

Universität Wien WS 2011/12

**210056 SE BAK10/G3/G2: SESpezialisierungsseminar: Reading Gramsci (engl.)**

FR 21.10.2011, 18.11.2011 and 09.12.2011 09.00-16.30

Ort: Hörsaal 2 (A218), NIG 2.Stock

**Course Outline**

**Dr Peter D. Thomas**

PeterD.Thomas@Brunel.ac.uk

Office: B0202 (Universitätsstraße 7, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.internationalgramscisociety.org/resources/concordance_table/anthologies.html)

## Primary Reading

A. Gramsci, *Prison Notebooks*, translated and edited by Joseph A. Buttigieg, 3 Volumes, New York: Columbia University, 1992ff. / *Gefängnishefte*. Herausgegeben von Klaus Bochmann und Wolfgang Fritz Haug, 10 Bände. Argument-Verlag, Hamburg 1991ff. / *Quaderni del carcere*, a cura di Valentino Gerratana, Turin: Einaudi, 1975.

A. Gramsci, *Letters from Prison*, 2 vols, New York: Columbia University Press, 1994. / *Gefängnisbriefe*, Argument-Verlag: Hamburg, 1994ff. / A. Gramsci, *Lettere dal carcere*, Torino: Einaudi, 1965.

## Selected Secondary Reading

Santucci, Antonio A.: *Antonio Gramsci*, New York: Monthly Review, 2010.

G. Fiori, *Antonio Gramsci: Life of a Revolutionary*, London: New Left Books, 1970. / *Vita di Antonio Gramsci*, Bari: Laterza, 1966

C. Buci-Glucksmann, *Gramsci and the State*, London: Lawrence and Wishart, 1980. / *Gramsci und der Staat. Für eine materialistische Theorie der Philosophie*, Köln: Pahl-Rugenstein, 1981. / *Gramsci et l'État: Pour Une Théorie Materialiste de la Philosophie*, Paris: Fayard, 1975.

P. Thomas, *The Gramscian Moment: Philosophy, Hegemony and Marxism*, Leiden: Brill, 2009 / Chicago: Haymarket, 2011.

F. Frosini and G. Ligori (eds), *Le parole di Gramsci: Per un lessico dei Quaderni del carcere*, Roma: Carocci, 2004.

Selected entries from *Das historisch-kritische Wörterbuch des Marxismus* (Argument-Verlag) and *Dizionario gramsciano* (Carocci)

FR 21.10.2011, 09.00-16.30  
Ort: Hörsaal 2 (A218), NIG 2.Stock

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](http://www.internationalgramscisociety.org/about_gramsci/biography.html)>  
Chronology of Gramsci's Life:  
<[http://www.internationalgramscisociety.org/about\\_gramsci/chronology.html](http://www.internationalgramscisociety.org/about_gramsci/chronology.html)>

10:15-11:00: Discussion of texts – 'Socialism and Culture', 'The Revolution against Capital', 'Workers' Democracy', 'Two Revolutions', 'Some Aspects of the Southern Question'

11:00-11:15: Break

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

Background reading: Joseph A. Buttigieg, 'Philology and Politics: Returning to the Text of Antonio Gramsci's Prison Notebooks', *boundary 2*, Vol. 21, No. 2. (Summer, 1994), pp. 98-138.

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**

Background reading: Peter D. Thomas, 'Modernity as "passive revolution": Gramsci and the Fundamental Concepts of Historical Materialism', *Journal of the Canadian Historical Association* (CHA), New Series, Vol. 17, issue 2, 2006.

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**

Background reading: Joseph A. Buttigieg, 'Gramsci on Civil Society', *boundary 2*, Vol. 22, No. 3. (Autumn, 1995), pp. 1-32.

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.

FR 18.11.2011, 09.00-16.30  
Ort: Hörsaal 2 (A218), NIG 2.Stock

**9:00-9:45: Lecture – Civil and Political Hegemony**

Background reading: Derek Boothman, 'The Sources for Gramsci's Concept of Hegemony', *Rethinking Marxism*, 20:2 (2008), pp.201-215.

9:45-11.00: 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**

Background reading: Stefan Bollinger and Juha Koivisto, 'Hegemonialapparat', *Das historisch-kritische Wörterbuch des Marxismus 5*, Hamburg-Berlin: Argument, 2001.

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**

Background reading: Peter D. Thomas, 'Historizismus, absoluter', *Das historisch-kritische Wörterbuch des Marxismus* 6/I, Hamburg-Berlin: Argument, 2004.

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**

Background reading: Wolfgang Fritz Haug, 'Gramsci's "Philosophy of Praxis": Camouflage or Refoundation of Marxist Thought?', *Socialism and Democracy*, vol. 14, no. 1 (2000), pp. 1-19.

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**

Background reading: Alex Demirovic and Peter Jehle, 'Intellektuelle', *Das historisch-kritische Wörterbuch des Marxismus* 6/II, Hamburg-Berlin: Argument, 2004.

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**

Background reading: Christine Buci-Glucksmann, *Gramsci and the State*, London: Lawrence and Wishart, 1980; pp. 153-73, pp. 237-24.

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.