

The Thought of Antonio Gramsci

Aka 'Issues in Critical Human Geography'

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Office hours: Friday 2:15-3:30 PM & by appt.

This seminar is devoted to systematically reading the writings of Antonio Gramsci (1891-1937). The major themes that we will focus on include: Gramsci's conception of the political; state and civil society; hegemony, class, and subjectivity; spatiality; Catholicism; science and scientific practices; economics and Marxist political economy; 'the history of subaltern social groups'; and, at the end of our seminar, the politics of nature, with a focus on the relevance of Gramsci's thought for grasping the politics of global climate change.

Through close reading of these texts, our goal is to deepen our understanding of Gramsci's thought and thereby improve our capacity to conduct research and think critically. In addition to selections from Gramsci's own writings, we will spend one week discussing Hegel's *Philosophy of Right* (1820) and another on Marx's critique of Hegel (1843-44). We will also read Peter Thomas's study, *The Gramscian Moment* (2011), as well as a few other selected works from the massive secondary literature on Gramsci. Our reading plan is outlined on page two; details on each week's readings will be clarified at the end of each seminar meeting.

Course requirements

Your grade will be comprised of the following:

Attendance and participation	25 %
Presentations (2 x 12.5%)	25 %
Research project—final paper	50 %

As an advanced reading seminar we will work through 100-200 pages of challenging material each week. Our success is dependent upon careful and thorough reading, so come to class prepared. Attendance and participation are required and will be graded.

Participation is principally measured by the quality of your contributions to our discussions. (If you cannot attend class because of illness, you must bring a signed note from a doctor excusing you from class.)

Apart from the readings, there are two assignments: (1) a seminar paper, due on **Dec 6 at 1 PM**; (2) a pair of seminar presentations, to be arranged at the end of the first class meeting. (Further details on these assignments will be provided in class.)

Our reading plan

Week	Date	Topic	Presenters	Notes
1	Aug 21	Introduction to the seminar	n/a	<i>Antonio Gramsci</i> by Antonio Santucci
2	Aug 28	Hegel (1820) and Croce (various)	Austin & Shelby	Hegel, <i>Philosophy of Right</i> (selections); Croce, essays
3	Sept 4	Marx's (1843) critique of Hegel	Kailish	Critique of Hegel's doctrine of the state; Theses on Feuerbach; Preface to <i>Critique of Political Economy</i>
4	Sept 11	Gramsci's pre-prison writings	Emily & Eliza	Various, including 'Notes on the southern question.'
5	Sept 18	Gramsci's prison notes 1: state and civil society	Mya	[Tim Mitchell Sept 20]
6	Sept 25	Gramsci's prison notes 2: hegemony, intellectuals, passive revolution, and the Modern Prince	Matt	
7	Oct 2	Gramsci's prison notes 3: Marxism, philosophy, and science	Reed	[Bob Jessop Oct 4]
8	Oct 9	Gramsci's prison notes 4: the politics of language and translation	Nic	
9	Oct 16	<i>Gramsci: Everything that Concerns People</i> (1987) [film]	n/a	start reading Thomas, <i>The Gramscian Moment</i>
10	Oct 23	Peter Thomas, <i>The Gramscian Moment</i>	Nicolle	[David Harvey Oct 25]
11	Oct 30	Gramsci's prison notes 5: Gramsci as 'critical economist'	Divya	
12	Nov 6	Gramsci's prison notes 6: the history of subaltern social groups	Phillip	Marcus Green, guest
13	Nov 13	TBD	Chris	May include selections from <i>Gramsci: Space, Nature, Politics</i> (2012)
14	Nov 20	Final class: student presentations		No reading assignment. This session may be long.
	Nov 27	No classes (Thanksgiving)		Work on research papers
	Dec 6	Papers due 1 PM		Papers copies only

Seminar presentations

Each week our discussion will begin with one or two presentations on the assigned texts. Each student will give one such presentation. Your presentations should do three things:

1. situate our readings by offering a brief 'abstract' of the texts we have read;
2. present us with your *critical reflections* on the texts;
3. offer ~3 questions to structure our seminar discussion (please bring copies of your questions for the other seminar participants).

Presentations should last ~15 minutes. I strongly encourage you to take this opportunity to practice formal presentation of ideas by writing out your remarks in advance.

Additionally on Wednesday, November 20, each student will give a 15 minute formal presentation based upon their final research paper.

Research paper

You will be expected to write a paper, to be turned in on paper on **Friday, December 6, at 1 PM**. The nature of your paper will be shaped by your own research. You may submit [a] an original research paper, or [b] a paper that comprises, in effect, a subsection of your MA or PhD thesis. (No dissertation proposals, please.) Your paper should engage directly with some of the material from this seminar. I anticipate papers of 5,000-7,000 words (inclusive of cover, notes and bibliography).

When conducting research for your paper you may wish to check out the IGS website [<http://www.internationalgramscisociety.org/>] which contains many useful resources, including bibliographies and concordance tables.

'Fine print': turning in work, plagiarism, and so on

Late work loses ten percentage points per day. For instance, a paper that is turned in six days late but would have otherwise received a score of 90/100 would be worth 30/100.

Grading options for the course are A,A-,B+,B,B-,C+,C,C-,D+,D, E. An 'I', or Incomplete, will only be given under special circumstances and where the instructor has made an arrangement with the student *before* the end of the final week of the quarter. If you wish to request an 'I', be prepared to explain (a) why an Incomplete is an appropriate grade option under the circumstances, and (b) how and when you will complete the incomplete.

Any academic misconduct, such as plagiarizing, will be reported to Ohio State's Office of Academic Affairs, Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM). They have prepared the following statement on academic integrity (see below). Please read it carefully.

Accommodation will be made for any student with special needs based on the impact of a disability. Please contact the instructor and also the Office for Disability Services at 292-3307 (150 Pomerene).

Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity

Ohio State Office of Academic Affairs, Committee on Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, students are expected to complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. The following suggestions will help you preserve academic integrity[...].

1. **ACKNOWLEDGE THE SOURCES THAT YOU USE WHEN COMPLETING ASSIGNMENTS:** If you use another person's thoughts, ideas, or words in your work, you must acknowledge this fact. This applies regardless of whose thoughts, ideas, or words you use as well as the source of the information. If you do not acknowledge the work of others, you are implying that another person's work is your own, and such actions constitute plagiarism. Plagiarism is the theft of another's intellectual property [...].

2. **AVOID SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR:** Do not put yourself in a position where an instructor might suspect that you are cheating or that you have cheated. Even if you have not cheated, the mere suspicion of dishonesty might undermine an instructor's confidence in your work. Avoiding some of the most common types of suspicious behavior is simple. Before an examination, check your surroundings carefully and make sure that all of your notes are put away and your books are closed. An errant page of notes on the floor or an open book could be construed as a 'cheat sheet'. Keep your eyes on your own work. [...]

3. **DO NOT FABRICATE INFORMATION:** Never make-up data, literature citations, experimental results, or any other type of information that is used in an academic or scholarly assignment.

4. **DO NOT FALSIFY ANY TYPE OF RECORD:** Do not alter, misuse, produce, or reproduce any University form or document or other type of form or document. Do not sign another person's name to any form or record (University or otherwise), and do not sign your name to any form or record that contains inaccurate or fraudulent information. Once an assignment has been graded and returned to you, do not alter it and ask that it be graded again. [...]

5. **DO NOT GIVE IN TO PEER PRESSURE:** Friends can be a tremendous help to one another when studying for exams or completing course assignments. However, don't let your friendships with others jeopardize your college career. Before lending or giving any type of information to a friend or acquaintance, consider carefully what you are lending (giving), what your friend might do with it, and what the consequences might be if your friend misuses it. [...]

6. **DO NOT SUBMIT THE SAME WORK FOR CREDIT IN TWO COURSES:** Instructors do not give grades in a course, rather students earn their grades. Thus, instructors expect that students will earn their grades by completing all course requirements (assignments) while they are actually enrolled in the course. If a student uses his/her work from one course to satisfy the requirements of a different course, that student is not only violating the spirit of the assignment, but he/she is also putting other students in the course at a disadvantage. Even though it might be your own work, you are not permitted to turn in the same work to meet the requirements of more than one course. [...]

7. **DO YOUR OWN WORK:** When you turn in an assignment with only your name on it, then the work on that assignment should be yours and yours alone. This means that you should not copy any work done by or work together with another student (or other person). [...]

8. **MANAGE YOUR TIME:** Do not put off your assignments until the last minute. If you do, you might put yourself in a position where your only options are to turn in an incomplete (or no) assignment or to cheat. [...]

9. **PROTECT YOUR WORK AND THE WORK OF OTHERS:** The assignments that you complete as a student are your "intellectual property," and you should protect your intellectual property just as you would any of your other property.[...]

10. **READ THE COURSE SYLLABUS AND ASK QUESTIONS:** Many instructors prepare and distribute (or make available on a web site) a course syllabus. Read the course syllabus for every course you take!



Georg W F Hegel (1770-1831) & Benedetto Croce (1866-1952)

Seminar readings for 28 August 2013

Required reading

[1] G Hegel (1820), selections from *The philosophy of right*:

The Preface and §§ 1-2 [to grasp the project]

On civil society, §§ 181-229 [particularly important for understanding Gramsci]

On the state and sovereignty, §§ 257-267, 270, 275-280 [particularly important for appreciating Marx's critique of Hegel]

[2] B Croce, four short texts on Hegel and Marxism (dates refer to publication in English):

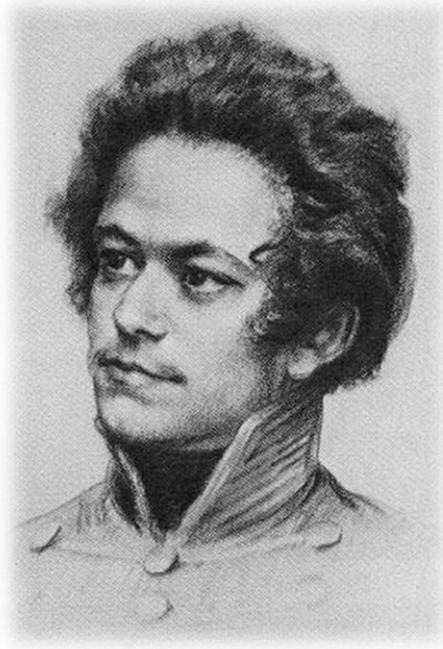
(1906), Introduction to *What is living as what is dead in Hegel* (from marxists.org)

(1945) "Hegel: the ethical state," from *Politics and morals*.

(1949), two chapters on Marxism from *My philosophy*.

Recommended (not required)

There is a decent biography and selection of writings on both philosophers at the Marxists Internet Archive: <http://www.marxists.org/>



Karl Marx, 1818-1883

Seminar readings for week 3

Required reading

K Marx, selections from *Karl Marx: Early Writings* (Penguin)

1. “Critique of Hegel’s doctrine of the state” (1843)
2. Appendix A. “Concerning Feuerbach” (aka ‘theses on Feuerbach’) (1848)
3. Appendix B. “Preface” to [Marx’s] *Contribution to the critique of political economy* (1859)

Recommended (not required)

The lucid introduction to *Karl Marx: Early Writings* by Lucio Colletti.

“A contribution to the critique of Hegel’s *Philosophy of Right*: introduction” (1843-44)



Antonio Gramsci: pre-prison writings

Seminar readings for week 4

Required reading

A Gramsci, *The Antonio Gramsci Reader*, D Forgacs ed., Part One (pp 29-185).

Recommended (not required)

The introduction to *The Antonio Gramsci Reader* by Forgacs.



Antonio Gramsci's prison notebooks

Seminar readings for week 5, 6, and 7

In the following, *Selections from the Prison Notebooks* (Int'l, 1971) = 'SPN'; *The Antonio Gramsci Reader* (NYU, 2000) = 'AGR'; numbers in parentheses = pages.

Required reading

Week 5 (Sept. 18): SPN §II.2 (206-276); AGR §VII (222-245); J Rehmann (1999) "Abolition of civil society?"

Week 6 (Sept. 25): SPN §II.1 (123-205); AGR §VI, VIII (189-221; 246-274)

Week 7 (Oct. 3): SPN §III (321-472); AGR §XI note 1 (i.e. Q11§12).

Recommended (not required)

Week 5 (Sept. 18): B Fontana (2006) "Civil society in Gramsci"; T Mitchell (1991) "The limits of the state" (with criticisms and replies); G Mann (2013) "Money and the sphere of civil society in Hegel and Gramsci", in *Gramsci: space, nature, politics*.

Week 6 (Sept. 25): B Jessop (2005), "Gramsci as a Spatial Theorist"; P Thomas (2013) "Hegemony, passive Revolution and the Modern Prince".

Week 7 (Oct. 3): J Buttigeig (1986) "The legacy of Antonio Gramsci"; J Wainwright (2010), "Gramsci's conception of the world".



Antonio Gramsci's prison notebooks

Seminar readings for week 8, 9, and 10

In the following, *Selections from the Prison Notebooks* (Int'l, 1971) = 'SPN'; *The Antonio Gramsci Reader* (NYU, 2000) = 'AGR'; numbers in parentheses = pages.

Required reading

Week 8 (October 9): AGR §XI.2-9 (pp 347-362) and §XIV (pp 391-402); SPN §I.1 (pp 3-23); and P. Ives, *Language and hegemony in Gramsci*, chapters 2 and 3.

Week 9 (October 16): begin reading Peter Thomas, *The Gramscian Moment*; in class we will watch *Gramsci: Everything that Concerns People* (1987) [film]

Week 10 (October 23): finish reading Peter Thomas, *The Gramscian Moment*

Recommended (not required)

Week 8 (October 9): the rest of P. Ives, *Language and hegemony in Gramsci*.

Week 9 (October 16): n/a

Week 10 (October 23): n/a



Antonio Gramsci's prison notebooks

Seminar readings for week 11, 12, and 13

In the following, *Selections from the Prison Notebooks* (Int'l, 1971) = 'SPN'; 'GSPN' = the edited volume *Gramsci: space, nature, politics* (Ekers M, Hart G, Kipfer S, Loftus A (eds)). Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell), pictured above.

Required reading

Week 11 (October 30): critical economics. Read §II.3 (pp 277-318) from *SPN*; §§ III and IV from *Further Selections from the Prison Notebooks*, D. Boothman (ed); Michael Krätke (2011) 'Antonio Gramsci's contribution to a critical economics' in *Historical Materialism*; ch 5 of *GSPN*: Geoff Mann (2012) 'State of confusion: money and the space of civil society in Hegel and Gramsci'; and ch 12 of *GSPN*: Jim Glassman (2012) 'Cracking hegemony: Gramsci and the dialectics of rebellion'.

Week 12 (November 6): subaltern history; Marcus Green, guest. Read *SPN* §I.3, "Notes on Italian history" (pp 44-121); then read Q25 (Green and Buttigieg translation). Remember that Q25 is not to be shared or distributed to others for any reason. Lastly, read Marcus Green (2002) 'Gramsci cannot speak', *Rethinking Marxism* 14(3).

Week 13 (November 13): geographical thought and spatial historicism. Read the following selections from *GSPN*: Preface; Framings (in two short parts); chapters 1, 2, 4, 6, 10, and 16.

Recommended (not required)

Week 11: Joel Wainwright (2010) "Was Gramsci a Marxist?" *Rethinking Marxism* 22(4), 617–626.

Week 12 (November 6): n/a

Week 13 (November 13): the rest of *GSPN*.