
- 2a Modernity: classical, late, post and neo (FV)
- 2b Life in the Risk Society (FV)

Section two: Perspectives on Culture and Modernity

- 3a Knowledge in Postmodernity (KC)
- 3b Cyborgs and post-modern feminism (KC)
- 4a Modern dilemmas of the self (FV)
- 4b Post-modern ethics (FV)

Section Three: Scientific and Technological Knowledges

- 5a Sociological Accounts of Knowledge, Science and Technology (FV)
- 5b Critique of Political Technology (FV)
- 6a Feminist theories of knowledge (KC)
- 6b Engendering knowledge (KC)
- 7a Science and social constructivism (FV)
- 7b Sociology of science (FV)
- 8a Feminist theories of science (KC)
- 8b Engendering Science (KC)
- 9a Sociology of technology (FV)
- 9b Feminist theories of technology(KC)

- 10a Power/Knowledge (KC)
 10b Postmodern Politics (KC)
- 11 Conclusion (FV & KC)

Reading List

Modernity: classical, late, post and neo / Life in the Risk Society

- Harvey, D.: The Condition of Postmodernity (Blackwell, Oxford, 1989)
 Connor, S.: Postmodernist Culture (Blackwell, Oxford, 1989)
 Jameson, F.: 'Postmodernism, or the cultural logic of late capitalism', New Left Review, 1984, 146, 53-92
 Beck, U.: Risk Society. Towards a new modernity (Sage, London, 1992)
 Beck, U.: Democracy without Enemies (Polity Press, 1998).
 Giddens, A.: The Consequences of Modernity (Polity Press, Cambridge, 1990)
 Giddens, A.: Modernity and Self-Identity (Polity Press, Cambridge, 1991)

Knowledge in Postmodernity

- Lyotard, J.F.: The Postmodern Condition: A Report on Knowledge (University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1984)
 Jameson, F.: "Foreword", in The Postmodern Condition.
 Readings, B.: Introducing Lyotard: Art and Politics (Routledge, London and New York: 1991)
 Fraser, N. and Nicholson, L.: "Social Criticism without Philosophy: An Encounter between Feminism and Postmodernism", in Nicholson, L. (ed.): Feminism/Postmodernism (Routledge, London and New York, 1990)
 Poster, M.: The Mode of Information: Poststructuralism and Social Context (Cambridge, Polity Press, 1990)

Cyborgs and post-modern feminism

- Haraway, D.: "A Cyborg Manifesto: Science, Technology, and Socialist-Feminism in the Late Twentieth Century", in Haraway, D.: Simians, Cyborgs, and Women: The Reinvention of Nature (Free Association Press, London, 1991)
 Crewe, J.: "Transcoding the World: Haraway's Postmodernism", Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society 1997, 22: 4, 891-903
 Bordo, S.: "Feminism, Postmodernism, and Gender-Scepticism", in Nicholson, L. (ed.): Feminism/Postmodernism (Routledge, London and New York, 1990)
 Chow, R.: "Postmodern Automaton", in Butler, J. and Scott, J. (ed.) Feminists Theorise the Political (London and New York, Routledge, 1992)
 Turkle, S.: Life on the Screen (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1996)

Modern dilemmas of the self/ Post-modern ethics

- Giddens, A.: Modernity and Self-Identity (Polity Press, Cambridge, 1991)
 Giddens, A.: Transformations of Intimacy (Polity Press, Cambridge, 1992)
 Bauman, Z.: Modernity and Ambivalence (Polity Press, Cambridge, 1991)
 Bauman, Z.: Post-Modern Ethics (Blackwell, Oxford, 1993)

Sociological Accounts of Knowledge and Science

- Webster, A.: Science, Technology and Society (Macmillan, London, 1991)
 Barnes, B. and Edge, D. (eds.): Science in Context (Open University, Milton Keynes, 1982)
 Latour, B. and Woolgar, S.: Laboratory Life (Sage, London, 1979)
 Barnes, B.: About Science (Blackwell, Oxford, 1985)
 Yearley, S.: Science, Technology and Social Change (Unwin Hyman, London, 1988)

Critique of Political Technology

- Heidegger, M.: The Question concerning Technology and Other Essays (Harper and Row, New York, 1974)

Marcuse, H.: One-Dimensional Man (Beacon Press, Boston, 1964)
 Habermas, J.: Towards a Rational Society (Heinemann, London, 1971)
 Feenberg, A.: Critical Theory of Technology (Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1991)

Feminist theories of knowledge/Engendering knowledge

Gunew, S. (ed.): A Reader in Feminist Knowledge (London, Routledge, 1990).
 Stanley, S. and Wise, S. Breaking Out Again: Feminist Ontology and Epistemology (Routledge, London, 1991)
 Alcoff, L. and Potter, E. (eds.): Feminist Epistemologies (Routledge, London and New York, 1993)
 Lennon, K. and Whitford, M. (eds.): Knowing the Difference: Feminist Perspectives in Epistemology (Routledge, London and New York, 1994)
 Code, L.: What Can She Know: Feminist Theory and the Construction of Knowledge (Cornell University Press, Ithaca and London, 1991)

Feminist theories of Science/Engendering Science

Doyle McCarthy, E.: Knowledge as Culture: The New Sociology of Knowledge (Routledge, London and New York, 1996)
 Fox Keller, E. and Longino, H. (eds.): Feminism and Science (Oxford University Press, Oxford and New York, 1996)
 Haraway, D.: Primate Visions: Gender, Race, and Nature in the World of Modern Science (Routledge, New York, 1989)
 Haraway, D.: Simians, Cyborgs, and Women: The Reinvention of Nature (Free Association Press, London, 1991)
 Longino, H.: Science as Social Knowledge: Value and Objectivity in Scientific Inquiry (Princeton University Press, Princeton, 1990)
 Harding, S.: Whose Science? Whose Knowledge? Thinking From Women's Lives (Open University Press, Milton Keynes, 1991)

Science and social constructivism / Sociology of science and technology

Woolgar, S.: Science. The very idea (Routledge, London, 1988).
 Latour, B.: Science in Action (Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1987)
 Jasanoff, S., Markle, G., Petersen, J. and Pinch, T. (eds.): Handbook of Science and Technology Studies (Sage, London, 1995)
 Collins, H. and Pinch, T.: The Golem: What everyone should know about science (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1993)
 Mackenzie, D. and Wajcman, J. (eds.): The Social Shaping of Technology (Open University Press, Milton Keynes, 1985)
 Varcoe, I., McNeil, M. and Yearley, S. (eds.): Deciphering Science and Technology (Macmillan, London, 1990)
 Bijker, W. et al. (eds.): The social construction of technological systems (MIT Press, London, 1987).

Feminist Theories of Technology

Wajcman, J.: Feminism Confronts Technology (Polity Press, Cambridge, 1991)
 Haraway, D.: Simians, Cyborgs, and Women: The Reinvention of Nature (Free Association Press, London, 1991)
 Cockburn, C. and Ormrod, S.: Gender and Technology in the Making (Sage, London, 1993)
 Petchesky, R.: "Foetal Images: The Power of Visual Culture in the Politics of Reproduction", in Stanworth, M. (ed.) Reproductive Technologies: Gender, Motherhood and Medicine (Blackwell, Oxford, 1987)
 Klawiter, M.: "Using Arendt and Heidegger to Consider Feminist Thinking on Women and Reproductive/Infertility Technologies" Hypatia 1990, 5:3, 65-90

Power/Knowledge

Foucault, M.: "Two Lectures", in Gordon, C. (ed.) Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings 1972-1977 (Pantheon Books, New York, 1980)
 Foucault, M.: "Truth and Power", in Gordon, C. (ed.) Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings 1972-1977 (Pantheon Books, New York, 1980)
 Foucault, M.: "Intellectuals and Power", in Bouchard, D. (ed.) Language, Counter-Memory, Practice: Selected Essays and Interviews by Michel Foucault (Cornell University Press, Ithaca, 1980)
 Foucault, M.: "Nietzsche, Genealogy, History", in Bouchard, D. (ed.) Language, Counter-Memory, Practice: Selected Essays and Interviews by Michel Foucault (Cornell University Press, Ithaca, 1980)
 Foucault, M.: "The Art of Telling the Truth", in Kritzman, L. (ed.) Michel Foucault: Politics, Philosophy, Culture: Interviews and Other Writings 1988-1984 (Routledge, New York and London, 1990)

- Said, E.: "Foucault and the Imagination of Power", in Couzens Hoy, D. (ed.) Foucault: A Critical Reader (Blackwell, Oxford, 1986)
- Smart, B.: "The Politics of Truth and the Problem of Hegemony", in Couzens Hoy, D. (ed.) Foucault: A Critical Reader (Blackwell, Oxford, 1986)
- McNay, L.: Foucault and Feminism: Power, Gender and the Self (Polity, Cambridge, 1992)
- Barrett, M.: The Politics of Truth: From Marx to Foucault Stanford University Press, Stanford, 1991)

Postmodern Politics

- Laclau, E. and Mouffe, C.: Hegemony and Socialist Strategy: Towards a Radical Democratic Politics (Verso, London, 1985)
- Mouffe, C.: "Feminism, Citizenship and Radical Democratic Politics", in Butler, J. and Scott, J. (ed.) Feminists Theorise the Political (Routledge, London and New York, 1992)
- Mouffe, C.: "Radical Democracy: Modern or Postmodern?", in Ross, A. (ed.) Universal Abandon? The Politics of Postmodernism (Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh, 1989)
- Laclau, E.: "Politics and the Limits of Modernity", in Ross, A. (ed.) Universal Abandon? The Politics of Postmodernism (Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh, 1989)
- Barrett, M.: The Politics of Truth: From Marx to Foucault Stanford University Press, Stanford, 1991)