Instructor: Seb Bonet

Course Description:

This course will survey social theory through the lens of the subject. We will begin by examining the subject as constructed by liberal philosophy and proceed to cover critical challenges to that construction from feminist, anarchist, socialist, indigenist, Black, anti-imperialist and queer perspectives. Theorists covered will include Friedrich Nietzsche, Michel Foucault, Gilles Deleuze, Roy Bhaskar, Antonio Gramsci, Walter Benjamin, Emma Goldman, Audre Lorde, Leanne Simpson, Silvia Federici, Frantz Fanon, Gayatri Spivak, Dorothy Smith and Dipesh Chakrabarty.

Course Outcomes/Objectives:

This course has three learning objectives. First, to develop critical reading skills. We will read primary texts closely, with an eye to highlighting their concepts, teasing out the assumptions that organize them, noticing what they convey about the world around us, and engaging with the politics they point towards. Second, to talk to each other about the ideas in the course. This course will not simply feature me talking at you. Third, to write critically about theory. Assignments in the course will be designed to test that you have grasped where theories come from, how they differ from each other, and how to think them into contemporary circumstances.

Insofar as the content of the course goes, students will come away from Soci 309 with an appreciation of the assumptions organizing understandings of the subject, the implication of those assumptions with systems of power, and the attempts to think otherwise.

Course Pre/Co-requisites:

Soci 210 or permission from the instructor

Required Resources May Include:

Course readings will be distributed by the instructor in the form of electronic links and attachments.

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1This online outline is only intended to give an overall sense of the course. Detailed course outlines will be made available for all registered students on the first day of class. Only those outlines are to be considered official.