

Gramsci: “Americanism & Fordism,” Modernity, and Criticism

Spring 2006

Professor Joseph Buttigieg (University of Notre Dame)
Professor Ronald Judy (University of Pittsburgh)

Joint seminar conducted at the University of Notre Dame and the University of Pittsburgh. The focus of our study is Antonio Gramsci’s analysis of the American power configuration emerging in the twentieth century as found in his *Prison Notebooks*, in relation to Gramsci’s account of the material history of criticism in modernity, also found in his *Prison Notebooks*

Syllabus:

1. Jan 23: Introduction. Gramsci’s life and times. Channel 4 documentary
Readings: Chronology
2. Jan 30: Pre-prison writings
Readings: “Socialism and Culture” and “Some Aspects of the Southern Question”
3. Feb 06: Composition and Motifs of the Prison Notebooks. Gramsci’s Method
Readings: Careful survey of Notebooks 1 and 2
4. Feb 13: The question of intellectuals—“America” and “The Negro Question”
Seminar conducted by Professor Ronald Judy.
Readings: Notebook 4, §49
5. Feb 20: The question of the intellectuals and education
Readings: Notebook 12
6. Feb 27: Philosophy, Theory, Criticism
Readings: Selections assembled in course materials under the heading “Philosophy, Theory, Criticism”
7. Mar 06: Civil Society, the State, Hegemony
Readings: Selections assembled in course materials under the heading “Civil Society, the State, Hegemony” and Notebook 13
- Mar 13: Mid-semester break
8. Mar 20: Civil Society, the State, Hegemony and the question of “*civiltà*”
Seminar conducted by Professor Ronald Judy
Readings: Selections assembled in course materials under the heading “Civil Society, the State, Hegemony” and Notebook 13
9. Mar 27: Americanism and Fordism
Readings: Selections assembled in course materials under the heading “Americanism and Fordism”

10. Apr 03: Americanism and Fordism

Readings: Selections assembled in course materials under the heading “Americanism and Fordism”

11. Apr 10: The subaltern

Seminar conducted by Professor Ronald Judy

Readings: Notebook 25 and the notes on folklore

Apr 17: Easter Monday—no classes

12. Apr. 24: The subaltern

Readings: Notebook 25 and the notes on folklore

13. May 01: Concluding discussion (with participation of Professor Ronald Judy)